2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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PREFACE

This publication summarizes the fiscal year (FY) 2026 Budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Throughout this publication any reference to the "Budget" is in regard to the 2026 Budget, unless otherwise noted. All references to years refer to the fiscal year, except where specifically noted. The budgetary tables throughout this document show actual amounts for 2023 and 2024, Full-Year Continuing Resolution levels for 2025, and the President's Budget request for 2026. Amounts for 2025 estimated levels include: non-enacted amounts such as Full-Time Equivalent levels, fleet levels, information technology investment levels, recovery levels, transfers in and out, balances available end of year, and obligation levels.

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, as extended by the American Relief Act, 2025 (P.L. 118-158, Division D). Amounts shown in 2025 and 2026 for most Farm Bill programs reflect those confirmed in the baseline.

Pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, sequestration is included in the numbers for mandatory programs in 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026.

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).

AGENCY-WIDE

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Section 7511(f)(2) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA) amended the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971) by establishing the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). On October 1, 2009, all authorities administered by the Administrator of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service were transferred to the NIFA Director. NIFA programs propel cutting-edge discoveries from research laboratories to farms, classrooms, communities, and beyond. Through three main federal-funding mechanisms, NIFA supports programs that address key national challenges. NIFA's mission is to invest in and advance agricultural research, education, and extension to solve societal challenges.

Research and Education Activities

Research and Education programs administered by NIFA are the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) principal entrée to the university system of the United States for the purpose of conducting agricultural research and education programs as authorized by:

1) Hatch Act of 1887, as amended (7 U.S.C. 361a-361i);
2) McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act of 1962, as amended (16 U.S.C. 582a et seq.);
3) Evans Allen Act, as amended (7 U.S.C 3222 et seq.)
4) Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3157) (Note: 7 U.S.C. 450i was transferred to 7 U.S.C. 3157) (the 1965 Act);
5) National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act (NARETPA) of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.);
6) Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1982 (Pub. L. 97-219), as amended (15 U.S.C. 638);
7) SBIR and STTR Extension Act of 2022 (Pub. L. 117-183);
8) Section 630 of the Act making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies' programs for fiscal year ending September 30, 1987, and for other purposes, as made applicable by Section 101(a) of Pub. L. 99-591, 100 Stat. 3341;
9) Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note) (the 1994 Act);

10) Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-185), as amended (AREERA);
11) Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-624) (FACT Act);
12) Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107–171) (FSRIA);
13) Food Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246), as amended (FCEA);
14) Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill, Pub. L. 113-79);
15) Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill, Pub. L. 115-334);
16) Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117-58);
17) American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Pub. L. 117-2);
18) Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (Pub. L. 117-169);
19) And the Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C 390 et seq.).

Through these authorities, the USDA participates with States and other cooperators to encourage and assist the State public institutions in agricultural research and education through the State Agricultural Experiment Stations (SAES) of the 50 States and territories; by approved Schools of Forestry; 1890 Land-Grant Institutions and Tuskegee University, West Virginia State College, and Central State University (7 U.S.C. 321 et seq., as amended); 1994 Land-Grant Institutions (7 U.S.C. 301 note, as amended); by Colleges of Veterinary Medicine; and other eligible institutions. Appropriated funds provide Federal support for research and education programs at these institutions.

The State public institutions conduct research on the problems encountered in the development of a permanent perpetuating and sustainable agriculture and forestry system, and in the improvement of the economic and social welfare of rural and urban families. Because of differences in climate, soil, market outlets, and other local conditions, each State has distinct problems in the production and marketing of crops and livestock. Farmers, foresters, and people in rural communities in individual States naturally look to their SAES, universities, and colleges for solutions to the State and local problems and request services and solutions to address these problems.

The Department's higher education mission is carried out in strong alliance with States, universities, and the private sector. NARETPA designated USDA as the lead Federal agency for higher education in the food and agricultural sciences. Through NIFA, USDA has implemented that charge with a broad array of initiatives to link teaching, research, and extension; to improve the training of food and agricultural scientists and professionals; and to strengthen the quality of education programs throughout the nation. Section 1417 of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3152), was amended by section 7106 of FCEA to provide eligibility to the University of the District of Columbia to receive grants and fellowships for food and agricultural science education. This program is also subject to provisions found in NARETPA; Pub. L. 97-98; Pub. Food Security Act of 1985 (Pub. L. 99-198); Second Morrill Act of 1890; Act of June 17, 1988, (Pub. L. 100-339); FACT Act; Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994, (Pub. L. 103- 382); FAIR Act; AREERA; Pub. L. 106-78, Aviation and Transportation Security Act of November 19, 2001, (Pub. L. 107-71), and National Veterinary Medical Service Act of December 6, 2003, (Pub. L. 108-161) (NVMSA).

Appropriations and additional provisions for research and education activities are authorized under the following Acts:

Hatch Act

Funds under the Hatch Act of 1887 as amended (7 U.S.C. 361a-361i) are allocated to the State Agriculture Experiment Stations (SAES) of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, Micronesia, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands for research to promote sound and prosperous agriculture and rural life.

Eligible State institutions are required to submit a Plan of Work to NIFA for approval before Hatch Act funds are distributed. The Hatch Act provides that the distribution of Federal payments to States for

1955 shall become a fixed base, and that any sums appropriated in excess of the 1955 level shall be distributed in the following manner:

- 3 percent for the administration of the Act;
- 20 percent equally to each State;
- not less than 52 percent to the States as follows: one-half in an amount proportionate to the relative rural population of each State to the total rural population of all States, and one-half in an amount proportionate to the relative farm population of each State to the total farm population of all States;
- not less than 25 percent to the Hatch Multistate Research Fund for multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional research activities to solve problems concerning more than one State.

Federal funds provided under the Hatch Act to State institutions must be matched with non-Federal funding on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Matching requirements for the insular areas of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, Micronesia, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the District of Columbia are subject to the matching requirements of an amount equal to not less than 50 percent of the formula funds distributed to each insular area and the District of Columbia as stated in the Hatch Act, as amended by section 7404 of the FCEA. These provisions also state that the Secretary may waive the matching funds requirement of an insular area and the District of Columbia for any fiscal year if the Secretary determines that the government of the insular area or the District of Columbia will unlikely meet the matching requirement for the fiscal year.

Section 7(c) of the Hatch Act allows unexpended funds to be carried over for use during the following fiscal year. In accordance with the provisions of AREERA, at least 25 percent of available Hatch Act funds must be used to support multi-State research; States also must expend 25 percent, or two times the level spent in 1997 (whichever is less), on activities that integrate cooperative research and extension.

The three percent of funds appropriated under the Hatch Act for administration includes the disbursement of funds and a continuous review and evaluation of the research programs of the SAES supported wholly or in part from Hatch funds. NIFA encourages and assists in the establishment of cooperation within and between the States and actively participates in the planning and coordination of research programs between the States and the Department at regional and national levels.

McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act

The McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1962 (16 U.S.C. 582a et seq.) as amended authorizes funding of research in State institutions certified by a State representative designated by the governor of each State. The Act provides that appropriated funds are to be apportioned among States as determined by the Secretary. The Secretary annually seeks the advice of the Forestry Research Advisory Council (FRAC) to accomplish efficiently the program purpose. The Council consists of not fewer than sixteen members representing Federal and State agencies concerned with developing and utilizing the Nation's forest resources, the forest industries, the forestry schools of the State-certified eligible institutions, State Agricultural Experiment Stations (SAES), and volunteer public groups concerned with forests and related natural resources. Determination of apportionments follows consideration of pertinent factors including total state acreage in non-Federal commercial forest land, volume of timber cut from growing stock cut annually in the state, and the total non-Federal dollars expended on forestry research by state-certified institutions. Section 7412 of Food, Conservation, and Energy Act (FCEA) amended the McIntire-Stennis Act to include 1890 Institutions (as defined in section 2 of AREERA (7 U.S.C. 7601)) as eligible for consideration in these determinations.

The Act also provides that payments must be matched by funds made available and budgeted from non-Federal sources by the certified institutions for expenditure on forestry research. Section 7604 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334) amended the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Assistance

Act to include 1994 Institutions (as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Pub. L. 103–382) that offer an associate degree or a baccalaureate degree in forestry. Section 7101 of the 2014 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 113-79) allowed eligible State institutions to declare their intention not to be considered a cooperating forestry school, and to alternatively be considered as a Non-Land-Grant College of Agriculture. Such a declaration remained in effect until September 30, 2018. In accordance with Section 7102 of the 2018 Farm Bill, cooperating forestry schools will no longer have to opt out of that status to be considered as Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture (NLGCAs) because the definition of a NLGCA no longer excludes the cooperating forestry schools.

Funds have been used to train graduate students and develop expertise on the effects of environmental change on forest resources including droughts, wildfires, habitat modification, wildlife movement and distribution, the loss of biodiversity, and the spread of diseases and pests. In addition to the delivery of data, analyses and research publications related to these impacts, tools and models have been developed to predict and support efforts to mitigate these impacts, with advancements being achieved in both the breeding of plants to increase carbon sequestration and reduce nitrogen fertilizer use, and the development of bio-based materials, wood composites, bio-degradable plastic composites and cellulose nanomaterials. Funds also delivered research products to be used by resource managers, forest landowners, and those operating in the forestry sector to support economic activity, and the conservation and sustainable use of forest resources, such as remote sensing and mapping technologies, spatial planning tools, logging safety and improved timber transportation guidelines, and cost-benefit analyses to determine the willingness of customers to pay for recreational opportunities in forests.

Research at 1890 Institutions (Evans-Allen Program)

Section 1445 of NARETPA; Food and Agriculture Act of October 28, 1978, (Pub. L. 95-547); and subject to provisions of Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (Pub. L. 97-98); Food Security Act of 1985 (Pub. L. 99-198); FACT Act; FAIR Act; AREERA; FSRIA; FCEA; Section 7129 of the 2014 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 113-79), and Section 7115 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334), authorizes support of continuing agricultural research at colleges eligible to receive funds under the Act of August 30, 1890, including Tuskegee University. The general provisions section 753 of Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002 (Pub. L. 107-76) designates West Virginia State College eligible for funding under this program. Section 7129 of the 2014 Farm Bill makes Central State University eligible to receive funds under this program beginning in 2016. Section 7115 of the 2018 Farm Bill establishes a minimum additional funding amount for eligible entities in the fiscal years following certain eligible entities' qualification should the funding level increase by $3 million. If there are insufficient funds appropriated for Section 1445 (or Section 1444) to continue the minimum additional funding amounts for eligible institutions, the provision provides for a reduction in allocations made to eligible institutions.

Eligible State institutions are required to submit a Plan of Work to NIFA for approval before these formula funds are distributed. The agricultural research programs at the 1890 Land-Grant Colleges and Universities are designed to generate new knowledge which will assist underprivileged people in rural areas and small farmers to obtain a higher standard of living. Therefore, there is a high concentration of research effort in the areas of small farms, sustainable agriculture, rural economic development, human nutrition, and youth and elderly.

The Act allows 3 percent for administrative expenses by the Secretary. Distribution of payments made available under section 2 of the 1965 Act for 1978 are a fixed base and sums in excess of the 1978 level are to be distributed as follows, unless the funding amount is increased by $3 million in particular fiscal years, in which case Section 7115 of the 2018 Farm Bill includes additional directives regarding allocation of that increase:

- 20 percent equally to each State;

- 40 percent in an amount proportionate to the rural population of the State in which the eligible institution is located to the total rural population of all States in which eligible institutions are located, as determined by the last preceding decennial census current at the time each such additional sum is first appropriated; and
- the balance shall be allotted among the eligible institutions in the proportion that the farm population of the State in which the eligible institution is located to the total farm population of all the States in which eligible institutions are located, as determined by the last preceding decennial census current at the time each such additional sum is first appropriated.

Section 1445(a)(2) of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3222(a)(2)), as amended by section 7122 of FCEA requires that funds appropriated for this program be not less than 30 percent of the Hatch Act appropriation. Section 1445(a) allows unexpended funds to be carried over for use during the following fiscal year. Section 1449 of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3222d), requires that Federal funds be matched by the State from non-Federal sources. For the 2007 and each fiscal year thereafter, not less than 100 percent of formula funds to be distributed must be matched. The Secretary of Agriculture may waive the matching funds requirement above the 50 percent level for any fiscal year for an eligible institution of a State if the Secretary determines the State will be unlikely to satisfy the matching requirement. Allotments to Tuskegee University and Alabama A&M University shall be determined as if each institution were in a separate State.

Payments to 1994 Institutions (Tribal Colleges Education. Equity)

The 1994 Act (7 U.S.C. 301 note) authorizes the use of funds to benefit those entities identified as the 1994 Land Grant Institutions. Funds are distributed on a formula basis and may be used to support teaching programs in the food and agricultural sciences in the targeted need areas of: 1) curricula design and instructional materials development; 2) faculty development and preparation for teaching; 3) instruction delivery systems and strategic partnerships; 4) student experimental learning; 5) equipment and instrumentation for teaching; and 6) student recruitment and retention.

Section 7402 of FCEA amended section 532 of the 1994 Act by adding Ilisagvik College. Section 7402 of the 2014 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 113-79) amended section 532 of the 1994 Act by adding College of the Muscogee Nation and Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College, effective October 2014. Also, FCEA amended section 534 to authorize those funds payable to a 1994 Institution be withheld and redistributed to other 1994 Institutions if the Institution declines to accept funds or fails to meet the accreditation requirements of section 533. Section 7502 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334) amended section 532 of the 1994 Act by updating eligible institutions' names and adding Red Lake Nation College.

Education Grants for 1890 Institutions (Capacity Building Grants)

Pursuant to 1417(b)(4) of NARETPA, this program stimulates the development of high-quality teaching, research, and extension programs at the 1890 Land-Grant Institutions and Tuskegee University, West Virginia State College, and Central State University (per Section 7129 of the 2014 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 113-79)). Section 7107 of FCEA amended section 1417(b)(4) of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3152(b)(4)) to expand extension capacity building, as well as teaching and research. This competitive program is designed to strengthen institutional teaching, research, and extension capacities through cooperative programs with Federal and non-Federal entities and achieve three major goals: 1) Advancing the cultural diversity of the food and agricultural sciences scientific and professional workforce by attracting and educating more students from underrepresented groups; 2) Strengthen linkages among the 1890 Institutions, other colleges and universities, USDA, or other Federal agencies, and private industry; 3) Enhance and strengthen the quality of teaching, education, research, and extension programs at the 1890 Institutions to establish them as full partners in the U.S. food and agricultural sciences higher education system. Projects or grants support development activities that include, but are not limited to: curricular design and materials development, faculty

preparation and enhancement for education, development and use of alternative methods like mobile classrooms/laboratories, student recruitment and retention services, acquisition and instructional laboratory and classroom equipment, student experimental learning, studies and experimentation, centralized research support systems, extension support systems, and technology delivery systems.

The program responds to identified State, regional, national, or international educational needs in the food and agricultural sciences, or rural economic, community, and business development. In 2023 the program has emphasized the addition of building artificial intelligence (AI), Machine Learning Capacity opportunities in cooperation with the USDA-NIFA funded AI Institutes: AI Institute for Future Agricultural Resilience, Management, and Sustainability and AI Institute for Next Generation Food Systems. In 2024 the program added a special emphasis area for proposals that lead to improved management strategies for both conventional and organic production systems that enhance production efficiency, improve animal health and welfare, and develop high quality animal products for human use.

Scholarships at 1890 Institutions

Section 1446 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334) provides mandatory funding in the enacted amount of $40 million, until expended, to carry out this program, authorized by 7 U.S.C. 3222a. In 2024, $10 million in mandatory appropriations was provided for the program. The purpose of the program is to award grants to each of the eligible 1890 Land-Grant Institution, including Tuskegee University. The general provisions, section 753, of Pub. L. 107-76 designated West Virginia State College as eligible to receive funds under any Act of Congress authorizing funding to 1890 Institutions. Section 7129 of the 2014 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 113-79) designates Central State University as an eligible 1890 Land-Grant Institution. The grants are for awarding scholarships to individuals who have been accepted for admission to such a college or university; will be enrolled at such college or university not later than one year after the date of such acceptance; and intend to pursue a career in the food and agricultural sciences, including a career in agribusiness, energy, and renewable fuels; or financial management.

Centers of Excellence at 1890 Institutions

The Centers are designed to supply the country with a globally diverse workforce and support critical global development needs, thereby supporting U.S. national security, address trans-boundary research and education, conservation, biodiversity, and development, or strengthening of teaching curricula and student recruitment. The 1890 Universities have a long history of working on these topics but the small size of their individual programs and insufficient infrastructure have hampered their contributions. These Centers help the institutions increase their effectiveness in serving the nation. Section 1673 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990, as amended by Section 7213 of the 2018 Farm Bill (7 U.S.C. 5926(d) authorizes funding for the recognition of Centers of Excellence at 1890 Institutions to focus on Student Success and Workforce Development; Nutrition, Health, Wellness, and Quality of Life; Farming Systems, Rural Prosperity, and Economic Sustainability; Global Food Security and Defense; Natural Resources, Energy, and Environment; and Emerging Technologies.

Education Grants for Hispanic-Serving Institutions

Pursuant to section 1455 of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3241), this program is the foundation for USDA efforts to better serve Hispanic Americans and to prepare them for careers in agricultural science and agribusiness. This competitive program expands and strengthens academic programs in the agricultural sciences, natural resources, forestry, veterinary medicine, home economics, and disciplines allied closely to the food and agriculture production and delivery systems at Hispanic-serving colleges and universities, including two-year community colleges that have at least 25 percent Hispanic enrollment. Section 7128 of FCEA amended section 1455 of NARETPA to require that all

grants made under this program be awarded on a fully competitive basis and removed the requirement for consortia in subsection (b)(1). Funds may support: 1) curricula design, degree programs, materials development, and library resources; 2) faculty preparation and enhancement for teaching; 3) instruction delivery systems; 4) scientific instrumentation for teaching; 5) student experiential learning; and 6) student recruitment and retention.

Education Grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions

The program, originally authorized by section 759 of Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000, Pub. L. 106-78, and re-designated as section 1419B of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3156), is aimed at recruiting, supporting, and educating minority scientists and professionals, and advancing the educational capacity of Native-serving institutions. Funds may be used to support projects in the targeted areas of: 1) enhancing educational equity for under-represented students; 2) strengthening educational capacities, including libraries, curriculum, faculty, scientific instrumentation, instruction delivery systems, and student recruitment and retention; 3) attraction and retention of undergraduate and graduate students; and 4) cooperative initiatives to maximize the development of resources such as faculty, facilities and equipment to improve teaching programs. Additionally, to support the activities of consortia of Native Hawaiian serving Institutions to enhance educational equity for underrepresented students, section 7112 of FCEA permits consortia to designate fiscal agents for the members of the consortia and to allocate among the members funds made available under this program. Funds are awarded on a competitive basis under the program.

Research Grants for 1994 Institutions

The 1994 Act (7 U.S.C. 301 note), as amended by the 2014 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 113-79) and the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334), authorizes a competitive research grants program for institutions designated as 1994 Institutions. The program allows scientists at the legislatively eligible 1994 Institutions to participate in agricultural research activities that address tribal, national, and multi-State priorities. Pursuant to Section 7402 of the 2014 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 113-79), 1994 Institutions may work with the Agricultural Research Service or at least 1 of the other land-grant colleges or universities, a Non-Land-Grant College of Agriculture, or cooperating forestry schools eligible to receive funds under McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act; (7 U.S.C. 3103).

Capacity Building for Non Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture (NLGCA) Institutions

Section 7138 of FCEA (7 U.S.C. 3319i) established this competitively awarded grants program to assist the NLGCA Institutions in maintaining and expanding their capacity to conduct education, research, and outreach activities relating to agriculture, renewable resources, and similar disciplines. Section 7101 of the 2014 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 113-79) defined eligibility for this program and a certification process was implemented accordingly. Section 7102 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334) amended the definition of NLGCA to clarify that eligible entities now include Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges or universities and McIntire-Stennis colleges and universities, and that all eligible entities must offer at least one four-year degree program in agricultural sciences, forestry, or both in any of 32 specified areas of study or any other area determined appropriate by the Secretary. All institutions certified as NLGCA prior to December 21, 2018, must reapply for certification and meet the new criteria for NLGCA certification contained in the Federal Register Notice.

Capacity Building Grants for Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture Program (NLGCA) Institutions may use the funds: (a) to successfully compete for funds from Federal grants and other sources to carry out educational, research, and outreach activities that address priority concerns of national, regional, State, and local interest; (b) to disseminate information relating to priority concerns to interested members of the agriculture, renewable resources, and other relevant communities, the public, and any other interested entity; (c) to encourage members of the agriculture, renewable resources, and other relevant communities to participate in priority education, research, and outreach

activities by providing matching funds to leverage grant resources; and (d) through: (1) the purchase or other acquisition of equipment and other infrastructure (not including alteration, repair, renovation, or construction of buildings); (2) the professional growth and development of the faculty of the NLGCA Institution; (3) the development of graduate assistantships; and (4) building linkages with other institutions (including other colleges and universities, minority-serving institutions, units of State governments, international partners) as well as private and community-based entities.

New Beginning for Tribal Students

Section 1450 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222e), as added by section 7120 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334) established this program to make competitive grants to land-grant colleges and universities to provide identifiable support specifically targeted for Tribal students, through recruiting, tuition and related fees, experiential learning, and student services (including tutoring, counseling, academic advising, and other student services that would increase the retention and graduation rate of Tribal students enrolled at the land-grant college or university, as determined by the Secretary). All grantees are required to provide a 100 percent match in the form of cash or in-kind contributions. The program includes an annual limitation of $500,000 that may be awarded to Institutions located in the same State.

Grants for Insular Areas

Funds are awarded for grants to insular areas of the Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, or the Republic of Palau for resident instruction and distance education as follows:

Resident Instruction and Agriculture and Food Science Facilities and Equipment Grants

Pursuant to section 1491 of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3363) and (7 U.S.C. 3222b-2), as amended, is designed to enhance teaching and extension programs in food and agricultural sciences that are in the insular areas. Funds may be used to enhance programs in agriculture, natural resources, forestry, veterinary medicine, home economics, and disciplines closely allied to the food and agriculture production and delivery systems. Funds also may be used to acquire, alter, or repair facilities or relevant equipment necessary for conducting agricultural research. Funds are awarded on a competitive basis under the program.

Distance Education Grants

Pursuant to section 1490 of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3362), as amended, is designed to strengthen the capacity of insular area institutions. Funds may be used to enhance the capability of the institutions to carry out collaborative distance food and agricultural education programs using digital network technologies. Funds are awarded on a competitive basis under the program.

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

Subsection (b) of the 1965 Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(b)) as amended by section 7406 of FCEA (Pub. L. 110-246), section 7404 of the 2014 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 113-79), and section 7504 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334) establishes an Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) to make competitive grants for fundamental and applied research, extension, and education to address food and agricultural sciences (as defined under section 1404 of NARETPA). The Secretary is authorized to award competitive grants to State agricultural experiment stations, colleges and universities, university research foundations, other research institutions and organizations, Federal agencies, national laboratories, private organizations or corporations, individuals, and any group consisting of two or more of these entities. Grants will be awarded to address critical issues in United States agriculture in areas that address farm and ranch production efficiency, profitability, and sustainability;

bioenergy and bio-based products; forestry; aquaculture; rural communities and entrepreneurship; human nutrition; mitigating impacts of biotic and abiotic constraints on food production; food safety; mitigating food loss and waste; physical and social sciences; rural human ecology; development of circular/regenerative economies, and genetic improvement of plants and animals. Addressing these critical issues will engage scientists and educators with expertise in:

- Plant health and production and plant products;
- Animal health and production and animal products;
- Food safety, nutrition, and health;
- Bioenergy, natural resources, and environment;
- Agriculture systems and technology; and
- Agriculture economics and rural communities.

Of the funds made available for research, no less than 60 percent shall be used for fundamental research and no less than 40 percent shall be used for applied research. No less than 30 percent of the amount allocated for fundamental research shall be made available to make grants for research to be conducted by multidisciplinary teams and no more than 2 percent may be used for equipment grants. In addition, awards may be made to assist in the development of capabilities in the agricultural, food, and environmental sciences (e.g., new investigator and strengthening awards). In accordance with section 7404 of the 2014 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 113-79), entities established under a commodity promotion law, or a state commodity board (or other equivalent State entity) may directly submit to the Secretary for consideration proposals for requests for applications that specifically address issues related to the priority areas. Accepted topics are incorporated, as appropriate, into AFRI requests for applications.

To the maximum extent practicable, NIFA will make awards for high priority research, education, and extension, taking into consideration, when available, the determinations made by the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board. Integrated research, education and extension activities under this program are authorized pursuant to the authority found in section 406 of AREERA (7 U.S.C. 7626) and at an amount no less than 30 percent of the funds made available under this authority.

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment (VMLRP)

The program, authorized by section 1415A of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3151a) as amended, provides for a loan repayment program for a specified payment amount of qualifying educational loans of veterinarians for geographical areas that have a shortage of veterinarians; and areas of veterinary practice that the Secretary determines have a shortage of veterinarians, such as food animal medicine, public health, epidemiology, and food safety. Section 7105 of FCEA amended section 1415A of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3151a) to require NIFA to give priority to agreements with veterinarians for the practice of food animal medicine in veterinarian shortage situations. Funds are awarded on a competitive basis under the program.

Since 2010, VMLRP has received over 2,364 applications from food animal veterinarians for assistance with educational debt repayment in return for service in veterinary shortage areas designated by Federal or State Animal Health Officials. Over the twelve-year period, the Program has awarded 998 service agreements through a competitive process matching the most meritorious applications with shortage areas. These veterinarians provide services for animals involved in US food and fiber production, which includes not only cattle, small ruminants, swine, poultry, and aquatic species, but also animals such as honeybees, equids, camelids and cervids. Food animal veterinarians provide public practice services in government agencies and academic institutions, ensuring food safety and security through epidemiologic and other public health related activities. The VMLRP program receives approximately $10M in appropriated funding each year to fund loan repayments. To qualify for the program, food animal veterinarians must have graduated from an American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)-accredited veterinary medical college and commit to serving for three years in a

shortage area. Awards are for amounts not exceeding $25,000 per year, for each of the three years, and can be renewed.

Veterinary Services Grant Program

The Veterinary Services Grant Program helps mitigate food animal veterinary service shortages in the United States through two different project types. Education, Extension, and Training (EET) grants have a three-year duration and up to $250,000 in funding for education and Extension activities that provide current and future veterinarians, veterinary students and veterinary technicians with specialized skills and practices by expanding educational programs at American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)-accredited schools and professional organizations. Rural Practice Enhancement (RPE) grants have a three-year duration and funds directly support veterinary clinics and practices by providing up to $125,000 for the purchase of equipment to enhance food animal veterinary services in a designated veterinary shortage situation area.

The program, authorized by section 1415B of NARETPA as amended, provides for a competitive grants program to develop, implement, and sustain veterinary services. Program activities will substantially relieve veterinarian shortage situations, facilitate private veterinary practices engaged in public health activities, or support the practices of veterinarians who are providing or have completed providing services under agreement under the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program. Section 7106 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334) amended section 1415B of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3151b) to give priority to grant awards for programs or activities with a focus on the practice of food animal medicine.

Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Program

Section 1433 of NARETPA, as amended by Pub. L. 113-79 and 115-334 (7 U.S.C. 3195), provides for support of livestock and poultry disease research in accredited schools or colleges of veterinary medicine or State Agriculture Experiment Stations (SAES) that conduct animal health and disease research. These funds provide support for new research initiatives and enhance research capacity leading to improved animal health, reduced use of antibacterial drugs and improved safety of foods of animal origin. In accordance with amendments made by Section 7111 of the 2014 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 113-79), allocated funds may only be used to meet the expenses of conducting animal health and disease research, publishing and disseminating the results of such research, and contributing to the retirement of employees subject to the Act of March 4, 1940 (7 U.S.C. 331); for administrative planning and direction; and to purchase equipment and supplies necessary for conducting research described above.

These funds shall be distributed as follows:

- 4 percent shall be retained by the Department of Agriculture for administration, program assistance to the eligible institutions, and program coordination;
- 48 percent shall be distributed in an amount proportionate to the value of and income to producers from domestic livestock, poultry, and aquaculture in each State to the total value of and income to producers from those same species in all the States; and
- 48 percent shall be distributed in an amount proportionate to the animal health research capacity of the eligible institutions in each State to the total animal health research capacity in all the States.

Eligible institutions must provide non-Federal matching funds in States receiving annual amounts in excess of $100,000 under this authorization. In the event the annual appropriation for this program exceeds $5 million in a fiscal year, Section 7111 of the 2014 Farm Bill authorizes a new competitive grant program under this authority which would be implemented to address the critical needs of animal agriculture by funding eligible entities to conduct research to promote food security, and on the

relationship between animal and human health, and to develop and disseminate to the public tools and information based on the research conducted above and sound science.

Supplemental and Alternative Crops

The SAC grant program supports projects that lead to expanded adaptation and increased acreage in the U.S. of canola grown for oil and industrial hemp grown for value added products. Such crops are important to U.S. agriculture in that these can provide new and profitable cropping options in response to low commodity prices and changes in consumer demand for new agricultural-based products. The U.S. does not produce enough canola oil to meet its annual domestic consumption needs. Modern canola has major uses in healthy human foods and animal feeds, as a natural pest control when used as a cover crop, and as a feedstock in industrial chemical manufacture and biofuel production. Historically, hemp has been grown for its essential oil, seed, and fiber. Hemp cultivation offers a range of environmental benefits, including carbon storage, erosion prevention, increased biodiversity, low to no pesticide requirement, and breaking disease cycles in crop rotation. Revival of industrial hemp cultivation requires intensification of crop improvement and marketing research to address the basic and unique challenges facing the emerging U.S. hemp industry.

The purpose of this integrated research and extension program is to adapt these multiple-purpose crops to diverse growing regions in the U.S., so that domestic canola oil and industrial hemp production can be significantly increased and be profitable nationwide. Such efforts require strategically designed, region-based research approaches and effective communication of useful information and the transfer of technologies to users as rapidly as possible. SAC supports research and Extension in conventional and organic production systems. Pursuant to section 1473D of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3319d) grants are awarded to conduct fundamental and applied research related to the development of new commercial products derived from natural plant material for industrial, medical, and agricultural applications. Funds are awarded on a competitive basis under the program.

Multicultural Scholars, Graduate Fellowship, and Institution Challenge Grants

Funds are awarded for grants and fellowships for food and agricultural sciences education as follows:

Higher Education Multicultural Scholars Program

Pursuant to section 1417(b)(5) of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3152(b)(5)) provides competitive grants to institutions for scholarships that attract and educate more students from groups currently underrepresented in the food and agricultural sciences for careers in agriscience and agribusiness.

Higher Education National Needs Graduate Fellowship Grants

Pursuant to section 1417(b)(6) of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3152(b)(6)) are competitive awards to provide fellowship grants to colleges and universities to stimulate the development of food and agricultural scientific expertise in targeted areas of national need specifically to the recruitment and training of new graduate students for critical food and agricultural scientific positions. Awards to institutions are prioritized to support at least one of the following Targeted Expertise Shortage Areas: 1) animal and plant production; 2) forest resources; 3) agricultural educators and communicators; 4) agricultural management and economics; 5) food science and human nutrition; 6) sciences for agricultural biosecurity; and 7) training in integrative biosciences for sustainable food and agricultural systems.

Institution Challenge Grants

Pursuant to section 1417(b)(1) of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3152(b)(1)), the program supports competitive grants to strengthen institutional capacities, including curriculum, faculty, scientific instrumentation, instruction delivery systems, and student recruitment and retention, to respond to identified State, regional, national, or international educational needs in the food and agricultural sciences, or in rural economic, community, and business development Projects supported by the Higher Education

Challenge Grants Program will: (1) address a state, regional, national, or international educational need; (2) involve a creative or non-traditional approach toward addressing that need that can serve as a model to others; (3) encourage and facilitate better working relationships in the university science and education community, as well as between universities and the private sector, to enhance program quality and supplement available resources; and (4) result in benefits that will likely transcend the project duration and USDA support.

Secondary and 2-year Post-Secondary Education

This program, authorized by section 1417(j) of NARETPA as amended (7 U.S.C. 3152(j)), is designed to promote and strengthen secondary education in agribusiness and agriscience, and to increase the number and/or diversity of young Americans pursuing college degrees in the food and agricultural sciences. The intent of the program is to encourage teachers creatively to incorporate elements of agriscience and agribusiness into secondary education programs. Section 7109 of FCEA amended section 1417(j) of NARETPA to include support for current agriculture in the classroom programs for grades K-12. Proposals address targeted need areas of curricula design and instructional materials development; faculty development and preparation for teaching; career awareness; linkages between secondary, 2-year post-secondary, and institutions of higher learning; or education activities promoting diversity in students seeking degrees in agribusiness and agriscience.

Aquaculture Centers

Pursuant to section 1475(d) of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3322(d)), funding supports aquaculture research, development, demonstration, and extension education to enhance viable and profitable U.S. aquaculture production to benefit consumers, producers, service industries, and the American economy. Funds are awarded on a competitive basis through a regional system.

NIFA funds five Regional Aquaculture Centers, that encourage and facilitate cooperative and collaborative research and extension education programs in aquaculture having regional or national application. Center programs are an exemplary model for public-private coordination and industry engagement and serve to complement and strengthen existing research and extension educational programs provided by USDA and other public institutions.

Projects that are developed and funded by the Regional Centers are based on industry needs in partnership with industry representatives and are designed to directly impact commercial aquaculture development and expansion in all states and territories. The Centers are organized to take advantage of the best aquaculture science, education skills, and facilities in the United States. Center programs ensure effective coordination and a region-wide, team approach to projects jointly conducted by research, extension, government, and industry personnel. Inter-agency collaboration and shared funding are strongly encouraged.

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)

The purpose of the SARE program is to encourage research and extension projects designed to increase knowledge concerning agricultural production systems that: 1) Maintain and enhance the quality and productivity of the soil; 2) Conserve soil, water, energy, natural resources, and fish and wildlife habitat; 3) Maintain and enhance the quality of surface and ground water; 4) Protect the health and safety of persons involved in the food and farm system; 5) Promote the well-being of animals; and 6) Increase employment opportunities in agriculture.

Funds are competitively awarded for grants for sustainable agriculture and education as follows.

Sections 1621 and 1622 of the FACT Act (7 U.S.C. 5811 and 7 U.S.C. 5812 respectively) work to increase knowledge and help farmers and ranchers adopt practices that are productive, profitable, environmentally sound, and good for people and communities. Grants are awarded by four regional

host institutions working with their administrative councils for projects that address crop and livestock production and marketing, stewardship of natural resources, economics, and quality of life.

Funds are also used to disseminate information about sustainable agricultural practices. The program supports the development of technical guides and handbooks plus education and training (7 U.S.C. 5831 and 7 U.S.C. 5832) for Cooperative Extension System agents, and other university, private sector and agency agricultural professionals engaged in the education and transfer of technical information concerning sustainable agriculture. Funds are also used for statewide planning of sustainable agriculture programs.

Farm Business Management

Section 1672D of the FACT Act (7 U.S.C. 5925f), as amended by Section 7211 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334) authorizes a competitive program to make research and extension grants for the purpose of improving the farm management knowledge and skills of agricultural producers by maintaining and expanding a national, publicly available farm financial management database to support improved farm management.

NIFA seeks to provide funds that improve the farm management knowledge and skills of agricultural producers by maintaining and expanding a national, publicly available farm financial management database. Priorities within the program include:1) Maintaining and expanding the already established national, publicly available farm financial management database to support improved farm management knowledge and skills., for producers of a variety of crops and livestock throughout multiple regions of the United States. 2) Establishing or expanding collaborative farm management educational programs with farm organizations or associations. Educational programs will contribute data to the existing national farm financial management and benchmarking database to improve the farm management knowledge and skills of all agricultural producers.

Sun Grant Program

Section 7526 of FCEA (7 U.S.C. 8114), as amended by section 7516 of the 2014 Farm Bill (Pub L. 113-79) and reauthorized by section 7414 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334), established this competitive program to enhance national energy security through the development, distribution, and implementation of biobased energy technologies. The program provides a consortium of universities made up of a university from each of the five Sun Grant regions and subcenter region with a grant to support a North-Central, Southeastern, South-Central, Western, and Northeastern Sun Grant Center and a Western Insular Pacific Subcenter.

A Sun Grant Center or Subcenter will use up to 75 percent of grant funds to provide competitive grants within each region that are multi-institutional and integrated, multistate research, Extension, and education programs on technology development and technology implementation, and address bioenergy, biomass, or bioproducts research priorities. Remaining funds may be used for program implementation and for research, education, and extension conducted at the respective Sun Grant Centers. Through biobased energy and product technologies, activities are supported that promote diversification, and the environmental sustainability of, agricultural production in the United States, and economic diversification in rural areas of the United States. Funds are also used to enhance the efficiency of bioenergy and biomass research and development programs through improved coordination and collaboration among USDA, Department of Energy, and land-grant colleges and universities.

Research Equipment Grants (EGP)

Section 1462A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310a), as added by section 7126 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334) established this program for competitive grants to eligible institutions for the acquisition of special purpose scientific

research equipment for use in the food and agricultural sciences programs of eligible institutions. Grants may not exceed $500,000.

The program seeks to strengthen the quality and expand the scope of fundamental and applied research at eligible institutions, by providing them with opportunities to acquire one major piece of equipment/instrument that supports their research, training, and extension goals and may be too costly and/or not appropriate for support through other NIFA grant programs. The program emphasizes shared-use instrumentation that will enhance the capabilities of researchers, educators, and extension agents both within and outside the proposing organization. An instrument acquired with support from the EGP program is expected to be fully operational by the end of the award period. Projects supported by EGP should demonstrate institutions' commitment to undertake the responsibility of maintaining and operating the instrument for the benefit of a community of users engaged in research, training, and/or extension.

Alfalfa Seed and Alfalfa Forage Systems Research Program (AFRP)

The AFRP is an integrated research and extension program that supports technology transfer to improve overall agricultural productivity, profitability, and conservation of natural resources through conventional and organic alfalfa seed and forage production systems. AFRP encourages applicants to establish interdisciplinary and multi-location regional research and extension networks to address national priorities or regional science needs of the U.S. alfalfa industry. By bringing together expertise across multiple universities, federal agencies, and industry organizations and states, AFRP projects seek to enhance the effectiveness of limited state, federal, and industry resources and to produce greater long-lasting impacts.

The authority for this program is contained in 7 U.S.C. 5925(d)(8): High-priority research and extension initiatives as amended by Section 7209 of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill).

Minor Crop Pest Management (IR–4)

The Minor Crop Pest Management Program - Interregional Research Project #4 (IR-4) is authorized under the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act, (7 U.S.C. 3157(e)). The IR-4 Program provides expert assistance for the development and registration of crop protection products needed for minor agricultural use and use on specialty crops. For the past 60 years, the program has facilitated cooperation between producers, grower organizations, state Cooperative Extension Services, land-grant universities, and federal agencies to ensure the availability of safe, effective, and economical pest management tools for specialty crops, minor crops, and minor uses.

The purpose of the IR-4 program is to enable the availability of safe, effective, and economical pest management products for growers of specialty crops and for minor agricultural uses. The crop protection industry cannot justify the costs associated with the research, development, and registration of crop protection products for these uses due to small market size and limited sales potential. The IR-4 program provides the assistance needed to ensure that new and more effective crop protection products are tested and registered for these uses. This requires effective collaboration between federal science agencies, federal regulatory agencies, crop producers, the crop protection industry, and land-grant colleges and universities.

Per statute, the overarching goals and objectives of the IR-4 program are to assist in the collection of residue and efficacy data in support of the registration or reregistration of pesticides for minor agricultural use and for use on specialty crops (as defined in section 3 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note)), under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136 et seq.); and tolerances for residues of minor use chemicals in or on raw agricultural commodities under sections 346a and 348 of title 21.

The IR-4 program provides support for efforts to develop reduced-risk products, bio-pesticides, and other chemicals with characteristics that are deemed lower risk to humans, non-target organisms, and the environment. In addition, the program concentrates on internal processes that reduce the time needed to complete successful regulatory packages.

Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative

The Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative (AG2PI) is a research program that supports scientific advancement of agriculturally significant crops, livestock, poultry, and aquaculture to ensure current knowledge gaps in agricultural crops and animal genetics and phenomics are filled to sustain and secure agricultural production. This is intended to build a functional understanding of agronomically relevant genes from animals and crops to direct germplasm improvement. AG2PI shall include the study of relevant, diverse germplasm as a source of unique genes with potential to drive gains in plant and animal performance, reduce the economic impact of pests and pathogens on animals and crops and mitigate impacts of environmental changes on the agricultural sector of the United States. AG2PI also supports the modeling of genetic interactions with environmental and management factors to develop more accurate and predictive models connecting traits such as yield, feed conversion efficiency, production efficiency and nutritional quality with environmental variability, genetics, and climate to better predict performance. This may include Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning approaches.

AG2PI promotes the use of common data architectures, and augmentation of benchmark datasets across crop and animal systems to add value, enable reanalysis, and improve data accessibility with the goal of improving and democratizing acquisition, interpretation, and analysis of large datasets. These datasets include genomics, phenomics, high-periodicity imagery, spectral, and environmental data. Engineering approaches to develop novel sensing devices and measurement techniques are also encouraged. Success of AG2PI is dependent on effective collaborations across academic disciplines that will be supported through transdisciplinary science.

The Agricultural Genomes to Phenomes Initiative is authorized under Section 1671 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5924), as amended by section 7208 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334), which authorizes a program for competitive awards to build on genomic research and expand knowledge concerning genomes and phenomes of crops and animals of importance to the agriculture sector of the United States.

Laying Hen and Turkey Research Program

Section 1672 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925(d)(15)) authorized competitive grants to support research projects to improve efficiency and sustainability of laying hen and turkey production. The Laying Hen and Turkey Research Program will support one or more research projects for improving the efficiency and sustainability of laying hen and turkey production through integrated collaborative research and technology transfer.

Emphasis in one or more of the following priority areas is required:

1) Disease prevention, including vaccine development and administration, diagnostics and early detection, disease resistance, and reducing pathogen transmission.
2) Antimicrobial resistance, including alternatives to antimicrobials, such as probiotics or prebiotics; antimicrobial technologies; and mitigation of multidrug resistance.
3) Nutrition, including alternative and sustainable feeds and ingredients.
4) Gut health, including improvements to gut health that promote animal health, and impacts of pathogens, commensals, and the microbiome.
5) Alternative housing systems under extreme seasonal weather conditions, including use of precision technologies, enhanced monitoring to improve indoor air quality and biosecurity, and to control the spread of disease.

Open Data Standards for Neutral Data Repositories

Pub. L. 119-4 Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, as referenced in the 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act, Sec. 757 of Division A of P.L. 117-103, provides funding for Open Data Standards for Neutral Data Repository which is to develop a public-private cooperative open framework based on open data standards for neutral data repository solutions to preserve and share the big data generated by technological advancements in the agriculture industry and for the preservation and curation of data in collaboration with land-grant universities. The data framework supports the development of advanced technologies and practices to meet the increasingly complex agricultural challenges of farmers and ranchers.

The Open Data Framework builds a repository needed to create a neutral and secure data repository and cooperative where producers, universities and nonprofit entities can store and share data in ways that will foster agricultural innovation and will support technological progress, production efficiencies, and environmental stewardship. Projects include details of the existing data storage and sharing landscape, communication plans for sharing knowledge of the existing cyberinfrastructure facilities, and details of how the project will leverage existing infrastructure and knowledge.

Research Facilities Act

Pursuant to Section 4 of the Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C. 390 et seq.) and as amended by the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334), supports competitive grants to college, university, or nonprofit institution that have a facility supportive of research in food and agricultural sciences to assist in the construction, alteration, acquisition, modernization, renovation, or remodeling of the facility.

Activities may include but are not limited to:

- Assessing sites and infrastructure;
- Planning and conceptual designing for the new, restored, or renovated facility or site;
- Developing schematics and construction drawings for the new, restored, or renovated facility or site;
- Constructing, restoring, or renovating facility or site; and
- Purchasing and installing related permanently affixed equipment for research monitoring and protecting specimens and samples.

Purchasing and installing critical building systems, such as electrical, climate control, security, life safety, lighting, utilities, telecommunications, and energy management.

Special Grants

Section 2(c) of the 1965 Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(c)), as amended; and subject to provisions of NARETPA; Pub. L. 97-98; Critical Agricultural Materials Act, (Pub. L. 98-284); Pub. L. 99-198; FACT Act; FAIR Act; and AREERA authorizes Special Research Grants for periods not to exceed three years to SAES, all colleges and universities, other research institutions and organizations, Federal agencies, private organizations or corporations, and individuals. Grants are made available for the purpose of conducting research to facilitate or expand promising breakthroughs in areas of the food and agricultural sciences. AREERA expanded the purposes under this authority to include extension or education activities. Special Grants are awarded on a non-competitive or competitive basis involving scientific peer and merit review processes. Included in Special Grants are:

Global Change UV-B Monitoring

The purpose of the Global Change, Ultraviolet Radiation Monitoring and Research Program (UVMRP) is to support research and research infrastructure which: generates an uninterrupted stream of solar ultraviolet radiation data; determines mechanisms and symptoms of plant and animal response; and applies tightly integrated models to assess regional and national impacts (both biological and

economic) of multiple plant stressors. The USDA has long been concerned about high levels of ultraviolet radiation (UV-B) from the Sun, which are known to have harmful effects on agricultural crops, rangelands, forest ecosystems, livestock, humans, and built infrastructure.

To understand better the impacts of UV-B radiation on U.S. agricultural production systems, NIFA solicits applications that can generate and deliver high-quality UV-B radiation data for use by USDA and plant and animal scientists nationally. To be useful, multi-band and broadband UV-B data must be collected at a minimum of 25 locations around the continental U.S., covering different eco-regions, elevations, and land-use types.

These special grant funds provide continuing support for the three on-going operational and research components of the UVMRP:

- The Solar UV-B Radiation Network: to collect an uninterrupted stream of ultraviolet and visible radiation measurements across the entire USA: a) to establish long term records of ultraviolet irradiance necessary to assess trends; and b) to provide this data in near real time via a web-based portal to the agricultural community and researchers working on the impacts of ultraviolet irradiance on agriculture and forests;
- The Effects Research: to support research that assesses the potential crop and forest impacts from changing levels of ultraviolet radiation in combination with other environmental stress factors; and
- The Integrated Climate-Crop Models: to provide data to support development of the integrated climate-crop models to assess regional and national impacts (both biological and economic) of multiple plant stressors.

Potato Research

Potato Research supports regional potato (Solanum tuberosum L.) research and extension that focuses on the development, testing, and release of superior commercial potato varieties using classical breeding and advanced molecular and biotechnological approaches. The development and utilization of high-throughput methods that address significant or emergent issues is of importance to the U.S. potato industry. Aspects of evaluation, screening, and testing must support commercial variety development and release of superior materials to commercial producers as soon as possible. Further, a program aspect is to develop technologies to rapidly identify potential pest and disease threats, allowing producers a better opportunity to reduce losses. Funds are awarded on a competitive basis under the program. The Special Grants Program Potato Research (Potato Research) is authorized under Section 2(c)(1)(B) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act as amended (7 U.S.C. 3157(c)(1)(B)).

Aquaculture Research

The purpose of the Special Grants for Aquaculture Research program is to support the development of an environmentally and economically sustainable aquaculture industry in the United States by generating new, science-based information and technology to address industry constraints. Applied research is needed to develop practical solutions that will facilitate growth and remove limitations to expansion of the United States aquaculture industry. Results of projects supported by this program are intended to help improve the profitability of the United States aquaculture industry, reduce the multi-billion-dollar United States seafood trade deficit, increase domestic food security, expand markets for United States-produced products, and provide more jobs for rural and coastal America.

The authority for the Special Grants for Aquaculture Research competitive grants program is contained in the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act, Pub. L. No. 89-106 Section 2(c), as amended (7 USC 3157 (c)(1)(A)).

Necessary Expenses of Research and Education Activities

Grants Management System

Funds are used to operate and maintain multiple grants management systems. Today, NIFA uses the legacy grants system Cooperative Research, Education, and Extension Management System (CREEMS) and the USDA ezFedGrants (eFG) Grants and Agreements System. NIFA uses both systems to administer, reconcile, and report on federal assistance awards because eFG is limited to capacity/formula grants management. To replace these legacy systems, NIFA has selected the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Quality Service Management Offices grants solution Electronic Records Administration (eRA) as an end-to-end grants management solution intended to simplify and streamline operations and ensure a singular customer experience.

For over two decades, NIH and several other Department of Health and Human Services operating divisions have recognized eRA as the leading grants management service provider. As a trans-agency shared services provider, eRA has partnered with external federal agencies since 2003 for their end-to-end grants management needs, including but not limited to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Food and Drug Administration, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Veterans Administration, Department of Defense Uniformed Services University and Department of Commerce. This grants and financial management transformation supports USDA Strategic Plan Goal 6 to fully leverage modern human-centered design, data, technology, and digital services to provide our internal and external customers with easy-to-navigate online tools to increase access to our critical programs and services. Specifically, NIFA's Grants Management Initiative aligns with the USDA IT Strategic Plan Goal 1 to Accelerate Digital Transformation, Objectives 1-3; Goal 2 to Drive Innovation in Support of USDA Mission, Objectives 1-2; Goal 3 to Improve IT Organizational Agility with a Skilled Workforce, Objective 1; and Goal 5 to Enable Data-Driven Decision-Making, Objectives 1-2. It also addresses the President's Management Agenda, Priority 2, Strategy 3, to identify and prioritize the development of Federal shared products, services, and standards that enable simple, seamless, and secure customer experiences across the Federal Government.

Federal Administration—Other Necessary Expenses for Research and Education Activities

Authority for direct appropriations is provided in the annual Agriculture appropriations act. These funds are used to provide support services in connection with the planning and coordination of all research and education programs administered by NIFA, including grants management and reporting services, Department of Homeland Security facility security services, and General Services Administration rent.

Native American Institutions Endowment Fund

The program, authorized by the 1994 Act (7 U.S.C. 301 note), provides for the establishment of an endowment for the legislatively eligible 1994 Institutions (Tribally-controlled colleges). The interest derived from the endowment is distributed to the 1994 Institutions on a formula basis. This program will enhance educational opportunities for Native Americans by building educational capacity at these institutions. The institutions are also able to use the funding for facility renovation and construction. On the termination of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall withdraw the income from the endowment fund for the fiscal year, and after adjusting for the cost of administering the endowment fund, at 4 percent, distribute the adjusted income as follows: Sixty percent of the adjusted income is distributed among the 1994 Institutions on a pro rata basis, the proportionate share being based on the Indian student count. Forty percent of the adjusted income is distributed in equal shares to the 1994 Institutions.

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program / Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Program

The Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1982 (Pub. L. 97-219, as amended) (15 U.S.C. 638), authorizes a competitive program for SBIR. The purpose of the Small Business Innovation Development Act is to stimulate technological innovation in the private sector; strengthen the role of small business to meet Federal research and development needs; to foster and encourage participation by minority and disadvantaged persons in technological innovations; and to increase private sector commercialization innovations derived from Federally funded research and development. The SBIR and STTR Extension Act of 2022 (Pub. L. 117-183) reauthorized SBIR and STTR programs and pilot programs through 2025 with a set aside of not less than 3.2 percent of the agency's research expenditures in 2017 and each fiscal year thereafter for the SBIR program and a set aside of not less than 0.45 percent for 2016 and each fiscal year thereafter for the STTR program for extramural research and development for awards to eligible small businesses.

The SBIR/STTR Programs are a three-phased effort, but only Phase I and Phase II, the feasibility and follow-on research and development phases respectively, are eligible for support with USDA funds. Small businesses are encouraged to secure Phase III funding for the commercialization phase from other public or private sources. The research areas supported under the SBIR/STTR programs address critical issues for USDA SBIR/STTR, including forestry, animal and plant health and production, aquaculture, rural community development, small to mid-size farms including urban agriculture, biofuels and biobased products, food science and natural resource conservation. Addressing these critical issues will engage small businesses with expertise in several areas including plant and animal production and protection; precision agriculture, artificial intelligence, forests and related resource sciences; air, water, and soil resources; food and nutrition sciences; rural and community development; biofuels and biobased products; aquaculture; and small and mid-sized farms. NIFA administers the SBIR/STTR programs for USDA as a competitive grant program, including the funds set aside from other USDA agencies.

Biotechnology Risk Assessment Research Grants Program (BRAG)

Section 1668 of the FACT Act (7 U.S.C. 5921) as amended authorizes competitively awarded research grants to identify and develop appropriate management practices to minimize physical and biological risks associated with genetically engineered animals, plants, and microorganisms. USDA NIFA, Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and Forest Service contribute to BRAG funding, whereby at least 2 percent of appropriations for biotechnology related research are set aside for awards under this program. NIFA and the ARS jointly administer this program.

BRAG supports the generation of new information that assists Federal regulatory agencies in making science-based decisions about the effects of introducing genetically engineered organisms into the environment, including plants, microorganisms (including fungi, bacteria, and viruses), arthropods, fish, birds, mammals, and other animals excluding humans. The program also supports applied and fundamental risk assessment research, which is defined as the science-based evaluation and interpretation of information in which a given hazard, if any, is identified, and the consequences associated with the hazard are explored.

Bioproducts Pilot Program

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, 2022 (Pub. L. 117-58, Division J, Title I, Sec.101) provided $5,000,000 for 2022 and $5,000,000 for 2023 to carry out section 70501 of division G, to remain available until expended. The Bioproducts Pilot Program supports early-stage research and development of consumer and construction products derived from agricultural commodities. Covered agricultural commodities of interest include agricultural commodities, food, feed, fiber, livestock, oil, or a derivative thereof, that the Secretary determines to have been used in the production of materials that have demonstrated market viability and benefits. The Bioproduct Pilot Program advances the

development of cost-competitive bioproducts with environmental benefits compared to incumbent products.

Extension Activities

The mission of the Cooperative Extension System, as a cooperative funding partnership between NIFA, State, and local governments is to leverage Land-grant University expertise for research and education and provide local Extension offices in U.S. counties/county equivalents that directly serve the people. Local education programs include a wide range of Extension education, on-farm farmer-led research, the 4-H program, and food and nutrition education programs that transform NIFA-funded research into real-world application, improving farm productivity, businesses, communities, health, and livelihoods. Cooperative Extension was established by the Smith-Lever Act of May 8, 1914, as amended (7 U.S.C. 341 et seq). This work is further emphasized in Title XIV of NARETPA to fulfill the requirements of the Smith-Lever Act, the Cooperative Extension Service in each State, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Marianas and Micronesia, conduct educational programs to improve American agriculture, communities of all sizes, and strengthen families throughout the U.S. This publicly funded, out-of-the classroom educational network combines the expertise and resources of Federal, State, and local partners. The partners in this unique system are:

- USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA);
- Cooperative Extension Services at Land-grant Universities throughout the United States and its territories as funded by state governments; and
- Cooperative Extension Services in nearly all the 3,143 counties or county equivalents in the United States with supporting local government funding.

Tens of thousands of Extension-funded employees and local volunteers support this partnership and magnify its reach and impact directly to the people. Strong linkages with both public and private external groups are also crucial to the Extension System's strength and vitality.

Smith-Lever, Section 3(b) and (c) programs and Cooperative Extension

Smith-Lever 3 (b) & (c) formula funds of the Smith-Lever Act, 7 U.S.C. 343(b)(c), as amended, comprise approximately two-thirds of the total Federal funding for extension activities. These funds are allocated to the States based on the rural and farm population of each State and the territories. States can utilize funds for locally determined programs, as well as for high priority regional and national concerns.

In accordance with section 4 of the Smith-Lever Act, eligible State institutions are required to submit a Plan of Work to NIFA for approval before Smith-Lever 3 (b) & (c) formula funds are distributed. Of the funds authorized under section 3(c), four percent shall be allotted for Federal administrative, technical, and other services, and for coordinating the extension work of the Department and the States, Territories, and possessions. The remaining balance of funds formula distribution is:

- 20 percent is divided equally among the States;
- 40 percent in amounts proportionate to the relative rural population of each state to the total rural population of all states is paid to the several States, as determined by the census; and
- 40 percent in amounts proportionate to the relative farm population of each state to the total farm population of all states shall be paid to the several States, as determined by the census.

States must expend 25 percent, or two times the level spent in 1997 (whichever is less), on cooperative extension activities in which two or more States cooperate to solve problems that concern more than one State. This also applies to activities that integrate cooperative research and extension.

In addition to the funds allocated using the formula distribution, the Smith-Lever Special Needs Competitive Grants Program supports innovative, education-based approaches to address disaster preparedness and specific responses related to disasters or disaster threats caused by natural, human-made, or technological hazards, or by other factors that contribute to the exposure or vulnerability of a community. This program supports funding Extension Standard Projects and Planning Projects, which must focus on disasters and address at least one of the listed Topical Areas: Agriculture; Natural Resources; Community and Economic Development; Family and Consumer Sciences; or 4-H and Youth Development. Projects must also use one of the listed Strategies: Program and Resource Development; Exercise and Training; Communications; Disaster Planning; or Professional Development and Capacity Building.

Smith-Lever 3(b) and (c) funding provided to an 1862 Land-Grant Institution must be matched with non-Federal funding on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Matching requirements for the insular areas of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, Micronesia, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands are subject to the matching requirements of an amount equal to not less than 50 percent of the formula funds distributed to each insular area. These provisions also state that the Secretary may waive the matching funds requirement of an insular area for any fiscal year if the Secretary determines the government of the insular area will be unlikely to meet the matching requirement for the fiscal year.

Extension Services at 1890 Institutions

Section 1444 of NARETPA, (7 U.S.C. 3221), provides support to the 1890 Land-Grant Colleges and Universities for fostering, developing, implementing and improving extension educational programs to benefit their clientele. The general provisions, section 753, of Pub. L. 107-76 designated West Virginia State College as eligible to receive funds under any Act of Congress authorizing funding to 1890 Institutions, including Tuskegee University. Section 7129 of the 2014 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 113-79) designates Central State University as an eligible 1890 Land-Grant Institution and Section 7115 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334) establishes a minimum additional funding amount for eligible entities in the fiscal years following certain eligible entities' qualification should the funding level increase by $3 million. If there are insufficient funds appropriated for Section 1444 (or Section 1445) to continue the minimum additional funding amounts for eligible institutions, the provision provides for a reduction in allocations made to eligible institutions. Eligible State institutions are required to submit a five-year Plan of Work to NIFA for approval before these formula funds are distributed. Section 7121 of FCEA amended section 1444(a)(2) (7 U.S.C. 3221(a)(2)) to require that at least 20 percent of the total appropriations for each fiscal year under the Smith-Lever Act be allocated for payments to 1890 Institutions for extension activities. Funds will be distributed as follows, unless the funding amount is increased by $3 million in any fiscal year, in which case Section 7115 of the 2018 Farm Bill includes additional directives regarding allocation of that increase:

- 4 percent to NIFA for administrative, technical, and other services;
- Payments to States in 1978 are a fixed base. Of funds in excess of this amount:
- 20 percent is distributed equally to each State;
- 40 percent is distributed in an amount proportionate to the rural population of the State in which the eligible institution is located to the total rural population of all States in which eligible institutions are located; and
- 40 percent is distributed in an amount proportionate to the farm population of the State in which the eligible institution is located to the total farm population of all States in which eligible institutions are located.

In accordance with section 1449(c) of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3222d), Federal funds provided under section 1444 must be matched by the State from non-Federal sources. Section 1449(c) provides that the Secretary of Agriculture may waive the matching funds requirement above the 50 percent level for any fiscal year for an eligible institution of a State if the Secretary determines that the State will be

unlikely to satisfy the matching requirement. Section 7114 of the 2018 Farm Bill amends section 1444(a) of NARETPA to allow 1890 colleges to carry forward to the succeeding fiscal year 100 percent of the funds they receive under this program in a given fiscal year. Allotments to Tuskegee University and Alabama A&M University shall be determined as if each institution were in a separate State. Four percent of the funds appropriated under this program are set-aside for Federal Administration.

Extension Services at 1994 Institutions

Section 534(b) of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note), as amended by the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA) (7 U.S.C. 7601) authorizes appropriations for 1994 Land-Grant Institutions for Extension activities as set forth in the Smith Lever Act. Funding is awarded on a competitive basis to legislatively eligible institutions as authorized (7 U.S.C 343(b)(3)). Section 7402 of the 2014 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 113-79) amended section 532 of the 1994 Act by adding College of the Muscogee Nation and Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College, effective October 2014. Section 7502 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334) amended section 532 of the 1994 Act by updating eligible institutions' names and adding Red Lake Nation College.

Extension Services at 1994 Institutions provides funding through two RFAs: Capacity Applications and Special Emphasis. Capacity Applications provide informal, community-focused, culturally relevant education and outreach to Tribal communities served by 1994 institutions. Special Emphasis projects allow Extension offices to be responsive to community needs through short-term projects that address youth, agriculture, natural resources, economic development, healthy lifestyles, Traditional Ecological Knowledge or other issues important to Tribal stakeholders. The purpose of these programs is to address community needs and improve quality of life by giving Tribal communities opportunities for enhanced Traditional Ecological Knowledge, agricultural productivity, community resilience, economic growth, and youth development by extending the reach of innovations in research and technology and enhancing informal, local educational programming.

Facility Improvements at 1890 Institutions

Section 1447 of NARETPA, 7 U.S.C. 3222b, funds are used to upgrade research, extension, and teaching facilities at the eligible 1890 land-grant colleges, including Tuskegee University, West Virginia State College, and Central State University (per Section 7129 of the 2014 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 113-79)). NIFA awards as a formula based on legislation in Section 1444(b)(2)(B) of NAREPTA 7 U.S.C. 3221(b)(2). Distribution will be as follows: Sixty percent of grant funds in equal amounts among eligible 1890 institutions, and the remaining forty percent in accordance with the formula set forth in the legislation.

For the Facilities Projects, Institutions provide a five-year plan of work, including a description of anticipated equipment, land needs, new construction, and renovations of existing facilities. The plan should include a general methodology, an estimate of the total funds required per year, and a tentative timetable in which to accomplish the projects. The obligation and expenditure of funds awarded under these grants are limited to equipment, land, and buildings that will be used in the administration and conduct of approved Research, Teaching, and Extension work.

Renewable Resources Extension Act

Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978, 16 U.S.C. 1671 et seq., was established to provide the basis for federal funding for an expanded and comprehensive extension program on forest and rangeland renewable resources. Extension activities of each State provide useful and productive educational programs for private forest and range landowners and processors and users of forest and rangeland renewable resources. Forests and rangelands provide the nation with invaluable ecosystem, socioeconomic, and cultural services including food, water, carbon sequestration, wood and

agricultural products, wildlife habitat, and recreational benefits. Funds are distributed primarily by formula to 1862 and 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, the University of Hawaii, the University of Guam, the University of Puerto Rico and the University of the Virgin Islands. Determination of apportionments follows consideration of pertinent factors including acres of private (non-corporate) forest and woodland areas, and the net growth and removal of timber in each State, territory and insular areas. Funds deliver programs to achieve RREA's mandates by maximizing the capacity, reach, and impacts of the Cooperative Extension System to ensure appropriate management and conservation of natural resources and to ensure resilience of these ecosystems against threats from invasive species and diseases, wildfire, and land conversion.

Funding has supported the establishment of resilient forest, rangeland and grassland ecosystems by educating landowners on changes that impact water availability, forage production, tree and seedling mortality, invasive species, wildfires and many important, but often overlooked aspects of a resilient ecosystem such as insects and pathogens. These efforts supported the transformation of forested land from an unmanaged to a managed condition, resulting in the increased growth of timber, the promotion of agroforestry, enhanced soil health, the remediation of degraded pastures and the conservation of wildlife habitat, all of which fostered ecosystem function. Funding has promoted economic opportunities by educating landowners on forest product markets and holding business idea seminars on non-timber forest products (e.g. mushrooms, medicinal plants, maple syrup, fruits and nuts, bee products, and fuelwoods). Training has been provided in business and farm management skills (including workforce development and retention), financial management, and estate planning in addition to projects specifically supporting underserved communities.

Rural Health and Safety Education Programs

Rural Health and Safety Education Act of 1990, section 2390 of the FACT Act (7 U.S.C. 2662(i)). Per authorizing language, this program competitively awards projects that focus on issues related to 1) individual and family health education; 2) farm safety education; and/or 3) rural health leadership development. Per section 6101 of the 2018 Farm Bill (115-334), priority is to be given to an applicant that will use the grant for substance use disorder education and treatment and the prevention of substance use disorder. Land-grant colleges and universities are eligible to receive funds under the Act of July 2, 1862, including the University of the District of Columbia (7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), and the Act of August 30, 1890 (7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.), including Tuskegee University, West Virginia State College, and Central State University. Applications may also be submitted by any of the Tribal colleges and universities designated as 1994 Land-Grant Institutions under the Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994.

The Rural Health and Safety Education (RHSE) Program seeks to foster quality of life in rural communities by providing the essential knowledge necessary for successful rural development programs, improving coordination among Federal agencies, other levels of government, and institutions and private organizations in rural areas, and developing and disseminating information about rural conditions. The RHSE program proposals in the individual and family health education area are expected to be health education and capacity-building projects that provide individuals and families living in rural areas with: 1. Information about the value of good health at any age; 2. Information to increase individual or families' motivation to take more responsibility for their own health; 3. Information about and access to health promotion activities; 4. Information to support the utilization of telehealth, telemedicine, and distance learning plans for opioid and substance education and training in rural communities; and 5. Training for volunteers and health services providers concerning health promotion and health care services for individuals and families in cooperation with state, local and community partners.

Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program (FARAD)

NIFA administers the funding that establishes and maintains FARAD, authorized within Section 7642 of AREERA (7 U.S.C. 7642) to be a decision support system that provides an array of science-based information resources for the stewards of our nation's expansive commercial food animal industries and the rapidly growing number of small backyard livestock operations. FARAD is supported and staffed by highly trained veterinary pharmacologists, toxicologists, pharmacists, mathematical modelers, and food animal specialists at five colleges of veterinary medicine: North Carolina State University, Kansas State University, University of California-Davis, University of Florida, and Virginia Tech. As a cooperative multistate program, recognized as an independent non-governmental entity, FARAD is available nationwide to offer free and timely advice regarding residue avoidance and protect our nation's food sources against accidental or intentional contamination of animal-derived foods.

FARAD aids veterinarians in the safe use of approved drugs in a legal extra-label manner and helps producers mitigate accidental chemical exposures resulting from natural disasters, such as flooding or fracking operations, agro-terrorism, or accidental exposure to other agricultural chemicals as may occur in modern agricultural practice. Since 1982, FARAD has been assisting producers, extension specialists and agents, and veterinarians to help avoid and mitigate residue problems, which indirectly helps ensure animal health and welfare, especially for minor species (such as sheep and goats) which lack drug approvals.

FARAD's work is unique, and for four decades the network has been a leader in promoting and developing big data approaches to answer complex residue questions. Since its inception, FARAD has also developed quantitative tools, recently using artificial intelligence approaches to estimate US withdrawal intervals using drug data obtained from global regulatory approvals and mathematical animal models to precisely estimate withdrawal intervals and to better aid the U.S. producers and reduce the economic impacts of medication use.

FARAD also helps when new drug use legislation is enacted and for trade matters related to foreign drug approvals. FARAD also trains future veterinarians, pharmacists, and food safety specialists in the principles of drug and chemical residue avoidance. The FARAD program manages, shares, and uses information from the most comprehensive database containing drug and pesticide residue data worldwide.

Women and Minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Fields

Section 7204 of FCEA amended section 1672 of the FACT Act (7 U.S.C. 5925(d)(7)), which provides for competitively awarded grants to increase participation by women and underrepresented minorities from rural areas in the field of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Additionally, priority is extended to eligible institutions that carry out continuing programs funded by the Secretary. The goal of the WAMS program is to develop and implement robust collaborations to increase the representation, participation, and entrepreneurial skills and abilities of rural women and underrepresented minorities from rural areas in STEM careers, thereby contributing to economic prosperity in rural areas across the nation. WAMS project activities must support the creation, adaptation, and adoption of learning materials and teaching strategies to operationalize what we know about how students learn. Projects also focus on imparting both technical knowledge as well as leadership and interpersonal skills, such as communication, teamwork, and problem solving. It is an expectation that investment of public funds through the WAMS Grant Program will lead to: Gains in STEM knowledge, skills and capabilities, as well as new participants in USDA mission science through outreach activities, new careers or entrepreneurial enterprise; Increased documentation of outputs, significant activities, including dissemination activities, events, services or products that contribute toward achieving the goals and objectives of WAMS; Increased change in knowledge, actions or conditions; and Increased capacity for carrying out the USDA mission by rural women.

Food Safety Outreach Program

Section 405 of AREERA (7 U.S.C. 7625) authorizes this program. The Food Safety Outreach Program awards competitive grants to eligible recipients for projects that improve public health by increasing the understanding and adoption of established food safety standards, guidance, and protocols. Projects develop and implement new and expand upon existing Food Safety Modernization Act-related food safety training, education, extension, outreach, and technical assistance prioritizing owners and operations of small and medium-sized farms, beginning farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers, veteran farmers and ranchers, small processors or small fresh fruit and vegetable merchant wholesalers. Awards provide food safety education which integrates standards and guidance relevant to a variety of agricultural production systems encompassing conventional, sustainable, organic, and conservation and environmental practices in diverse geographic locations. Community Outreach and Collaborative Education and Training projects address knowledge and resource gaps for target communities in the areas of pre- and post-harvest water testing and sampling, soil amendments, developing supply chain programs, and/or developing food safety plans. The program supports outreach to underserved audiences through technical assistance resource awards and projects that develop bilingual, accessible, and culturally appropriate training. Awardees are required to report project outcomes to the respective Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Regional Center to ensure integration with the national Food Safety Outreach Program infrastructure.

Section 7301 of the 2018 Farm Bill strikes the prohibition on funding that restricts USDA from providing additional grant funding once an entity has received three years of grant funding, although individual grants are limited to a maximum of three years.

Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program (FASLP)

A 2014 amendment to Title IV of AREERA added Section 413 (7 U.S.C. 7633) which authorizes this program. The FASLP program awards competitive grants to increase the knowledge of agriculture and improve the nutritional health of children, and to bring together stakeholders from the distinct parts of the food system to increase the capacity for food, gardening, and nutrition education within host organizations or entities, such as school cafeterias and classrooms, while fostering community engagement and expanding service and volunteer opportunities. The initiative is part of a broader effort to not only increase access to school meals for low-income children, but also to dramatically improve their quality of life. The goal of these efforts is not only increasing access to school meals for underserved children, but also to dramatically improve their quality and decrease food loss and waste through student, school and community engagement. FASLP is also focused on the development of leadership skills, knowledge, and qualities necessary to prepare students for food and agricultural and related careers in the private sector, government, and academia. All projects must involve rural and/or urban communities and facilitate a connection between elementary schools and secondary schools with agricultural producers in the local and regional area. This program prioritizes expansion of existing farm-to-school initiatives with proven success track records, experiential learning in nutrition, cooking, and food origins.

Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN)

The 2018 Farm Bill (Section 7412 of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018) amended (7 U.S.C. 5936), which authorizes competitive grants to establish a FRSAN that provides stress assistance programs to individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, and other agriculture-related occupations. Funds will be used to initiate, expand, or sustain programs that provide professional agricultural behavioral health counseling and referral or other forms of assistance as necessary through farm telephone helplines and websites and training programs and workshops for a) advocates for individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, and other occupations relating to agriculture; and b) other individuals and entities that may assist individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching,

and other occupations relating to agriculture; and are in crisis. Funds also may be used for other outreach services and activities, including the dissemination of information and materials.

Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Military Veterans Competitive Grants Program

The Full Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2005 (Pub. L. 119-4) provides $5 million through September 30, 2025 for competitive grants to non-profit organizations. The program seeks to increase the number of military veterans gaining knowledge and skills through comprehensive, hands-on and immersive model farm and ranch programs offered regionally that lead to successful careers in the food and agricultural sector. The projects will offer onsite, hands-on training and classroom education leading to a comprehensive understanding of successful farm and ranch operations and management practices. Projects also may offer workforce readiness and employment prospects for service-disabled veterans.

Smith-Lever, Section 3(d)

These funds are allocated to the States to address special programs or concerns of regional and national importance. Section 7403 of FCEA amended section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343(d)) to expand eligibility to the 1890 Land-Grant Institutions and required that funds be awarded on a competitive basis with the exception of the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) in which funds are distributed on a formula basis. Section 7417 of FCEA provided eligibility for these programs to the University of the District of Columbia. Section 7609 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334) provided 1994 Institutions as eligible for certain competitively awarded Smith-Lever 3(d) programs (see below). The following extension programs are supported under the Smith-Lever 3(d) funding mechanism and other specific authorizations:

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) is the nation's first nutrition education program for low-income populations and remains at the forefront of nutrition education efforts to reduce nutrition insecurity of low-income families and youth. These funds are awarded to the 1862 and 1890 Land-Grant Institutions according to a statutory formula provided in section 1425 of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3175) as amended. Of the funds appropriated, four percent shall be allotted for Federal administrative expenses. The remaining funds are awarded to the eligible institutions as follows: (1) 1862 institutions received a base in amount equaling their 1981 allocation; (2) $100,000 to each 1862 and 1890 institution; (3) a percentage of the increase in funding that exceeds the 2007 appropriated level (i.e., 15 percent for 2014 and thereafter) distributed to the 1890 Land-Grant Institutions according to the pro rata population for each institution at or below 125 percent of the poverty level; and (4) the remainder to the 1862 Land-Grant Institutions according to the pro rata population for each institution at or below 125 percent of the poverty level, see EFNEP RFA. Four percent shall be allotted for Federal administrative expenses. Funds are used to employ and train professional and paraprofessional aides (hired from indigenous target populations when practicable) to provide direct nutrition education enabling low-income youth and families to increase nutrition knowledge and improve food purchasing and preparation practices. EFNEP assists low-income families and youth to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and changed behaviors necessary for nutritionally sound diets and contributes to their personal development and family diet improvement. Annual data confirms EFNEP graduates improve their diets and nutrition practices, stretch their food dollars farther, handle food more safely, and increase their physical activity levels. As an example, EFNEP adult graduates (2023) report greater than 90 percent improvement in what they eat and food cost savings.

Farm Safety and Youth Farm Safety Education

The Assistive Technology Program for Farmers with Disabilities (AgrAbility) is authorized under section 1680 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990, as amended (FACT Act) (7 U.S.C. 5933) and funded under section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act of May 8, 1914 (7 U.S.C. 341(d)). The Youth Farm Safety Education and Certification (YFSEC) is authorized and funded under section 2930 of the FACT Act (7 U.S.C. 2662(i)). Authority for both programs was extended through 2025 by the American Relief Act of 2025.

The AgrAbility program (7 U.S.C. 5933) provides competitively awarded projects to State Cooperative Extension Service agencies working with non-profit disability organizations. Assistive Technology projects are designed to help farmers and ranchers with disabilities stay in agricultural production. Section 7214 of the 2018 Farm Bill reauthorizes appropriations through 2023 for demonstration grants to provide agricultural education and assistance to individuals with disabilities engaged in farming or farm-related occupations. Section 7214 added language to clarify that this provision applies to veterans engaged in farming or farm-related occupations, or who are pursuing new farming opportunities.

The competitively awarded YFSEC program (7 U.S.C. 2662(i)) supports national efforts for delivery of timely, pertinent, appropriate information and safety training for youth seeking employment or who are already employed in agricultural production concerning safety in the workplace.

New Technologies for Agricultural Extension

Competitively awarded projects that increase the capacity of the Cooperative Extension System (CES) to adopt new and innovative technology applications for delivering science-based educational resources from land-grant and other partner institutions about matters of high importance to the public. Through awards, projects provide state of the art technology and software applications, high quality leadership training, legally binding contractual and financial instruments, comprehensive evaluation, communications, and marketing activities. Projects promote governance, collaboration and organization, a toolkit of evidence-based delivery models, and an entrepreneurial resource base. Projects are on subjects that include food safety, homeland security, natural resources and environment, youth development, families, nutrition and health, and other agricultural related topics.

Children, Youth, and Families at Risk

This program focuses on America's children, youth, and families to help promote and provide positive, productive, secure environments and contributions to communities and the Nation. Projects are awarded competitively to focus on the national outcomes for youth and families which include early childhood, school age youth, teens, and parent/family outcomes with emphasis on science and reading literacy and building youth and family programs and community capacity. Section 7609 of the 2018 Farm Bill provided 1994 Institutions as eligible to receive funds from this program by amending 7 U.S.C. 343(d).

Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program

Section 1677 of the FACT Act, 7 U.S.C. 5930 as amended, authorizes competitively awarded projects to State Extension Services to provide assistance and educational programs in agriculture, community development, youth development, and other societal issues facing Native Americans on reservations. The purpose of this program is to support Extension education on Federally Recognized Indian Reservations and Tribal jurisdictions of Federally Recognized Tribes. This program seeks to continue the Land Grants' mission--providing education and research-based knowledge to those who might not otherwise receive it. Section 7609 of the 2018 Farm Bill deemed 1994 Institutions as eligible to receive funds from this program.

The main priorities of the FRTEP include but are not limited to: 1. Positive youth development programs, including 4-H for tribal youth; 2. Native Farmer and Rancher Productivity and Management; 3. Native Community Development: a. Economic and Workforce Development, b. Food Systems, Farm and Community Markets, and Food Sovereignty, c. Natural Resource Conservation and Adaptation to Environmental Changes, d. Human Nutrition and Reduction of Childhood and Adolescent Obesity, e. Native Language and Culture Preservation, f. Traditional Ecological Knowledge sharing and learning, or knowledge held by indigenous cultures about the environment or cultural practices.

Necessary Expenses of Extension Activities

Provides a portion of the general operating funds for the Federal staff, and national program planning, coordination, and program leadership for the extension work in partnership with the States and territories.

Agriculture in the K–12 Classroom

Funds are appropriated under the administration line to support the Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) program administered under 7 U.S.C 3152(j). AITC advances agricultural literacy through a grassroots network of State coordinators, schoolteachers, agribusiness leaders, and other educators by supporting initiatives that include expanding outreach to underrepresented populations; regional demonstration projects; integration of information technology to reduce program delivery costs; and outstanding teacher recognition initiatives. The program serves nearly 5 million students and 60,000 teachers annually through workshops, conferences, field trips, farm tours, and other educational activities. AITC programs include working with state AITC activities engaged in a variety of issues relating to agricultural literacy. Other programs emphasized by the NIFA AITC office include: Science literacy, Agricultural careers, Nutrition, Pre-service and professional development opportunities for teachers.

Federal Administration—Other Necessary Expenses for Extension Activities

Provides a portion of the general operating funds for the Federal staff, and national program planning, coordination, and program leadership for the extension work in partnership with the States and territories.

Agriculture Risk Management Education Program

Section 524(a) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1524(a)), as amended by section 133 of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 and section 11125 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334), establishes a competitive grants program for educating agricultural producers and providing technical assistance to agricultural producers on a full range of farm viability and risk management activities. These activities include futures, options, agricultural trade options, crop insurance, business planning, enterprise analysis, transfer and succession planning, management coaching, market assessment, cash flow analysis, cash forward contracting, debt reduction, production diversification, farm resources risk reduction, farm financial benchmarking, conservation activities, and other appropriate risk management strategies. This program brings the existing knowledge base to bear on risk management issues faced by agricultural producers and expands the program throughout the Nation on a regional and multi-regional basis. Mandatory funding in the enacted amount of $10 million is to be made available annually for competitive awards.

Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (formerly Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive)

Section 4205 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334), which amended section 4405 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7517), authorizes the Gus Schumacher Nutrition

Incentive Program (GusNIP), a collection of three competitive grant programs. The Nutrition Incentive Program (NI) supports projects that aim to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables among low-income consumers participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Nutrition Assistance Program block grants (NAP) by providing incentives at the point of purchase. Priority is given to projects that maximize direct incentives, provide locally and regionally produced fruits and vegetables, and include coordination with multiple stakeholders (such as farmers and food retailers). Projects that serve Veterans, rural and remote communities are encouraged. The Produce Prescription Program (PPR) provides competitive grants to projects which partner with healthcare providers to implement and evaluate projects aiming to reduce individual and household food insecurity, improve dietary health, and reduce healthcare use and costs by providing prescriptions for fresh fruits and vegetables. The Nutrition Incentive Program Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation, and Information Centers (NTAE) provide support and resources to applicants and grantees; as well as collect and aggregate standardized outcome data sets from grantees to inform best practices. Mandatory funding was made available in the enacted amount of $45 million for 2019, $48 million for 2020 and 2021, $53 million for 2022, and $56 million for 2023 and each year thereafter to carry out the program.

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP)

The primary goal of BFRDP is to help beginning farmers and ranchers in the United States and its territories enter and/or improve their successes in farming, ranching, and management of nonindustrial private forest lands, through support for projects that provide education, mentoring, and technical assistance to give beginning farmers and ranchers the knowledge, skills, and tools needed to make informed decisions for their operations and enhance their sustainability. The term "farmer" is used in the broadest sense and may be interpreted to include agricultural farmers, ranchers, and non-industrial private forest owners and managers. The term "beginning farmer or rancher" means a person that (A)(i) has not operated a farm or ranch; or (ii) has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years; and (B) meets such other criteria as the Secretary may establish.

Section 12301 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334) amended Section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279) and made available the enacted amount of $15 million for 2019 and 2020, $17.5 million for 2021, $20 million for 2022, and $25 million for 2023 and each year thereafter to carry out the program. The purpose of this competitive program is to support the nation's beginning farmers and ranchers by making competitive grants to new and established local and regional training, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives that address the needs of beginning farmers and ranchers. To be eligible for a grant under this authority, an applicant must be a collaborative State, tribal, local, or regionally-based network or partnership of public or private entities which may include a State cooperative extension service; a Federal, state, or tribal agency; a community-based or non-governmental organization; a college or university (including an institution offering associate's degree) or a foundation maintained by a college or university; or any other appropriate partner.

All grantees are required to provide a 25 percent match in the form of cash or in-kind contributions but may be waived if serving underserved populations or groups. The maximum amount of an award is $250,000 per year and the maximum project period is three years. In accordance with Section 12301 of the 2018 Farm Bill, not less than 5 percent of the funds used to carry out the program for a fiscal year shall be used to support programs and services that address the needs of limited resource beginning farmers or ranchers; socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers who are beginning farmers or ranchers; and farmworkers desiring to become farmers or ranchers. Not less than 5 percent of the funds used to carry out the program for a fiscal year shall be used to support programs and services that address the needs of veteran farmers and ranchers.

American Rescue Plan Food Loss and Waste Prevention and Reduction

Approximately $25 million of American Rescue Plan Section 1001 is allocated to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) for Food Loss and Waste Reduction. Of the total, $15 million was allocated to fund the Community Food Projects (CFP) Grants to reduce FLW, get wholesome food surplus to individuals, and develop linkages between food producers, providers, and food recovery organizations. The remaining $10 was allocated to fund the Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program (FASLP) Grants for FLW-reduction efforts on school grounds to engage in and scale up FLW efforts: 1) increase capacity for students to learn how to prevent food waste; 2) change the school environment; and 3) use cafeterias and other parts of school grounds as classrooms.

Inflation Reduction Act Technical Assistance Investment Program

Approximately $39 million of Inflation Reduction Act Section 22007(a) and (f) is allocated to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to provide resources for administration of a cooperative agreement. Work supported through this agreement will provide outreach, mediation, financial training, capacity building training, cooperative development and agricultural credit training and support, and other technical assistance on issues concerning food, agriculture, agricultural credit, agricultural extension, rural development, or nutrition to underserved farmers, ranchers, or forest landowners, including veterans, limited resource producers, beginning farmers and ranchers, and farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners living in high poverty areas.

Inflation Reduction Act Sovereign Equity Fund – Tribal Extension

Approximately $5 million of Inflation Reduction Act Section 22007(a) is allocated to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to award resources that provide administrative oversight to single-function Extension Projects that advance Tribal extension by increasing understanding of cultural heritage and agricultural traditions of the tribal community served, engage tribal community members and students to build on the knowledge and skills of the local cultural community(is), and offer learning activities that are based on traditional ways of knowing and the associated dissemination of that knowledge. The Extension Projects must address one or more of the following key strategic actions: A) Support non-formal education to increase food and agricultural literacy of youth and adults; B) Promote science-based agricultural literacy by increasing understanding and use of food and agricultural science data, information, and programs; C) Build science-based capability in tribal people and communities to engage audiences and enable informed decision making; D) Develop new applications of instructional tools and curriculum structures that increase technical competency and ensure global competitiveness of tribal people; E) Offer non-formal learning programs that increase accessibility to new audiences at the rate at which new ideas and technologies are tested and/or developed at the community-scale; and F) Develop programs that increase public knowledge and citizen engagement leading to actions that protect or enhance the nations' food supply, agricultural productivity, environmental quality, community vitality, and/or public health and well-being.

Integrated Activities

The following programs are provided pursuant to the authority found in section 406 (7 U.S.C. 7626). Funding for all programs is provided on a competitive basis.

Methyl Bromide Transition Program

Methyl bromide is an odorless, colorless gas that is used as an agricultural soil and structural fumigant to control a wide variety of pests. Methyl bromide depletes the stratospheric ozone layer and is classified as a Class 1 ozone-depleting substance. In accordance with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the Clean Air Act (Overview of the Clean Air Act and Air Pollution), the United States government agreed to reduce methyl bromide production and net

imports incrementally from the 1991 baseline until the complete phase-out in 2005. Since 2005, the only allowable exemptions are critical use exemptions (CUE), quarantine and pre-shipment exemptions (QPS).

The primary goal and objective of the MBT program is to support the discovery and implementation of practical pest management alternatives to methyl bromide. The MBT program seeks to solve pest problems in key agricultural production and post-harvest management systems, processing facilities, and transport systems for which methyl bromide has been withdrawn or withdrawal is imminent. Integrated projects focus on research for new alternatives and extension to encourage adoption and implementation of methyl bromide alternatives. Extension-only projects facilitate the adoption and implementation of practices that will result in effective management of pests without the use of methyl bromide and will lead to measurable behavior changes in the identified audience or stakeholder group.

Organic Transition Program

The Organic Transition (ORG) program supports the development and implementation of biologically based management practices that mitigate the ecological, agronomic, economic, and socioeconomic risks associated with a transition from conventional to organic agricultural production systems.

One of the primary goals and objectives of the ORG program is to address practices and systems particularly associated with organic crop production, organic animal production, and organic systems that integrate crop and animal production. The ORG program strongly encourages applicants to develop partnerships that include collaboration with small- or mid-sized, accredited colleges and universities; 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, 1994 Land-Grant Institutions, Hispanic-serving institutions, and/or other institutions that serve high-risk, under-served, or hard-to-reach audiences as well as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that are engaged in organic agriculture research, education, and outreach.

Crop Protection/Pest Management Program

The purpose of the Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM) program is to provide funding for integrated pest management (IPM) activities through multifunctional agricultural research, extension, and education. The goals and objectives of CPPM are to address high priority issues related to pests including insects, nematodes, pathogens, weeds, and other pests and their management using IPM approaches at the state, regional and national levels. The CPPM program supports projects that will ensure food security and respond effectively to other major societal pest management challenges with comprehensive IPM approaches that are economically viable, ecologically prudent, and safe for human health. In addition, the CPPM program encourages proposals that develop new IPM strategies and tools to mitigate the effects of existing or new pests becoming more prevalent due to changes in environmental factors and proposals that address management aspects of invasive species. The CPPM program also addresses IPM challenges for emerging issues and existing priority pest concerns that can be addressed more effectively with new and emerging technologies. The outcomes of the CPPM program are effective, affordable, and environmentally sound IPM practices and strategies needed to maintain agricultural productivity and healthy communities.

The CPPM program provides support via three linked program areas that emphasize research and development for discovery of IPM knowledge (Applied Research and Development Program); extension activities for IPM adoption and implementation (Extension Implementation Program); and enhanced coordination, collaboration, and communications among related CPPM programs and awardees (Regional Coordination Program).The above three program areas represent a comprehensive approach for developing and implementing IPM practices and strategies in all 50 states and several insular areas, and extending this new knowledge in this area across many diverse environments.

Regional Rural Development Centers

Section 2(c)(1)(B) of the Act of 1965 (7 U.S.C. 3157 (c)(1)(B)) provides funds at four regional centers in Pennsylvania, Mississippi, Utah, and Indiana. Each RRDC is administered by a joint agreement between USDA and a host institution operating for the Extension Services and the State Agricultural Experiment Stations in the respective region. Programs are designed to improve the social and economic well-being of rural communities in their respective region. These funds are administered according to the extent of the problem that requires attention in each State.

The Regional Rural Development Centers (RRDCs) link the research and educational outreach capacity of the nation's public universities with communities, local decision-makers, entrepreneurs, families, and farmers and ranchers to help address a wide range of development issues. They collaborate on national issues that span regions like e-commerce, the changing interface between rural, suburban, and urban places, and workforce quality and jobs creation. Each tailors programs to address needs in its region.

Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative

Section 1484 of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3351) provides for the support and enhancement of nationally coordinated plant and animal disease diagnostic networks and activities to reduce the vulnerability of the United States food and agricultural system to chemical or biological attack. Networks protect the integrity, reliability, sustainability, and profitability of the food and agricultural system against biosecurity threats from pests, diseases, contaminants, and disasters. With special emphasis on planning, training, outreach, and research activities that relate to vulnerability analyses, incident response, and detection and prevention technologies through competitive grants and cooperative agreements. The diagnostic networks currently supported are the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) and the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). These networks are State/Federal partnerships that are used to increase the ability to protect the U.S. from plant and animal disease threats by providing surveillance, early detection, mitigation, and recovery functions that serve to minimize these threats. The Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) is also supported under this program. EDEN is a collaborative national effort led by State Cooperative Extension Services (CES) to provide disaster education resources for CES educators, to help farmers and other public sectors in the event of disasters, including agricultural disasters. EDEN also improves the delivery of services to citizens affected by disasters and reduces the impact of disasters through research-based education.

Institute of Rural Partnerships

Section 782 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Pub. L 118-42), for an additional amount of $6,000,000, to continue the Institute for Rural Partnerships as established in section 778 of Public Law 117–103. Section 778 appropriated $30 million to establish a grant program and distribution of funds to three geographically diverse established land-grant universities. The Institute for Rural Partnerships shall dedicate resources to researching the causes and conditions of challenges facing rural areas and develop community partnerships to address such challenges. Publishing a coordinated annual report is also required. Through the inclusive engagement of stakeholders, the three universities – University of Vermont, University of Wisconsin, and Auburn University are identifying, piloting, and managing collaborative solutions to rural challenges across the three regions. Institute grants are funding innovative partnerships to advance technology, increase knowledge, and provide services to support vibrant and resilient rural communities.

Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative

The Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI), (7 U.S.C. 5925b) seeks to solve critical organic agricultural issues, priorities, or problems through the integration of research, education, and extension activities. The purpose of this program is to fund high priority integrated

projects that will enhance the ability of producers and processors who have already adopted organic standards to grow and market high quality organic agricultural products, mitigate, and adapt to growing environment changes, build resilience of the organic farming system, and protect water and other resources. Priority concerns include biological, physical, and social sciences, including economics.

OREI has eight goals:

1) Facilitating the development and improvement of organic agriculture production, breeding, and processing methods;
2) Evaluating the potential economic benefits of organic agricultural production and methods to producers, processors, and rural communities;
3) Exploring international trade opportunities for organically grown and processed agricultural commodities;
4) Determining desirable traits for organic commodities;
5) Identifying marketing and policy constraints on the expansion of organic agriculture;
6) Conducting advanced on-farm research and development that emphasizes observation of, experimentation with, and innovation for working organic farms, including research relating to production, marketing, food safety, socioeconomic conditions, and farm business management;
7) Examining optimal conservation, soil health, and environmental outcomes relating to organically produced agricultural products; and
8) Developing new and improved seed varieties that are particularly suited for organic agriculture.

Specialty Crop Research Initiative

Section 7305 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub L. 115-334) reauthorized and amended Section 412 of AREERA of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632). Section 412 of the AREERA of 1998 established a specialty crop research and extension initiative to address the critical needs of the specialty crop industry by developing and disseminating science-based tools to address the needs of specific crops and their regions. The Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) competitive grants program was established to solve critical industry issues through research and extension activities. Specialty crops are defined as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops including floriculture. SCRI will give priority to projects that are multistate, multi-institutional, or trans-disciplinary; and include explicit mechanisms to communicate results to producers and the public.

Projects must address at least one of the following five focus areas:

- Research in plant breeding, genetics, and genomics to improve crop characteristics;
- Efforts to identify and address threats from pests and diseases, including threats to pollinators;
- Efforts to improve production efficiency, productivity, and profitability over the long term;
- New innovations and technology, including improved mechanization and technologies that delay or inhibit ripening; and
- Methods to prevent, detect, monitor, control, and respond to potential food safety hazards in the production and processing of specialty crops.

Eligible applicants for grants under this authority include Federal agencies, national laboratories, colleges and universities, research institutions and organizations, private organizations or corporations, State agricultural experiment stations, individuals, and groups consisting of two or more entities defined in this sentence. Mandatory funding in the enacted amount of $80 million is to be made available for 2014 and each year thereafter to carry out SCRI. Section 7306 of the 2014 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 113-79) added a requirement that, in addition to the scientific peer review NIFA regularly conducts, a panel of specialty crop industry representatives' review and rank SCRI applications for merit, relevance, and impact. In addition, Section 7306 requires increased consultation between NIFA

and the Specialty Crops Committee of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics Advisory Board.

Urban, Indoor, and Other Emerging Agricultural Production Research, Education, and Extension Initiative

Section 7212 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334) amended section 1672 of the FACT Act (Pub. L. 101-624) to add 7 U.S.C. 5925g, in consultation with the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee, established under section 7 U.S.C. 6923(b), to make competitive grants program to support research, education, and extension activities to facilitate the development of urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production, harvesting, transportation, aggregation, packaging, distribution, and markets. In 2019, $10 million of mandatory funding was enacted, available until expended, to carry out this program. In 2024, an additional $2 million was provided in mandatory appropriations. One of the focuses of UIE projects is to strengthen and develop income or employment; enhanced quality of life and access to safe nutritious food for urban and Native American communities; estimated or actual economic return for UIE food production systems; private industry investment; and site selection and reduce barriers to land access.

The eight topic areas of interest identified in the authorization include:

- Assessing and developing strategies to remediate contaminated sites.
- Determining and developing the best production management and integrated pest management practices.
- Identifying and promoting the horticultural, social, and economic factors that contribute to successful urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production systems.
- Analyzing how new agricultural sites are determined, including an evaluation of soil quality, condition of a building, or local community needs.
- Exploring new technologies that minimize energy, improve lighting systems, improve water management, and other inputs for increased food production.
- Examining building material efficiencies and structural upgrades for the purpose of optimizing growth of agricultural products.
- Developing new crop varieties and agricultural products to connect to new markets.
- Examining the impacts of crop exposure to urban elements on environmental quality and food safety.

Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program

The purpose of the Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program (ECDRE) is to fund a competitive research and extension grant program to combat the deadly citrus disease, Huanglongbing (HLB) or citrus greening disease, through projects that integrate research and extension activities and use systems-based, trans-disciplinary approaches to provide solutions to U.S. citrus growers. The ECDRE program also combats HLB by supporting the dissemination and commercialization of relevant information, techniques, and technologies.

Proposals funded by the ECDRE program will provide a plan for addressing one or more of the following priority needs (listed in order of importance to target grower needs with a focus on producer implementation), established in consultation with the Citrus Disease Subcommittee (CDS) of the National Agricultural Research, Education, Extension and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board:

1) Development of commercial citrus varieties (rootstocks and scions) for both fresh and processed markets, with genetic tolerance and resistance to HLB using traditional breeding techniques and/or gene editing.

2) Regional management or eradication of the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP), the insect vector of HLB, on commercial citrus groves and residential plantings; management strategies should incorporate appropriate pesticide resistance management measures.
3) Optimized detection and surveillance programs for ACP and/or HLB. Detection and surveillance programs should incorporate all effective tools and tactics, including psyllid attractants, predictive models of psyllid movement and dispersal, and early detection of HLB/ CLas (based on an understanding of mechanisms).
4) A cure for HLB-infected trees and strategies for maintaining their productivity. Progress in this area can be made through the development of nutritional materials and their delivery, antimicrobials and their delivery, or commercialization of molecules that improve citrus production and along with large scale field trials.
5) A delivery system for therapeutics, nutrition and other HLB solutions. Most therapies available are not adequately delivered via foliar application. The citrus industry needs an engineered delivery system for phloem to access the Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus (CLas) systemic infection.
6) Consolidation of screening efforts for intervention targets and reduction of candidate lists to include only those most worthy of advanced testing and commercialization. High priority screening efforts are needed to identify: 1) Host plant defense or resistance; 2) Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) suppression, reduced transmission, or behavior modification (e.g., attract and kill); or 3) Pathogen CLas titer reduction, competition, or acquisition/transmission prevention.
7) A reliable technique for culturing CLas bacteria.
8) A better understanding of the HLB/vector/citrus pathosystem, including phloem biology, the movement of CLas and therapy into and through phloem, and the interaction of host, pathogen, and vector (disease triangle).
9) Greater understanding of the ecology and interactions of the citrus production system and the citrus greening disease complex (HLB and ACP). These studies are needed to answer basic questions regarding how climate and other environmental factors in different regions impact tree health and the spread of HLB and ACP.

The ECDRE program will address these needs through the promotion of collaboration, open communication, the exchange of information, and the development of resources that accelerate the application of scientific discovery and technology to farm-level solutions for HLB. Section 12605 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334) also established the Citrus Trust Fund and provides $25 million, available until expended, for each of 2019 through 2023, to carry out the ECDRE Program in section 412 of AREERA (7 U.S.C. 7632(j)). In 2024, $25 million was provided in mandatory appropriations for the ECDRE program.

Community Food Projects

Section 25 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2034), as amended in 1996, authorizes funding in support of competitively awarded Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program (CFPCFP). The program provides one-time contributions of Federal funds to enable projects to become self-sustaining. The program requires matching non-federal funds. Projects improve food access for low-income individuals, increase the food self-reliance of communities, and promote comprehensive responses to local food, farm, and nutrition issues. Projects which develop links between the public, for-profit, and nonprofit food sectors, support entrepreneurial projects, encourage long-term planning, and develop resources and strategies to reduce and prevent future food insecurity are prioritized. The program provides communities a voice in food system decisions and supports local food markets to fully benefit the community, increase food and nutrition security, and stimulate local economies. These projects meet specific state, tribal, insular, local or neighborhood food and agricultural needs for infrastructure improvement and development, while reducing barriers to food access and increasing food and nutrition security for communities across the nation. Funding is made available annually in the amount of $5 million for 2019 and each fiscal year thereafter.

Inflation Reduction Act Next Generation of Diverse Food and Agriculture Professionals Program (NEXTGEN) Evaluation

Approximately $2.5 million of Inflation Reduction Act Section 22007(f) is allocated to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to provide resources to support an external evaluation team who will capture and translate the portfolio's impact and project-level impact, as well as best practices, and lessons learned through developing standardized approach to data collection and analysis. This work will support grantees in refining their initial evaluation plan and providing capacity-building resources for effective evaluation among the grantees. This evaluation is vital to understanding and communicating the NEXTGEN's success. Additionally, the evaluation team can provide consultation to USDA regarding a learning agenda for NEXTGEN as the department is currently transforming its approach to professional development and training opportunities.

Inflation Reduction Act Discrimination Financial Assistance

Approximately $15 million in Inflation Reduction Act Section 22007(e) is allocated to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to fund cooperative agreements that support the implementation and application period for the financial assistance program, that supports producers who experienced discrimination.

Headquarters of the Service is in Washington, D. C. As of September 30, 2025, there were 351 permanent full-time employees, including 49 headquarters employees and 251 field employees. There are 51 other employees.

OIG AND GAO REPORTS

Table NIFA-1. Closed, Implemented GAO Reports

ID	*Date*	*Title*	*Result*
GAO-21-413	6/30/2021	Small Business Innovation Research: Agencies Need to Fully Implement Requirements for Managing Fraud, Waste, and Abuse	GAO made 1 recommendation to USDA. NIFA implemented corrective actions, and the recommendation was closed in February 2024.
GAO-24-106399	11/28/2023	Small Business Research Programs: Information Regarding Subaward Use and Data Quality	GAO did not make any recommendations to USDA.
GAO-24-106400	11/16/2023	Small Business Research Programs: Agencies Are Implementing Programs to Manage Foreign Risks and Plan Further Refinement	GAO did not make any recommendations to USDA.
GAO-24-106398	3/29/2024	Small Business Research Programs: Increased Performance Standards Likely Affect Few Businesses Receiving Multiple Awards	GAO did not make any recommendations to USDA.
GAO-24-107004	2/13/2024	Small Business Innovation Research: Better Data and Clarity on Eligibility of Venture Capital-Owned Businesses Are Needed	GAO did not make any recommendations to USDA.
GAO-24-107036	9/30/2024	Small Business Research Programs: Agencies Broadly Solicit Ideas, but Clearer Guidance Could Improve DOD Efforts	GAO did not make any recommendations to USDA.
GAO-24-107155	9/25/2024	Small Business Innovation Research: Most Agencies Did Not Implement the Required Commercialization Pilot	GAO did not make any recommendations to USDA.

AVAILABLE FUNDS AND FTES

Table NIFA-2. Available Funds and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs
Research and Education Activities								
Discretionary Appropriations	$1,094,121	-	$1,075,95	-	$1,075,950	-	$671,056	-
Native American Endowment Interest Earned	4,463	-	6,682	-	7,893	-	7,893	-
Mandatory Appropriations	-	-	10,000	-	-	-	-	-
Supplemental Appropriations	5,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Offsetting Collections	1,750	-	2,350	-	3,733	-	-	-
Extension Activities:								
Discretionary Appropriations	565,410	-	561,700	-	561,700	-	365,900	-
Mandatory Appropriations	85,813	-	85,813	-	85,813	-	85,813	-
General Provisions	7,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Integrated Activities:								
Discretionary Appropriations	41,500	-	41,100	-	41,100	-	-	-
Mandatory Appropriations	122,590	-	124,590	-	122,590	-	122,590	-
General Provisions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Offsetting Collections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emergency Citrus Disease:	25,000	-	26,425	-	-	-	-	-
Total Discretionary Appropriations	1,712,494	-	1,685,432	-	1,686,643	-	1,044,849	-
Total Mandatory Appropriations	233,403	-	246,828	-	208,403	-	208,403	-
Total Supplemental Appropriations	5,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Offsetting Collections	1,750	-	2,350	-	3,733	-	-	-
Total Adjusted Appropriation	1,952,647	-	1,934,610	-	1,898,779	-	1,253,252	-
Balance Available, SOY	897,734	-	458,719	-	371,739	-	-	-
Balances Withdrawn	-	-	-538	-	-	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other	31,896	-	39,169	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available	2,882,277	416	2,394,960	440	2,233,518	396	1,253,252	347
Lapsing Balances	-536	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance Available, EOY	-458,718	-	-371,739	-	-	-	-	-
Total Obligations	2,423,023	416	2,023,221	440	2,233,518	396	1,253,252	347
Other Funding:								
ARP Supp, FLWPR-Community Food Projects	14,755	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ARP Supp, FLWPR-Food and Ag Service Learning Program	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Community Food Projects Program	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-
GP Institute for Rural Partnerships	15,000	-	6,000	-	-	-	-	-
IRA Supp, Additional USDA Rural Development Administrative Funds	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IRA Supp, Administrative Costs	40	-	1,476	-	-	-	-	-
IRA Supp, Conservation Technical Assistance- Administrative Costs	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IRA Supp, Discrimination Financial Assistance	15,000	-	1,700	-	-	-	-	-
IRA Supp, NEXTGEN Evaluation	2,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IRA Supp, Sovereign Equity Fund (Tribal Extension Program)	5,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IRA Supp, Technical Assistance Investment Program (Cohort 2)	37,708	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IRA Supp, Technical Assistance Investment Program Administrative Costs	1,985	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Appropriation, Other Funding	107,050	-	14,176	-	5,000	-	5,000	-

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs
Total Available, Other Funding	107,050	-	14,176	-	5,000	-	5,000	-
Total Obligations, Other funding	107,050	-	14,176	-	5,000	-	5,000	-
Total Obligations, NIFA	2,530,073	416	2,037,397	440	2,238,518	396	1,258,252	347
Other USDA:								
APHIS - HPAI Avian Flu Research	-	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-
ARS - Biotechnology Risk Assessment	1,665	-	1,751	-	1,600	-	1,600	-
ARS - National Atmospheric Deposition Program	26	-	90	-	26	-	26	-
Current Research Information System (CRIS)	248	-	283	-	295	-	307	-
ERS - Building Security	530	-	580	-	-	-	-	-
FNS - WIC National Workforce Strategy	10,500	-	-	-		-		-
FPAC - Farm Loans Technical Assistance	3,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-
FPAC - Farm Stress Training	1,350	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FPC - Salary Transfer	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FPS - Building Security	1,159	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FS - Biotechnology Risk Assessment	108	-	-	-	108	-	108	-
FS - National Atmospheric Deposition Program	222	-	223	-	223	-	223	-
HHS - Employee Assistance Program / Work4Life	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NRCS - Compost and Food Waste Reduction (CFWR)	19,808	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NRCS - Urban Agriculture	-	-	11,867	-	2,000	-	2,500	-
OCE - Food Loss and Waste Activities Support	1,900	-	225	-	605	-	-	-
OPPE - 4-H Program	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
OPPE - Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach	22,505	-	100	-	-	-	-	-
OSEC - Tribal Relations Students 4-H Program	-	-	80	-	-	-	-	-
Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR)	8,838	-	9,558	-	9,864	-	10,180	-
Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)	1,243	-	1,344	-	1,350	-	1,356	-
USDA - Employee Details	607	-	1,009	-	233	-	232	-
Total, Other USDA	73,750	-	42,115	-	31,304	-	31,532	-
Total, NIFA Available	3,063,077	416	2,451,251	440	2,269,822	396	1,289,784	347
Other Federal Funds:								
Research and Education Activities:								
NOAA - National Atmospheric Deposition Program	68	-	55	-	56	-	56	-
U.S. Geological Survey - National Atmospheric Deposition Program	571	-	496	-	500	-	500	-
National Park Service - National Atmospheric Deposition Program	356	-	341	-	341	-	341	-
Bureau of Land Management - National Atmospheric Deposition Program	64	-	36	-	37	-	37	-
Subtotal, Research and Education Activities:	1,059	-	928	-	934	-	934	-
Extension Activities:								
Army - 4-H Connected Youth Development Extension Educator	200	-	225	-	190	-	190	-
Army - 4-H Programs	700	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Army - Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness	4,282	-	1,033	-	3,039	-	4,282	-
Army - Early Learning Matters	821	-	882	-	933	-	821	-
Army - Family Advocacy Program	2,500	-	2,500	-	2,500	-	2,500	-
Army – OneOp	3,000	-	3,138	-	3,138	-	3,000	-
Army - Virtual Lab School	2,415	-	900	-	2,704	-	2,415	-
Army - Youth Program Evaluation	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Army – Military Extension Educator Position	-	-	-	-	255	-	214	-

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs
CDC - E.X.C.I.T.E.	-	-	10,000	-	225	-	214	-
CDC - Vaccine Messaging	500	-	6,000	-	-	-	-	-
Defense Human Resources Activity - Youth Internship (YSIP)	1,000	-	1,000	-	950	-	-	-
Department of Justice - 4-H Programs	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	950	-
Military Community & Family Policy - Military REACH	799	-	799	-	799	-	-	-
Military Community & Family Policy - Teen Adventure Camps	1,200	-	1,200	-	1,200	-	799	-
U.S. Air Force 4-H Programs	750	-	750	-	713	-	1,140	-
Subtotal, Extension Activities:	20,667	-	28,427	-	16,391	-	17,024	-
Total, Other Federal	21,726	-	29,355	-	17,325	-	17,958	-
Total, Non-Federal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available, NIFA	3,084,803	416	2,480,606	440	2,287,147	396	1,307,742	347

Note: This table assumes a reduced 2026 FTE baseline due to 2025 voluntary staff separations and administrative costs efficiencies.

PERMANENT POSITIONS BY GRADE AND FTES

Table NIFA-3. Permanent Positions by Grade and FTEs

Item	2023 Actual			2024 Actual			2025 Estimated			2026 Estimated		
	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total
ES	2	4	6	2	5	7	2	2	4	2	2	4
SES	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1
SL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GS-15	27	57	84	26	61	87	21	50	71	21	50	71
GS-14	16	33	49	12	32	45	11	25	36	10	25	35
GS-13	22	68	90	19	68	87	19	45	64	18	44	62
GS-12	19	113	132	17	122	139	15	93	108	15	93	108
GS-11	10	29	39	4	36	40	3	31	34	3	32	35
GS-10	-	1	1	1	1	2	-	1	1	-	1	1
GS-9	3	23	26	2	23	25	2	6	8	2	6	8
GS-8	5	4	9	3	5	8	2	2	4	2	2	4
GS-7	4	14	18	2	19	21	3	14	17	3	12	15
GS-6	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
GS-5	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1
GS-4	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
GS-3	-	6	6	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Permanent	109	353	462	90	376	465	80	270	350	77	268	345
Unfilled, EOY	-	-	-50	-	-	-40	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Perm. FT EOY	109	353	412	90	376	425	-	-	350	-	-	345
FTE	-	-	416	-	-	440	-	-	396	-	-	347

Note: Total FTEs are all inclusive of workforce categories including temporary positions. This table assumes a reduced 2026 FTE baseline due to 2025 voluntary staff separations and administrative cost efficiencies.

SHARED FUNDING PROJECTS

Table NIFA-4. Shared Funding Projects (thousands of dollars)

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Estimated
Working Capital Fund:				
Administrative Services:				
AskUSDA Contact Center	$18	$40	$39	$39
General Counsel Legal Compliance	-	-	32	399
Material Management Service	15	34	23	24
Mail and Reproduction Services	117	75	75	75
Integrated Procurement Systems	18	17	15	15
Human Resources Enterprise Management Systems	14	11	42	41
Subtotal	182	177	226	593
Communications:				
Creative Media & Broadcast Center	44	30	41	40
Finance and Management:				
National Finance Center	96	131	132	133
Financial Shared Services	1,685	1,329	1,344	1,367
Internal Control Support Services	126	97	75	75
Personnel and Document Security Program	18	21	23	23
Subtotal	1,925	1,578	1,574	1,598
Information Technology:				
Client Experience Center	1,919	1,839	1,881	2,013
Department Administration Information Technology Office	424	463	124	124
Digital Infrastructure Services Center	764	761	759	701
Enterprise Cybersecurity Services	113	230	265	265
Enterprise Data and Analytics Services	222	194	206	203
Enterprise Network Services	329	413	416	361
Subtotal	3,771	3,900	3,651	3,667
Correspondence Management Services:				
Office of the Executive Secretariat	50	52	40	48
Total, Working Capital Fund	5,972	5,737	5,532	5,946
Department-Wide Shared Cost Programs:				
Agency Partnership Outreach	27	27	31	31
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility	7	10	2	0
Employee Experience	12	14	12	12
Intertribal Technical Assistance Network	13	13	-	-
Medical Services	6	3	5	5
National Capital Region Interpreting Services	6	1	2	2
Office of Customer Experience	12	11	13	13
Physical Security	16	17	24	24
Security Detail	18	20	33	33
Security Operations Program	25	28	31	31
Talent Group	13	12	14	14
TARGET Center	6	6	7	7
Total, Department-Wide Reimbursable Programs	161	162	174	172
E-Gov:				
Budget Formulation and Execution Line of Business	2	3	3	3
E-Rulemaking	7	8	11	10
Financial Management Line of Business	1	1	1	1
Geospatial Line of Business	13	13	13	13
Benefits.gov	44	30	-	-
Grants.gov	378	343	413	505
Human Resources Line of Business	1	1	1	1
Integrated Acquisition Environment	52	50	49	50
Total, E-Gov	498	449	491	583
Agency Total	6,631	6,348	6,197	6,701

Note: This Table is based on a preliminary 2026 estimate, which will be adjusted at a later date to reflect the Department's updated posture and footprint.

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ACCOUNT 1: NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored):

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

For payments to agricultural experiment stations, for cooperative forestry and other research, for facilities, for payments to States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, Micronesia, the Northern Marianas, and American Samoa for cooperative extension activities for research, education, and extension grant programs, including necessary administrative expenses, and for other expenses, $1,036,956,000: *Provided*, That $535,806,000 to remain available until expended, shall be for research grants for 1994 institutions, education grants for 1890 institutions, the agriculture and food research initiative, veterinary medicine loan repayment, grants management systems, Hispanic serving institutions education grants, tribal colleges education equity grants, scholarships at 1890 institutions, extension services at 1994 institutions, facility improvements at 1890 institutions, the research facilities act, new beginning for Tribal students, and 1890s institutions centers of excellence: *Provided further*, That each institution eligible to receive funds under the Evans-Allen program shall receive not less than $1,000,000: *Provided further*, That $5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, shall be for providing grants for food and agricultural sciences for Alaska Native- and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions, or consortia of eligible institutions regardless of geographic locations: *Provided further*, That $2,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, shall be for providing grants for food and agricultural sciences for Insular Areas: Provided further, That funds for education grants for 1890 institutions shall be made available to institutions eligible to receive funds under 7 U.S.C. 3221 and 3222: *Provided further*, That institutions eligible to receive funds under 7 U.S.C. 3221 for cooperative extension shall each receive not less than $1,000,000: *Provided further*, That funds for cooperative extension under sections 3(b) and (c) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343(b) and (c)) and section 208(c) of Public Law 93–471 shall be available for retirement and employees' compensation costs for extension agents: *Provided further*, That $3,000,000 is available for Enhancing Agriculture Opportunities for Military Veterans and shall remain available until September 30, 2027.

Native American Institutions Endowment Fund

For the Native American Institutions Endowment Fund authorized by Public Law 103-382 (7 U.S.C. 301 note), $11,880,000, to remain available until expended.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table NIFA-5. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

Item	Amount
Enacted, 2025	$1,686,643,000
Change in Appropriation	-641,794,000
Budget Estimate, 2026	1,044,849,000

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table NIFA-6. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Research and Education Activities											
Hatch Act	$265,000	-	$265,000	-	$265,000	-	-	-	-$265,000	-	(1)
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act	38,000	-	38,000	-	38,000	-	$20,000	-	-18,000	-	(2)
Research at 1890 Institutions (Evans-Allen)	89,000	-	89,000	-	89,000	-	50,000	-	-39,000	-	(3)
Payments to 1994 Institutions (Tribal Colleges Ed. Equity)	7,000	-	7,000	-	7,000	-	7,000	-	-	-	
Education Grants for 1890 Institutions (Capacity Building Grants)	30,000	-	30,000	-	30,000	-	30,000	-	-	-	
Scholarships at 1890 Institutions	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-	
Centers of Excellence at 1890 Institutions	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-	
Education Grants for Hispanic Serving Institutions	16,000	-	16,000	-	16,000	-	15,500	-	-500	-	(4)
Education Grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-	
Research Grants for 1994 Institutions	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-	
Capacity Building Non-Land Grant Colleges of Agriculture	6,000	-	6,000	-	6,000	-	-	-	-6,000	-	(5)
New Beginning for Tribal Students	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-	
Grants for Insular Areas (Combined program)	2,500	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-	
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	455,000	-	445,200	-	445,200	-	405,306	-	-39,894	-	(6)
Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment (Medical Services Act)	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	9,000	-	-1,000	-	(7)
Veterinary Services Grant Program	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	3,000	-	-1,000	-	(8)
Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Program	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	2,000	-	-2,000	-	(9)
Supplemental and Alternative Crops	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	1,000	-	-1,000	-	(10)
Multicultural Scholars, Graduate Fellowship and Institution Challenge Grants	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-	-10,000	-	(11)
Secondary and 2-year Post-Secondary Education	1,000	-	750	-	750	-	750	-	-	-	
Aquaculture Centers	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-	
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education	50,000	-	48,000	-	48,000	-	40,000	-	-8,000	-	(12)
Farm Business Management	2,500	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-	
Sun Grant Program	3,500	-	3,000	-	3,000	-	-	-	-3,000	-	(13)
Research Equipment Grants	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-	
Alfalfa Seed and Alfalfa Forage Systems Research Program	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	-	-	-4,000	-	(14)
Minor Crop Pest Management (IR-4)	15,000	-	15,000	-	15,000	-	15,000	-	-	-	
Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative	2,500	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-	
Laying Hen and Turkey Research Program	1,000	-	500	-	500	-	1,000	-	+500	-	(15)
Open Data Standards for Neutral Data Repository	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-	
Research Facilities Act	2,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-	
Special Research Grants:		-									
Global Change/UV Monitoring	1,400	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-	-1,000	-	(16)
Potato Research	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	-	-	-4,000	-	(17)
Aquaculture Research	2,200	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-	-2,000	-	(18)
Subtotal, Special Research Grants	7,600	-	7,000	-	7,000	-	-	-	-7,000	-	
Federal Administration (Direct Appropriations):											
Grants Management Systems	7,924	-	7,000	-	7,000	-	7,000	-	-	-	
General Administration / Other	12,597	-	11,500	-	11,500	-	11,500	-	-	-	
Subtotal, Federal Administration	20,521	-	18,500	-	18,500	-	18,500	-	-	-	
Total, Research and Education Activities	1,094,121	-	1,075,950	-	1,075,950	-	671,056	-	-404,894	-	
Extension Activities											

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Smith-Lever 3(b&c) Programs and Cooperative Extension	325,000	-	325,000	-	325,000	-	175,000	-	-150,000	-	(19)
Extension Services at 1890 Institutions	72,000	-	72,000	-	72,000	-	62,000	-	-10,000	-	(20)
Extension Services at 1994 Institutions	11,000	-	11,000	-	11,000	-	11,000	-	-	-	
Facility Improvements at 1890 Institutions	21,500	-	21,500	-	21,500	-	20,000	-	-1,500	-	(21)
Renewable Resources Extension Act	4,060	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	-	-	-4,000	-	(22)
Rural Health and Safety Education Programs	5,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	-	-	
Food Animal Residue Avoid. Database Program	2,500	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	1,000	-	-1,000	-	(23)
Women and Minorities in STEM Fields	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-	-2,000	-	(24)
Food Safety Outreach Program	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	7,000	-	-3,000	-	(25)
Food and Ag Service Learning	2,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-	
Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	8,000	-	-2,000	-	(26)
Enhancing Ag Opportunities Military Veterans	-	-	3,000	-	3,000	-	3,000	-	-	-	
Smith-Lever Act, Section 3(d):											
Expanded Food and Nutrition Program	70,000	-	70,000	-	70,000	-	48,000	-	-22,000	-	(27)
Farm Safety and Youth Farm Safety Education Programs	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-	
New Technologies for Ag Extension	3,550	-	1,600	-	1,600	-	1,600	-	-	-	
Children, Youth, and Families at Risk	8,395	-	8,000	-	8,000	-	8,000	-	-	-	
Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program	4,305	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	-	-	
Subtotal, Smith-Lever Act Section 3(d)	91,250	-	88,600	-	88,600	-	66,600	-	-22,000	-	
Federal Administration (Direct Appropriations):											
Agriculture in the K12 Classroom	1,000	-	500	-	500	-	500	-	-	-	
Federal Administration - Other Necessary Expenses	8,100	-	7,100	-	7,100	-	6,800	-	-300	-	(28)
Subtotal, Federal Administration	9,100	-	7,600	-	7,600	-	7,300	-	-300	-	
General Provisions:											
GP-Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Military Veterans	5,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
GP-Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program (under FOTO)	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal, General Provisions	7,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total, Extension Activities	572,410	-	561,700	-	561,700	-	365,900	-	-195,800	-	
Integrated Activities											
Methyl Bromide Transition	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-	-2,000	-	(29)
Organic Transition Program	7,500	-	7,500	-	7,500	-	-	-	-7,500	-	(30)
Regional Rural Development Centers	3,000	-	2,600	-	2,600	-	-	-	-2,600	-	(31)
Food & Agriculture Defense Initiative	8,000	-	8,000	-	8,000	-	-	-	-8,000	-	(32)
Crop Protection/Pest Management	21,000	-	21,000	-	21,000	-	-	-	-21,000	-	(33)
Total, Integrated Activities	41,500	-	41,100	-	41,100	-	-	-	-41,100	-	
Endowment Funding:											
Tribal Colleges Endowment Fund (Native American Endowment Fund)	(11,880)	-	(12,975)	-	(11,880)	-	(11,880)	-	-	-	
Interest on Tribal College Endowment Fund (Endowment Interest Earned)	4,463	-	6,682	-	7,893	-	7,893	-	-	-	
Subtotal, Endowment Funding	4,463	-	6,682	-	7,893	-	7,893	-	-	-	
Subtotal, Discretionary Appropriations	1,712,494	-	1,685,432	-	1,686,643	-	1,044,849	-	-641,794	-	
Mandatory Appropriations:											
Extension Risk Management Education	9,430	-	9,430	-	9,430	-	9,430	-	-	-	
Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP)	52,808	-	52,808	-	52,808	-	52,808	-	-	-	
Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development Program	23,575	-	23,575	-	23,575	-	23,575	-	-	-	
Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative	47,150	-	47,150	-	47,150	-	47,150	-	-	-	
Specialty Crop Research Initiative	75,440	-	75,440	-	75,440	-	75,440	-	-	-	
Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Trust Fund	25,000	-	26,425	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Urban, Indoor & Other Emerging Ag Production	-	-	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Scholarships for Students at 1890 Institutions	-	-	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Subtotal, Mandatory Appropriations	233,403	-	246,828	-	208,403	-	208,403	-	-	-	
Supplemental Appropriations:											
IIJA Supp, Bioproduct Pilot Program	5,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal, Supplemental Appropriations	5,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Offsetting Collections:											
Commodity Board	1,750	-	2,350	-	3,733	-	-	-	-3,733	-	
Subtotal, Offsetting Collections	1,750	-	2,350	-	3,733	-	-	-	-3,733	-	
Total Adjusted Appropriations	1,952,647	-	1,934,610	-	1,898,779	-	1,253,252	-	-645,527	-	
Add back:											
Transfers In and Out, Rescissions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Sequestration	12,597	-	12,597	-	12,597	-	12,597	-	-	-	
Total Appropriation	1,965,244	416	1,947,207	440	1,911,376	396	1,265,849	347	-645,527	-49	
Total Transfers In	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Transfers Out	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Rescission	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Sequestration	-12,597	-	-12,597	-	-12,597	-	-12,597	-	-	-	
Balances Interchange	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Recoveries, Other	31,896	-	39,169	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Balances Withdrawn	-	-	-538	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Rescinded Balances	-	-	-37,000	-	-37,000	-	-	-	+37,000	-	
Bal. Available, SOY	897,734	-	458,719	-	371,739	-	-	-	-371,739	-	
Total Available	2,882,277	416	2,394,960	440	2,233,518	396	1,253,252	347	-980,266	-49	
Lapsing Balances	-536	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bal. Available, EOY	-458,718	-	-371,739	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Obligations	2,423,023	416	2,023,221	440	2,233,518	396	1,253,252	347	-980,266	-49	

Note: Discrepancy between project statement and MAX schedule X is reimbursable.

Table NIFA-7. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:										
Research and Education Activities										
Hatch Act	$265,000	-	$265,000	-	*	-	-	-	-$265,000	-
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act	38,000	-	38,000	-	*	-	$20,000	-	-18,000	-
Research at 1890 Institutions (Evans-Allen Program)	89,000	-	89,000	-	*	-	50,000	-	-39,000	-
Payments to 1994 Institutions (Tribal Colleges Ed. Equity)	6,800	-	7,200	-	*	-	7,000	-	-	-
Education Grants for 1890 Institutions (Capacity Building Grants)	34,417	-	8,035	-	*	-	30,000	-	-29,614	-
Scholarships at 1890 Institutions	9,600	-	9,600	-	*	-	10,000	-	-	-
Centers of Excellence at 1890 Institutions	10,000	-	10,000	-	*	-	10,000	-	-	-
Education Grants for Hispanic Serving Institutions	15,777	-	15,406	-	*	-	15,500	-	-500	-
Education Grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions	2,962	-	6,210	-	*	-	5,000	-	-691	-
Research Grants for 1994 Institutions	2,253	-	3,801	-	*	-	5,000	-	-6,200	-
Capacity Building Non-Land Grant Colleges of Agriculture	7,025	-	5,787	-	*	-	-	-	-5,765	-
New Beginning for Tribal Students	4,908	-	5,000	-	*	-	5,000	-	-	-
Grants for Insular Areas (Combined program)	2,343	-	2,053	-	*	-	2,000	-	-	-
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	604,405	-	573,639	-	*	-	405,306	-	-281,221	-
Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment (Medical Services Act)	13,436	-	5,359	-	*	-	9,000	-	-15,895	-
Veterinary Services Grant Program	4,000	-	4,000	-	*	-	3,000	-	-1,000	-
Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Program (Sec. 1433)	4,000	-	4,000	-	*	-	2,000	-	-2,000	-
Supplemental and Alternative Crops (Sec. 1437D)	2,000	-	2,000	-	*	-	1,000	-	-1,000	-
Multicultural Scholars, Graduate Fellowship and Institution Challenge Grants	7,579	-	10,068	-	*	-	-	-	-13,220	-
Secondary and 2-year Post-Secondary Education	1,000	-	750	-	*	-	750	-	-	-
Aquaculture Centers (Sec. 1475)	5,000	-	5,000	-	*	-	5,000	-	-	-
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education	50,000	-	48,000	-	*	-	40,000	-	-8,000	-
Farm Business Management	2,500	-	2,000	-	*	-	2,000	-	-	-
Sun Grant Program	3,500	-	3,000	-	*	-	-	-	-3,000	-
Research Equipment Grants	5,000	-	5,000	-	*	-	5,000	-	-	-
Alfalfa Seed and Alfalfa Forage Systems Research Program	4,000	-	4,000	-	*	-	-	-	-4,000	-
Minor Crop Pest Management (IR-4)	15,000	-	15,000	-	*	-	15,000	-	-	-
Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative	2,500	-	2,000	-	*	-	2,000	-	-	-
Laying Hen and Turkey Research Program	1,000	-	500	-	*	-	1,000	-	+500	-
Open Data Standards for Neutral Data Repository	1,000	-	1,000	-	*	-	1,000	-	-	-
Research Facilities Act	2,000	-	1,000	-	*	-	1,000	-	-	-
Special Research Grants:					*					
Global Change/UV Monitoring	1,400	-	1,000	-	*	-	-	-	-1,000	-
Potato Research	4,000	-	4,000	-	*	-	-	-	-4,000	-
Aquaculture Research	2,200	-	2,000	-	*	-	-	-	-2,000	-
Subtotal, Special Research Grants	7,600	-	7,000	-	*	-	-	-	-7,000	-
Federal Administration (Direct Appropriations):										
Grants Management Systems	7,924	-	15,970	-	*	-	7,000	-	-	-
General Administration / Other	12,597	-	11,500	-	*	-	11,500	-	-	-
Subtotal, Federal Administration	20,521	-	27,470	-	*	-	18,500	-	-	-
General Provisions:										
GP-Farm of the Future	4,698	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal, General Provisions	4,698	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Research and Education Activities	1,248,824	-	1,185,878	-	*	-	671,056	-	-700,606	-
Extension Activities										

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Smith-Lever 3(b&c) Programs and Cooperative Extension	325,000	-	325,000	-	325,000	-	175,000	-	-150,000	-
Extension Services at 1890 Institutions	72,000	-	72,000	-	*	-	62,000	-	-10,000	-
Extension Services at 1994 Institutions	10,552	-	9,695	-	*	-	11,000	-	-1,305	-
Facility Improvements at 1890 Institutions	47,105	-	22,302	-	*	-	20,000	-	-1,761	-
Renewable Resources Extension Act	4,060	-	4,000	-	*	-	-	-	-4,000	-
Rural Health and Safety Education Programs	5,000	-	4,000	-	*	-	4,000	-	-	-
Food Animal Residue Avoid. Database Program	2,500	-	2,000	-	*	-	1,000	-	-1,000	-
Women and Minorities in STEM Fields	2,000	-	2,000	-	*	-	-	-	-2,000	-
Food Safety Outreach Program	10,000	-	10,000	-	*	-	7,000	-	-3,000	-
Food and Ag Service Learning	2,000	-	1,000	-	*	-	1,000	-	-	-
Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network	10,000	-	10,000	-	*	-	8,000	-	-2,000	-
Enhancing Ag Opportunities Military Veterans	-	-	5,103	-	*	-	3,000	-	-	-
Smith-Lever Act, Section 3(d):										-
Expanded Food and Nutrition Program	70,000	-	70,000	-	*	-	48,000	-	-22,000	-
Farm Safety and Youth Farm Safety Education Programs	5,000	-	5,000	-	*	-	5,000	-	-	-
New Technologies for Ag Extension	3,550	-	1,600	-	*	-	1,600	-	-	-
Children, Youth, and Families at Risk	8,395	-	8,000	-	*	-	8,000	-	-	-
Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program	4,305	-	4,000	-	*	-	4,000	-	-	-
Subtotal, Smith-Lever Act Section 3(d)	91,250	-	88,600	-	*	-	66,600	-	-22,000	-
Federal Administration (Direct Appropriations):										
Agriculture in the K12 Classroom	1,000	-	500	-	*	-	500	-	-	-
Federal Administration - Other Necessary Expenses	8,100	-	7,100	-	*	-	6,800	-	-300	-
Subtotal, Federal Administration	9,100	-	7,600	-	*	-	7,300	-	-300	-
General Provisions:										
GP-Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Military Veterans	5,069	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GP-Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program (under FOTO)	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal, General Provisions	7,069	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Extension Activities	597,636	-	563,300	-	*	-	365,900	-	-197,366	-
Integrated Activities										
Methyl Bromide Transition	2,000	-	2,000	-	*	-	-	-	-2,000	-
Organic Transition Program	7,500	-	7,500	-	*	-	-	-	-7,500	-
Regional Rural Development Centers	3,000	-	2,600	-	*	-	-	-	-2,600	-
Food & Agriculture Defense Initiative	8,933	-	7,986	-	*	-	-	-	-8,032	-
Crop Protection/Pest Management	21,000	-	21,000	-	*	-	-	-	-21,000	-
International Science and Education Grants	-	-	29	-	*	-	-	-	-688	-
General Provisions:										
GP Institute for Rural Partnership - University of Vermont	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal, General Provisions	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Integrated Activities	52,433	-	41,115	-	*	-	-	-	-41,820	-
Endowment Funding:										
Tribal Colleges Endowment Fund (Native American Endowment Fund)	[11,880]	-	(12,975)	-	(11,880)	-	(11,880)	-	-	-
Interest on Tribal College Endowment Fund (Endowment- Interest Earned)	4,385	-	5,690	-	8,975	-	7,893	-	-1,082	-
Subtotal, Endowment Funding	4,385	-	5,690	-	8,975	-	7,893	-	-1,082	-
Subtotal, Discretionary Obligations	1,903,278	-	1,795,983	-	*	-	1,044,849	-	-940,874	-
Mandatory Obligations:										
Extension Risk Management Education	9,430	-	9,430	-	9,430	-	9,430	-	-	-
Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP)	52,808	-	52,808	-	52,808	-	52,808	-	-	-
Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development Program	26,308	-	25,147	-	24,248	-	23,575	-	-673	-
Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative	46,184	-	46,870	-	47,552	-	47,150	-	-402	-

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Specialty Crop Research Initiative	75,939	-	75,458	-	76,517	-	75,440	-	-1,077	-
Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Trust Fund	25,777	-	884	-	27,661	-	-	-	-27,661	-
Urban, Indoor & Other Emerging Ag Production	9,961	-	2,947	-	42	-	-	-	-42	-
Emergency Citrus Research and Extension Program	949	-	1,344	-	180	-	-	-	-180	-
Scholarships for Students at 1890 Institutions	10,519	-	10,000	-	3,659	-	-	-	-3,659	-
Biomass Research and Development	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal, Mandatory Obligations	257,875	-	224,888	-	242,097	-	208,403	-	-33,694	-
Supplemental Obligations:										
Emergency Supp-COVID, Farming Opportunities & Outreach (Section 754, OPPE)	-	-	-	-	61	-	-	-	-61	-
Emergency Supp-COVID, GusNIP/Food Insecurity Nutrition Program (Section 756)	-	-	-	-	26	-	-	-	-26	-
Emergency Supp-COVID, Farm Stress (Section 766)	-	-	-	-	1,878	-	-	-	-1,878	-
IRA Supp, From Learning to Leading	250,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IIJA Supp, Bioproduct Pilot Program (Section 70501) (GP)	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal Supp Obligations	260,000	-	-	-	1,965	-	-	-	-1,965	-
Offsetting Collections:										
Commodity Board	1,870	-	2,350	-	3,733	-	-	-	-3,733	-
Subtotal, Offsetting Collections	1,870	-	2,350	-	3,733	-	-	-	-3,733	-
Total, Obligations	**2,423,023**	**416**	**2,023,221**	**440**	**2,233,518**	**396**	**1,253,252**	**347**	**-980,266**	**-49**
Add back:										
Lapsing Balances	536	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balances Available, EOY:										
Balances Available, EOY	458,718	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments to 1994 Institutions (Tribal Colleges Ed. Equity)	-	-	157	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Education Grants for 1890 Institutions (Capacity Building Grants)	-	-	29,713	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Research Grants for 1994 Institutions	-	-	7,797	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capacity Building Non-Land Grant Colleges of Agriculture	-	-	489	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment (Medical Services Act Program)	-	-	14,895	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Multicultural Scholars, Graduate Fellowship and Institution Challenge Grants	-	-	3,952	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	-	-	275,016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest on Tribal College Endowment Fund (Endowment- Interest Earned)	-	-	1,082	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Education Grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions	-	-	691	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biomass Research and Development	-	-	3,659	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Facility Improvements at 1890 Institutions	-	-	262	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Extension Services at 1994 Institutions	-	-	1,305	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emergency Supp-COVID, Farming Opportunities & Outreach (Section 754, OPPE)	-	-	61	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emergency Supp-COVID, GusNIP/Food Insecurity Nutrition Program (Section 756)	-	-	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emergency Supp-COVID, Farm Stress (Section 766)	-	-	1,878	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development Program	-	-	673	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
International Science and Education Grants	-	-	688	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emergency Citrus Research and Extension Program	-	-	180	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Urban, Indoor & Other Emerging Ag Production	-	-	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food & Agriculture Defense Initiative	-	-	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative	-	-	402	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Specialty Crop Research Initiative	-	-	1,078	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Trust Fund	-	-	27,661	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Bal. Available, EOY	458,718	-	371,739	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available	2,882,277	416	2,394,960	440	2,233,518	396	1,253,252	347	-980,266	-49
Less:										
Rescission	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Total Transfers In	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Transfers Out	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sequestration Permanent	12,597	-	12,597	-	12,597	-	12,597	-	-	-
Balances Interchange	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other	-31,896	-	-39,169	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balances Withdrawn	-	-	538	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rescinded Balances	-	-	-37,000	-	37,000	-	-	-	-37,000	-
Bal. Available, SOY	-897,734	-	-458,719	-	-371,739	-	-	-	371,739	-
Total Appropriation	1,965,244	416	1,947,207	440	1,911,376	396	1,265,849	347	-645,527	-49

Note: Discrepancy between project statement and MAX schedule X is reimbursable. NIFA is identifying for the first-year individual program, project, activities under "Balances Available, EOY."

* Obligations cannot be determined at this time.

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

The numbers and letters of the following listing relates to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement:

(1) A decrease of $265,000,000 for Hatch Act ($265,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding toward competitive grant activities with greater focus on national priorities consistent with the Administration's oversight policy. Federal investment in agricultural research and development is comparatively small to those made through other public and private entities including States, commodity commissions, and other research organizations. The Administration is prioritizing competitive grant programs to focus on greater efficiency.

(2) A decrease of $18,000,000 for McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act ($38,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy. Additionally, the Administration is placing priority on competitive grant programs that are merit-based, versus grant programs that disperse funds based on formulas. Funds appropriated will continue to be used to assist all states in carrying out a program of state forestry research at state forestry schools and colleges and developing a trained pool of forest scientists capable of conducting needed forestry research under the following research topics: 1) Reforestation and management of land for the production of crops of timber and other related products of the forest; 2) Management of forest and related watershed lands to improve conditions of water flow and to protect resources against floods and erosion; 3) Management of forest and related rangeland for production of forage for domestic livestock and game and improvement of food and habitat for wildlife; 4) Management of forest lands for outdoor recreation; 5) Protection of forest land and resources against fire, insects, diseases, or other destructive agents; 6) Utilization of wood and other forest products; 7) Development of sound policies for the management of forest lands and the harvesting and marketing of forest products. McIntire-Stennis is the only capacity fund that is directed exclusively to support forestry, range, and the forest products industry, and supports programs in the 1890 and 1862 Land-grant and non-Land-grant colleges of forestry, while strengthening the pipeline of new foresters, researchers, and range managers in the forestry workforce.

(3) A decrease of $39,000,000 for Research at 1890 Institutions (Evans-Allen) ($89,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy. The Administration is prioritizing competitive grant funds that are merit-based, versus grant programs that disperse funds based on formulas. Funds appropriated will support the nineteen eligible 1890 land-grant universities (LGUs), whose programs contribute innovative and applied agricultural research that meets the needs of state populations and is shared with the public through distributed publications. The program funding is used annually by the 1890 LGUs to pursue internal research initiatives to address agricultural research issues in the United States, to promote innovation, and to empower leaders, inventors, and researchers addressing issues that focus on small-scale agriculture.

(4) A decrease of $500,000 for Education Grants for Hispanic-Serving Institutions ($16,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy. Funds appropriated will support the need for engaging and serving the increasing number of Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs). There are currently nearly 600 HSIs in the United States and Puerto Rico,

representing 20 percent of colleges, yet enrolling 63 percent of Latino undergraduates (Resource: Excelencia in Education, 2024). Additionally, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Hispanics represented 19.4 percent of the labor force in 2024 of which Farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural managers make up 6.5 percent. BLS identified this segment of the population as the fastest growing worker group, therefore it is necessary that we prepare this segment of the population to meet the demands of a growing economy. Funding for the Hispanic-Serving Institutions is competitive; continuity of funding sustains the capacity of these institutions.

(5) A decrease of $6,000,000 for Capacity Building Non-Land Grant Colleges of Agriculture ($6,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy. The research goals of this program can be more effectively addressed through application to higher priority programs as described in the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Foundational and Applied Science and Sustainable Agricultural Systems Programs. The education and extension portions of the NLGCA grants program may similarly be supported by applying to other funding sources such as the AFRI Education and Workforce Development Programs, Higher Education Challenge Grant Program, and when applicable, the Hispanic-Serving Education Grants Program.

(6) A decrease of $39,894,000 for Agriculture and Food Research Initiative ($445,200,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy. To support the transformative innovations needed to, advance food and nutrition security, enhance profitability in U.S. agriculture and boost rural prosperity, NIFA will continue its appropriation in AFRI, America's flagship competitive grants program for food and agricultural sciences as outlined in the Farm Bill priority areas. Sustainment of investment funding through AFRI is critical for supporting systems-level, as well as foundational research in agricultural production and products, for integrated Extension activities to translate research findings to producers and consumers, and for continued development of the skilled workforce needed to spur the agriculture and food enterprise. Past AFRI investments have directly benefited agricultural producers by providing improved crop cultivars, improving livestock production practices, and developing high-value uses of agricultural products. Two examples from the 2022 awards include a project that resulted in a new, web-based Drought Irrigation Response Tool to assist farmers in making irrigation scheduling decisions during the cropping season, not only during drought years, but every year. Availability of this tool has resulted in farmers' application of site-specific water-use strategies, leading to more efficient water management, and increased economic returns. Another project that was a multi-institutional effort trained more than 20 new plant breeders to help address workforce needs in private and public plant breeding programs in the near term. The associated plant breeding activities also resulted in release of 33 new public wheat varieties for the U.S.

Through AFRI grants, NIFA will support the 2026 Administration priorities of combatting animal and plant diseases, mitigating effects of natural disasters on agriculture, making America healthy again, and promoting rural prosperity. In 2026, the NIFA budget proposes to support the AFRI program, which includes:

- Sustained support for Plant and Animal Breeding, including adaptation and resiliency of agriculture and forestry to biotic and abiotic stresses;
- Innovations in energy production and use in food and agricultural systems that contribute to development of rural agricultural economies through technology to create high-value biobased products from agricultural feedstocks;
- Continued support for high priority areas including sustainable production agriculture, soil health, agricultural biosecurity, food and agricultural microbiomes, nanotechnology, food safety, water quality, food loss and waste, pollinator health, and human health;

- Continued support for the Administration's efforts on improving human health through precision nutrition, production of healthy foods, and empowering consumer choice;
- Investments to enhance support for innovation, translation and entrepreneurship training, and support for rural communities; and
- Continued fostering of interagency collaborations to leverage greater investment in food and agriculture-relevant areas of science, and to attract new communities of scientists to address challenging agricultural issues.

To address these major components NIFA will include Request for Application (RFA) language emphasizing development of data-driven solutions and a technology-savvy workforce that will help catalyze systems-level foundational research needed to foster innovation in U.S. food and agricultural science, enhance economic prosperity in communities in the United States, promote food and nutrition security, and enhance the Nation's global competitiveness in food and agricultural production.

The agency proposes to maintain investments in the Foundational and Applied Science programs, that support interagency partnerships to develop technologies such as robotics, sensors, and cyber physical systems. Plant and animal breeding that support classical genetics and breeding efforts to improve crop and animal productivity and support emerging new innovative technologies such as gene editing, autonomous systems, precision animal agriculture, and machine learning as applied to agriculture. AFRI will continue to provide investment in research on the microbiomes of foods, food animals, plants, human gut, and soils, and on food and nutrition security, food safety, and agricultural biosecurity to protect our Nation's food supply and the agricultural economy. Investment in approaches to improve management and application of big data, artificial intelligence in agriculture, and data-driven entrepreneurship in rural America. AFRI will continue to encourage research and related activities addressing economic implications and social acceptance of agricultural technologies, including gene editing, big data, and adoption of technologies and management practices to support agriculture and forestry.

NIFA proposes investing appropriated funds in the Sustainable Agricultural Systems programs, which support large integrative projects that develop technological solutions to major agricultural system challenges. Advancing NIFA's goal to converge agricultural sciences with engineering, data science, nutritional and food sciences, social sciences, and other disciplines, including nanotechnology, computational sciences, and advanced manufacturing, to generate new scientific discoveries, new products, new markets and, consequently, new high-skill jobs.

The AFRI Education and Workforce Development program contributes towards the President's guidance to Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) for the future of STEM education activities. NIFA proposes to invest in Education and Workforce Development programs to promote growth and skill improvement in the workforce needed to spur innovations in the agricultural economy, enhance rural prosperity, and advance the competitiveness of U.S. agriculture. In 2023 the AFRI Education and Workforce Development program supported 7,811 undergraduate, graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. This program connects rural skillsets to jobs of the future, investments will be increased in positive youth development programs, K-14 curricula development and training/retraining of workers for developing a technology and data-savvy workforce ready for the field in addition to jobs in the industry.

(7) A decrease of $1,000,000 for Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment ($10,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy.

The Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) is a nationally competitive opportunity for qualified veterinarians to reduce their educational debt by agreeing to provide professional veterinary services for three years in designated, high priority, veterinary food

supply shortage situations throughout the US and its insular areas. VMLRP provides up to $75,000 in loan repayment over a three-year period to help eligible veterinarians offset a significant portion of the debt incurred in pursuit of their veterinary medical degrees in return for their service in certain high-priority veterinary shortage situations. During 2024 with $10 million appropriated, NIFA has been able to support around 90 applicants, for a full 3 years. Assuming similar levels of award NIFA estimates with $9 million that around 78 applicants, for a full 3 years, could be supported.

(8) A decrease of $1,000,000 for Veterinary Services Grant Program ($4,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy.

There are two types of grants for Veterinary Services Grant Program (VSGP): Education, Extension, and Training (EET) and Rural Practice Enhancement (RPE). The Education, Extension, and Training (EET) grants will be made available on a competitive basis to qualified entities to develop, implement, and sustain veterinary services through education, training, recruitment, placement, and retention of veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and students of veterinary medicine and veterinary technology. The Rural Practice Enhancement (RPE) grants will also be made to establish or expand veterinary practices in rural areas. Sustaining this program will continue to support veterinarian shortage situations, facilitate private veterinary practices engaged in public health activities, or support the practices of veterinarians who are providing or have completed providing services under agreement under the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program.

(9) A decrease of $2,000,000 for Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Program ($2,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy. The Administration is prioritizing competitive grant funds that are merit-based, versus grant programs that disperse funds based on formulas. The research goals of this small program, while related to some of the administration priorities including animal diseases, food loss and waste, and positive youth development, can be more effectively addressed through the competitive Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Foundational and Applied Science and Sustainable Agricultural Systems Programs.

(10) A decrease of $1,000,000 for Supplemental and Alternative Crops ($2,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy. The broad research goals of this relatively small program can be better addressed if the funding is reallocated to larger programs such as the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Program (AFRI) where similar projects are supported through program areas that include: Plant, Health, and Production and Plant Products (PHPPP); Bioenergy, Natural Resources and Environment (BNRE); and Agriculture, Economics, and Rural Communities (AERC).

(11) A decrease of $10,000,000 for Multicultural Scholars, Graduate Fellowship and Institution Challenge Grants ($10,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy.

(12) A decrease of $8,000,000 for Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program ($48,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy. SARE funding supports

four regional centers and one national coordination center which are selected through a competitive review process. The Regional Host Institution and National Reporting, Coordinating, and Communications Office was recompeted in 2024. The centers emphasize innovative projects to help farmers and ranchers adopt practices that are productive, profitable, environmentally sound, and enhance the quality of life for farmers, strengthen the local food supply, and society. This program contributes to the USDA framework for shortening the food supply chain and transforming the food system into fairer, more competitive, and more resilient. Project type and emphasis varies to address regional needs, including, but not limited to: On-Farm Research/ Partnerships, Professional Development, research for novel approaches and grassroots, Graduate Student grants that provide opportunity for Master's and PhD students to conduct sustainable agriculture research projects, and Youth Educator grants support projects by youth educators that encourage youth to try sustainable practices and explore sustainable agriculture as a viable career option. In 2023 16,965 farmers participated in SARE research and/or education/extension activities. 5,740 farmers reported a change in practice, knowledge, awareness, skills or attitude based on what they learned through the SARE program. You can follow the progress made and the investments thru the SARE biennial reports made public at https://www.sare.org/sare-program-materials/sare-biennial-reports/.

(13) A decrease of $3,000,000 for Sun Grant Program ($3,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy. The research goals of this relatively small program can be better addressed if the funding is reallocated to larger programs such as the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Program (AFRI) where similar projects are supported. This change will also provide greater project information accountability by utilizing the NIFA Reporting Portal.

(14) A decrease of $4,000,000 for Alfalfa Seed and Alfalfa Forage Systems Research Program ($4,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy. With broad goals and research topics there are many opportunities and proven success within several existing AFRI program areas including, Plant Health and Production and Plant Products (PHPPP), Animal Health and Production and Animal Products (AHPAP).

(15) An Increase of $500,000 for Laying Hen and Turkey Research Program ($500,000 available in 2025).

The Laying Hen and Turkey Research Program focuses on supporting research projects to improve the efficiency and sustainability of laying hen and turkey production through integrated collaborative research and technology transfer. With priorities related to the research of animal disease with emphasis in areas related to disease prevention, antimicrobial resistance, nutrition, gut health and alternative housing systems under extreme seasonal weather conditions. Initially funded in 2023 with $1 million this new program was able to competitively fund two projects, with the decrease in 2024 the program was only able to award one. With reduced appropriation levels this programs effectiveness is decreased and is inefficient to sustain.

(16) A decrease of $1,000,000 for Global Change UV-B Monitoring ($1,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy. This program monitor levels of ultraviolet radiation (UV-B) from the Sun, which is noted to affect crop production. It is not in alignment Executive Order Unleashing American Energy due to the focus on climatological data.

(17) A decrease of $4,000,000 for Potato Research ($4,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy. The research goals of this relatively small program may be supported by other funding sources, including the AFRI Foundational and Applied Science programs.

(18) A decrease of $2,000,000 for Aquaculture Research ($2,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy. The research goals of this relatively small program may be supported by other funding sources, including AFRI Foundational and Applied Science programs.

(19) A decrease of $150,000,000 for Smith-Lever 3(B) & (C) ($325,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy. The Administration is prioritizing competitive grant funds that are merit-based, versus grant programs that disperse funds based on formulas.

(20) A decrease of $10,000,000 for Extension Services at 1890 Institutions ($72,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy. The Administration is prioritizing competitive grant funds that are merit-based, versus grant programs that disperse funds based on formulas.

(21) A decrease of $1,500,000 for Facility Improvements at 1890 Institutions ($21,500,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy.

(22) A decrease of $4,000,000 for Renewable Resources Extension Act Program ($4,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy. This program is in accordance with the EO Unleashing American Energy. RREA is a forestry and rangeland extension program. Forestry is essential for domestic energy supply providing wood, wood pellets, and to serving as a feedstock for biofuels. Extension to improve forestry management and production is in alignment with this EO.

(23) A decrease of $1,000,000 for Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database ($2,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy. The program goals of this relatively small program, which provides data infrastructure for practical information on how to avoid drug, pesticide, and environmental contaminant residue problems, may be supported through AFRI as a part of its Food and Agricultural Cyberinformatics and Tools initiative.

(24) A decrease of $2,000,000 for Women and Minorities in STEM Fields ($2,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy. This program is not consistent with the EO Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing, based on legislation which states: (7) Women and minorities in stem fields. Research and extension grants may be made under this section to increase participation by women and

underrepresented minorities from rural areas in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, with priority given to eligible institutions that carry out continuing programs funded by the Secretary. While this is not in alignment with the Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing EO, the statute mandates USDA NIFA to focus the program on underrepresented minorities.

(25) A decrease of $3,000,000 for Food Safety Outreach Program ($10,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy. With sustained funding this program can continue to competitively award community outreach projects, collaborative education and training projects, and funding for the four Regional Centers which partner with Land-Grant Universities Alaska Native Hawaiian (ANNH), Hispanic Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (HSACUs, Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), and/or Community-based Organizations (CBOs).

(26) A decrease of $2,000,000 for Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network Program ($10,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy. Sustained funding will support projects that provide stress assistance programs for individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, and other agriculture-related occupations on a regional basis. Network members must initiate, expand, or sustain programs that provide professional agricultural behavioral health counseling and referral for other forms of assistance as necessary through the following:

- Farm telephone helplines and websites;
- Training including training programs and workshops;
- Support groups;
- and Outreach services and activities, including the dissemination of information and materials.

(27) A decrease of $22,000,000 for the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program ($70,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy. The Administration is prioritizing competitive grant funds that are merit-based, versus grant programs that disperse funds based on formulas. The Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNEP) is a Federal Extension program that operates through the 1862 and 1890 Land-Grant Universities (LGUs) in every state, the District of Columbia, and the six U.S. territories. EFNEP uses education to support participants' efforts toward self-sufficiency, nutritional health, and well-being. EFNEP combines hands-on learning, applied science, and program data to ensure program effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability. Annual data confirms graduates: improve their diets, improve their nutrition practices, stretch their food dollars farther, handle food more safely, and increase their physical activity levels. The Annual data webpages include national impact reports and detailed National Data Reports.

(28) A decrease of $300,000 for Federal Administration Extension General Administration/Other ($7,100,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy. Provides a portion of the general operating funds for the Federal staff, and national program planning, coordination, and program leadership for the extension work in partnership with the States and territories.

(29) A decrease of $2,000,000 for Methyl Bromide Transition Program ($2,000,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy. The scope of the Methyl Bromide Transition Program is narrow, focusing on continuation of support for pest management alternatives to methyl bromide. Additionally the interest in this program has been declining, as compared to other NIFA programs focused on pest management.

(30) A decrease of $7,500,000 for Organic Transition Program ($7,500,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy.

(31) A decrease of $2,600,000 for Regional Rural Development Centers ($2,600,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy.

(32) A decrease of $8,000,000 for Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative ($8,000,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy. Similar projects awarded under the Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative could be supported thru other NIFA programs including AFRI.

(33) A decrease of $21,000,000 for Crop Protection and Pest Management ($21,000,000,000 available in 2025).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with the Administration's policy. Similar projects awarded under Crop Protection and Pest Management could be supported thru other NIFA programs including AFRI.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS

Table NIFA-8. Geographic Breakdown of 2024 Actual Obligations, Distribution of Federal Payments for Research at State Agriculture Experiment Stations & Other State Institutions (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/ Country	Hatch Formula	Regional Research Multi-State	TOTAL	Coop Forestry (MS)	1890 Colleges & TUSK (EA)	Animal Health & Disease Rsch	Special Rsch & Other Grants	Comp Rsch Grants	Higher Ed Grants	VMLRP	Veterinary Services Grants	Capacity Building for NLGCA	Total Federal Funds
Alabama	$4,080	$1,230	$5,310	$1,229	$8,223	$63	$440	$6,316	$5,880	$175	$373	-	$28,009
Alaska	1,125	208	1,333	673	-	-	-	1,293	4,215	2	125	-	7,642
American Samoa	2,024	-	2,024	-	-	-	-	-	162	-	-	-	2,187
Arizona	1,590	1,099	2,689	464	-	34	-	5,620	2,719	109	-	-	11,637
Arkansas	3,470	1,078	4,548	1,020	3,524	106	207	7,200	4,359	202	-	-	21,165
California	4,924	2,219	7,143	928	-	272	4,063	44,065	3,988	104	250	$480	61,292
Colorado	2,250	1,439	3,689	372	-	171	2,361	9,875	2,333	28	-	-	18,828
Connecticut	1,661	733	2,394	464	-	11	-	3,136	720	-	-	-	6,724
Delaware	1,190	548	1,738	163	1,663	19	-	1,322	4,230	-	125	-	9,260
District of Columbia	798	158	956	-	-	-	-	994	-	-	-	-	1,950
Florida	3,168	978	4,146	1,090	3,525	66	936	16,146	3,816	173	125	300	30,323
Georgia	4,639	1,949	6,588	1,275	4,763	87	10,800	14,835	4,171	209	-	180	42,909
Guam	2,064	178	2,242	94	-	-	-	-	600	-	-	-	2,937
Hawaii	1,174	557	1,731	233	-	4	933	2,703	2,500	-	-	-	8,104
Idaho	2,032	866	2,898	835	-	56	264	5,365	747	835	-	-	11,001
Illinois	5,699	1,615	7,314	603	-	55	-	15,422	442	122	-	450	24,409
Indiana	5,498	1,302	6,800	626	-	82	-	11,653	321	107	125	-	19,714
Iowa	5,672	2,203	7,875	580	-	285	983	27,015	297	439	-	-	37,474
Kansas	3,478	1,174	4,652	348	-	163	252	6,484	734	1,164	375	-	14,172
Kentucky	5,429	1,232	6,661	765	5,608	49	398	6,599	2,906	314	125	-	23,427
Louisiana	3,119	1,018	4,137	1,206	3,026	40	418	2,789	3,840	104	-	-	15,560
Maine	1,795	764	2,558	951	-	19	724	16,864	500	-	-	-	21,616
Maryland	2,330	961	3,291	441	2,424	29	3,094	8,261	5,010	10	-	-	22,560
Massachusetts	1,939	938	2,877	418	-	30	-	3,564	239	-	-	-	7,128
Michigan	5,520	1,345	6,865	1,090	-	68	2,045	13,512	1,561	278	-	-	25,419
Minnesota	5,388	1,340	6,729	974	-	182	11,287	10,766	1,199	128	-	-	31,264
Mississippi	3,936	1,244	5,181	1,252	3,684	93	1,239	6,250	2,760	-	249	-	20,708
Missouri	5,375	1,197	6,572	789	6,021	90	500	5,758	3,942	100	373	300	24,445
Montana	1,971	970	2,941	650	-	36	11,070	4,269	2,878	545	-	30	22,419
N. Mariana Islands	2,016	-	2,016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,016
Nebraska	3,205	1,553	4,757	395	-	119	1,699	13,230	633	354	250	-	21,437
Nevada	1,120	935	2,055	140	-	15	-	650	250	-	-	-	3,110
New Hampshire	1,445	549	1,994	534	-	6	82	10,947	-	42	-	-	13,605
New Jersey	1,938	1,110	3,048	557	-	14	-	1,392	250	-	-	-	5,261
New Mexico	1,619	585	2,203	325	-	27	1,650	2,753	2,781	108	-	-	9,846
New York	5,100	2,344	7,445	812	-	96	-	12,436	628	212	-	-	21,628
North Carolina	6,663	2,287	8,950	1,159	6,337	152	13,874	22,643	4,236	329	-	-	57,681
North Dakota	2,265	902	3,167	209	-	18	1,817	5,359	2,259	-	125	-	12,956
Ohio	6,659	1,452	8,112	719	5,638	98	-	21,129	2,902	95	-	-	38,693
Oklahoma	3,481	885	4,366	696	3,981	78	-	5,836	2,328	632	125	-	18,042
Oregon	2,663	1,374	4,037	1,183	-	70	500	20,057	1,209	165	125	-	27,346
Pennsylvania	6,273	1,847	8,120	835	-	137	-	15,326	501	524	-	-	25,443
Puerto Rico	4,563	1,096	5,659	94	-	10	-	-	2,198	-	-	-	7,960

State/Territory/ Country	Hatch Formula	Regional Research Multi-State	TOTAL	Coop Forestry (MS)	1890 Colleges & TUSK (EA)	Animal Health & Disease Rsch	Special Rsch & Other Grants	Comp Rsch Grants	Higher Ed Grants	VMLRP	Veterinary Services Grants	Capacity Building for NLGCA	Total Federal Funds
Rhode Island	1,076	569	1,645	186	-	36	-	120	-	-	-	-	1,988
South Carolina	3,475	1,163	4,638	997	3,409	18	-	2,280	1,596	-	-	-	12,938
South Dakota	2,443	910	3,352	279	-	60	3,151	2,911	1,815	192	125	--	11,886
Tennessee	5,164	1,260	6,423	881	5,377	49	609	5,122	6,371	34	-	745	25,611
Texas	7,507	1,852	9,359	1,044	8,920	263	1,349	28,416	10,779	207	445	2,400	63,181
Utah	1,411	1,001	2,412	302	-	31	500	10,099	718	-	-	-	14,062
Vermont	1,496	482	1,978	511	-	13	10,800	952	-	173	125	-	14,552
Virgin Islands	2,039	176	2,215	47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,262
Virginia	4,386	1,153	5,539	1,113	4,492	65	1,240	8,469	2,765	393	125	-	24,201
Washington	2,895	2,027	4,922	1,067	-	71	2,412	19,465	884	104	-	-	28,924
West Virginia	2,683	801	3,484	742	2,441	8	175	699	4,229	104	-	150	12,032
Wisconsin	5,464	1,326	6,789	858	-	93	1,946	20,786	411	220	125	750	32,165
Wyoming	1,359	774	2,133	256	-	19	-	1,600	250	-	-	-	4,257
Micronesia	2,109	-	2,109	-	-	-	-	-	200	-	-	-	2,309
SBIR	6,200	2,033	8,233	1,121	2,680	119	1,896	2,334	-	-	-	-	16,382
STTR	872	286	1,158	166	388	17	275	412	-	-	-	-	2,417
BRAG	823	260	1,082	40	125	24	46	1,167	-	-	-	-	2,486
Fed Admin Direct	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,583
Fed Admin	5,863	1,851	7,714	1,199	2,753	164	3,918	203,606	1,016	-	185	274	220,829
Obligation	199,612	65,388	265,000	38,000	89,000	4,000	99,955	698,273	118,462	9,036	4,000	6,059	1,346,369

Note: Obligation Data include first time obligations processed during the reported fiscal year; it does not include prior year award adjustments nor administrative changes to an award like Principal Investigator transfers.

Table NIFA-9. Geographic Breakdown of 2024 Actual Obligations, Distribution of Federal Payments for Extension at State Agriculture Experiment Stations & Other State Institutions (thousands of dollars)

State/ Territory/ Country	Smith-Lever Form.	1890s and TUSK	EFNEP	Children, Youth, Families at Risk	New Tech at Ag Ext	Fed Recog Tribes Ext	Farm Safety & Youth Ed & Cert	Food Safety Outreach	Renewable Resources Ext Act	Other	Rural Health Safety Ed	1890 Facilities	Indian Tribal 1994 Colleges	Mandatory	Total Federal Funds
Alabama	$7,567	$6,578	$2,250	$154	-	-	-	$300	$117	-	-	$2,148	-	$750	$19,865
Alaska	1,340	-	267	154	-	$308	$184	-	94	-	$350	-	$273	-	2,970
American Samoa	2,139	-	104	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,244
Arizona	2,326	-	758	307	-	727	-	-	213	$773	-	-	546	1,230	6,880
Arkansas	6,357	2,852	1,440	-	-	-	-	494	93	670	-	992	-	2,872	15,770
California	8,774	-	3,779	174	-	-	184	794	93	1,323	-	-	-	2,657	17,778
Colorado	3,592	-	683	154	-	-	183	360	57	200	698	-	-	1,304	7,231
Connecticut	2,374	-	556	-	-	104	-	-	46	-	-	-	-	-	3,080
Delaware	1,450	1,510	421	-	-	-	-	-	60	-	-	812	-	2,122	6,374
District of Columbia	1,259	-	115	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	480	1,868
Florida	5,212	2,949	2,608	87	-	104	184	950	95	1,987	-	1,118	-	-	15,293
Georgia	8,668	3,910	2,455	-	-	-	184	495	105	240	-	1,178	-	525	17,761
Guam	2,202	-	106	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	149	2,471
Hawaii	1,496	-	352	-	-	-	-	259	46	-	350	-	-	9,154	11,658
Idaho	3,156	-	396	307	-	311	-	-	52	240	-	-	-	-	4,462
Illinois	10,487	-	2,239	-	-	-	184	-	55	2,404	349	-	-	480	16,198
Indiana	9,992	-	1,319	154	-	-	719	-	53	773	337	-	-	-	13,347

State/ Territory/ Country	Smith-Lever Form.	1890s and TUSK	EFNEP	Children, Youth, Families at Risk	New Tech at Ag Ext	Fed Recog Tribes Ext	Farm Safety & Youth Ed & Cert	Food Safety Outreach	Renewable Resources Ext Act	Other	Rural Health Safety Ed	1890 Facilities	Indian Tribal 1994 Colleges	Mandatory	Total Federal Funds
Iowa	10,236	-	975	154	-	-	-	771	46	-	-	-	-	4,871	17,053
Kansas	6,065	-	777	-	-	-	-	495	46	120	-	-	273	1,228	9,004
Kentucky	10,083	4,746	1,851	174	-	-	-	-	82	-	-	1,183	-	1,459	19,577
Louisiana	5,546	2,469	2,052	154	-	-	-	495	83	-	-	967	-	-	11,765
Maine	2,612	-	504	87	-	-	184	-	59	-	-	-	-	1,482	4,927
Maryland	3,685	2,037	1,062	154	-	-	-	-	60	-	-	942	-	-	7,940
Massachusetts	2,913	-	1,066	-	-	-	-	-	46	-	-	-	-	2,250	6,275
Michigan	9,930	-	1,913	-	-	104	184	405	226	-	349	-	819	48	13,978
Minnesota	9,681	-	1,080	1,965	-	104	-	-	64	100	-	-	1,092	1,315	15,402
Mississippi	7,399	2,922	1,866	-	-	104	-	-	101	-	350	996	-	600	14,337
Missouri	9,829	5,134	1,762	87	-	-	184	150	87	-	-	1,273	-	50	18,556
Montana	3,024	-	388	-	-	417	-	-	60	990	-	-	1,911	-	6,791
N. Mariana Islands	2,126	-	104	-	-	-	-	-	-	323	-	-	-	-	2,553
Nebraska	5,492	-	619	87	-	-	290	-	46	-	-	-	546	9,122	16,201
Nevada	1,395	-	315	154	-	314	-	-	49	-	-	-	-	750	2,976
New Hampshire	1,930	-	329	-	$1,536	-	-	-	46	-	-	-	-	381	4,222
New Jersey	2,919	-	1,182	154	-	-	-	-	46	-	-	-	-	2,798	7,100
New Mexico	2,403	-	614	-	-	103	184	-	67	100	-	-	819	580	4,870
New York	9,101	-	3,512	87	-	-	-	1,005	85	2,821	-	-	-	1,008	17,619
North Carolina	12,569	5,318	2,794	957	-	103	-	450	102	931	-	1,256	-	-	24,482
North Dakota	3,716	-	424	-	-	208	-	-	46	-	-	-	1,365	-	5,759
Ohio	12,160	5,060	2,484	461	-	-	354	-	75	-	-	1,437	-	2,852	24,883
Oklahoma	6,220	3,267	1,267	461	-	208	-	477	79	-	-	1,091	273	719	14,062
Oregon	4,289	-	619	-	-	105	-	760	86	200	-	-	-	5,881	11,940
Pennsylvania	11,385	-	2,755	-	-	-	184	-	78	-	-	-	-	-	14,402
Puerto Rico	7,512	-	1,474	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	2,100	11,100
Rhode Island	1,223	-	390	87	-	-	-	-	46	-	-	-	-	-	1,747
South Carolina	6,197	2,740	1,739	-	-	-	183	-	84	-	350	1,009	-	144	12,447
South Dakota	3,885	-	469	174	-	104	184	-	46	155	-	-	819	-	5,836
Tennessee	9,409	4,460	2,191	-	-	-	184	-	86	3,177	-	1,219	-	750	21,475
Texas	14,562	7,362	4,814	241	-	-	184	-	109	446	-	1,756	-	10,682	40,155
Utah	1,996	-	422	-	-	-	318	-	50	-	350	-	-	1,114	4,250
Vermont	2,064	-	322	-	-	-	-	760	46	-	-	-	-	480	3,673
Virgin Islands	2,165	-	104	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	2,282
Virginia	7,928	3,706	1,900	-	-	-	183	-	97	110	-	1,139	-	1,760	16,824
Washington	4,762	-	823	-	-	207	-	-	81	2,396	-	-	273	2,171	10,712
West Virginia	4,520	2,100	1,146	-	-	-	-	150	69	296	344	925	-	748	10,299
Wisconsin	9,827	-	1,058	548	-	104	180	-	75	-	-	-	546	894	13,232
Wyoming	1,840	-	279	-	-	101	-	-	48	-	-	-	-	-	2,268
Micronesia	2,289	-	109	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	750	3,148
SBIR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
STTR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BRAG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fed Admin Direct	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,100
Fed Admin	9,262	2,880	599	329	64	160	200	429	160	737	173	1,919	447	5,865	23,225
Obligations	324,540	72,000	70,000	8,000	1,600	4,000	5,000	10,000	4,000	21,511	4,000	23,362	10,002	86,577	651,693

Note: Obligation Data include first time obligations processed during the reported fiscal year; it does not include prior year award adjustments nor administrative changes to an award like Principal Investigator transfers.

Table NIFA-10. Geographic Breakdown of 2024 Actual Obligations, Distribution of Federal Payments for Integrated at State Agriculture Experiment Stations & Other State Institutions (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/ Country	Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative (Formerly Homeland Security)	Methyl Bromide	Organic Transition - Risk Assessment	Crop Protection / Pest Management	Regional Rural Development Centers	Specialty Crop Research Initiative	Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program	Organic Agricultural Research and Ext Initiative	Urban, Indoor & Other Emerging Ag. Production (Urban Ag)	Total Federal Funds
Alabama	-	-	-	$205	-	-	-	$75	-	$280
Alaska	-	-	-	110	-	-	-	-	-	110
American Samoa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arizona	-	-	-	284	-	-	-	-	-	284
Arkansas	-	-	-	224	-	$7,100	-	-	-	7,324
California	$832	-	-	1,610	-	-	-	75	-	2,517
Colorado	-	-	-	455	-	-	-	-	-	455
Connecticut	-	-	$463	217	-	-	-	3,300	$797	4,777
Delaware	-	-	-	219	-	-	-	-	50	269
District of Columbia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	706	-	706
Florida	661	-	-	342	-	8,680	-	7,495	50	17,228
Georgia	250	-	-	565	-	-	-	-	-	815
Guam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hawaii	-	-	-	428	-	-	-	-	-	428
Idaho	-	-	-	236	$617	-	-	-	-	853
Illinois	-	-	-	210	-	-	-	969	25	1,204
Indiana	309	-	999	472	617	-	-	3,500	-	5,897
Iowa	250	-	-	1,335	-	-	-	-	-	1,585
Kansas	812	$624	-	206	-	50	-	-	-	1,691
Kentucky	250	-	-	238	-	-	-	-	-	488
Louisiana	250	-	-	281	-	3,996	-	-	-	4,528
Maine	560	-	-	236	-	-	-	131	-	927
Maryland	-	-	-	656	-	-	-	-	781	1,436
Massachusetts	-	-	-	564	-	-	-	-	-	564
Michigan	608	-	1,000	901	-	-	-	-	-	2,509
Minnesota	250	-	-	240	-	2,639	-	4,180	-	7,309
Mississippi	-	630	-	255	617	-	$1,344	-	-	2,846
Missouri	634	-	-	176	-	-	-	-	-	810
Montana	-	-	224	225	-	-	-	-	-	449
N. Mariana Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nebraska	250	-	-	282	-	-	-	-	-	532
Nevada	-	-	-	221	-	-	-	-	-	221
New Hampshire	-	-	-	125	-	-	-	-	-	125
New Jersey	-	-	-	387	-	-	-	-	-	387
New Mexico	-	-	-	180	-	2,018	-	-	-	2,198
New York	250	-	-	1,288	-	4,046	-	3,500	25	9,110
North Carolina	250	-	1,000	1,375	-	17,243	-	150	-	20,018
North Dakota	-	-	-	221	-	-	-	-	-	221
Ohio	250	-	-	230	-	-	-	-	50	530
Oklahoma	-	-	-	166	-	50	-	-	-	216
Oregon	-	-	-	598	-	-	-	-	50	648
Pennsylvania	-	-	1,310	421	617	-	-	1,933	-	4,280

State/Territory/ Country	Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative (Formerly Homeland Security)	Methyl Bromide	Organic Transition - Risk Assessment	Crop Protection / Pest Management	Regional Rural Development Centers	Specialty Crop Research Initiative	Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program	Organic Agricultural Research and Ext Initiative	Urban, Indoor & Other Emerging Ag. Production (Urban Ag)	Total Federal Funds
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	143	-	-	-	-	-	143
Rhode Island	-	-	-	129	-	-	-	-	25	154
South Carolina	-	-	-	227	-	-	-	2,000	-	2,227
South Dakota	250	-	-	210	-	-	-	-	-	460
Tennessee	-	-	1,000	534	-	50	-	5,500	-	7,084
Texas	250	-	-	223	-	6,439	-	-	-	6,912
Utah	-	-	-	241	-	-	-	2,857	-	3,098
Vermont	-	-	-	523	-	-	-	-	-	523
Virgin Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia	-	-	-	273	-	-	-	1,000	-	1,273
Washington	250	607	-	571	-	18,157	-	6,868	-	26,452
West Virginia	-	-	-	55	-	-	-	-	-	55
Wisconsin	250	-	997	273	-	-	-	-	-	1,520
Wyoming	-	-	-	126	-	-	-	-	-	126
Micronesia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SBIR	-	42	148	156	23	1,181	-	759	50	2,359
STTR	-	6	21	23	3	404	-	110	-	568
BRAG	-	3	18	5	-	241	-	111	-	377
Fed Admin	320	89	320	902	105	(0)	-	1,932	81	3,749
Obligations	7,986	2,000	7,500	21,000	2,600	72,294	1,344	47,150	1,984	163,857

Note: Obligation Data include first time obligations processed during the reported fiscal year; it does not include prior year award adjustments nor administrative changes to an award like Principal Investigator transfers.

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table NIFA-11. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	$2,898	$3,417	$4,813	$4,091
	Personnel Compensation, Field	33,499	42,753	42,769	36,352
11	Total personnel compensation	36,397	46,170	47,582	40,443
12	Personal benefits	14,511	16,932	17,450	14,833
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	11	5	5	5
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	50,920	63,107	65,037	55,281
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	1,307	1,404	1,606	1,048
22.0	Transportation of things	9	5	12	8
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	1,042	1,754	1,801	1,828
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges	488	494	491	496
24.0	Printing and reproduction	47	3	37	24
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	5,086	6,364	6,679	5,663
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	30,639	31,947	32,574	22,852
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal resources	3,025	2,661	2,843	2,843
25.5	Research and development contracts	1,437	1,712	1,574	1,198
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	268	234	251	245
26.0	Supplies and materials	125	183	178	16
31.0	Equipment	29	-	13	9
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	2,328,602	1,913,353	2,120,422	1,161,741
	Total, Other Objects	2,372,104	1,960,114	2,168,481	1,197,971
99.9	Total, new obligations	2,423,023	2,023,221	2,233,518	1,253,252
	DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3)	$1,173	$33	$30	$31
	Information Technology Investments:				
	Mission Area Non-Major Investment Totals	21,487	17,773	24,330	23,896
25.3	Mission Area WCF Transfers	3,342	3,403	3,497	3,489
	Total Non-Major Investment	24,829	21,176	27,828	27,385
	Total IT Investments	24,829	21,176	27,828	27,385
	Cybersecurity				
	Identify	$741	$887	$838	$863
	Protect	1,491	1,804	1,694	1,745
	Recover	115	139	130	134
	Total Cybersecurity	2,347	2,830	2,662	2,742
	Position Data*:				
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position	$190,500	$248,387	$246,017	$246,017
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position	$115,003	$126,113	$163,921	$163,921
	Average Grade, GS Position	12.3	12.4	12.6	12.6

Note: Position Data for 2024-2026 is inclusive of NIFA workforce only and does not include Agricultural Research Service Administrative and Financial Management support. This table assumes a reduced 2026 FTE baseline due to 2025 voluntary staff separations and administrative cost efficiencies.

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

Current Activities

Selected Examples of Recent Progress

Institute of Food Production and Sustainability

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) is the premier competitive grants program for agricultural sciences in the United States, administered by NIFA. It funds research, education and Extension projects aimed at enhancing rural economies, increasing food production, stimulating the bioeconomy, addressing climate variability, ensuring food safety and training the next generation of agricultural professionals. With the global population projected to reach 10 billion by 2050, AFRI plays a critical role in meeting the challenges posed by diminishing land and water resources and changing climatic conditions. The initiative also fosters the development of technologies and a skilled workforce that contribute to national security, energy self-sufficiency, and public health.

In 2024, NIFA released three AFRI Requests for Applications (RFA) with approximately 50 program area priorities. These were the Foundational and Applied Science RFA, the Sustainable Agriculture Systems RFA and the Education and Workforce Development RFA. In response to these three RFAs, NIFA received more than 3,900 proposals and anticipates awarding approximately 600 grants totaling approximately $407 million.

Examples of funded research include:

- Resistance Breaking Strains of Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus: Gaining Insights into the Molecular Basis of Host-Virus Interactions (2024-67013-43201). This award to Washington State University is to study one of the most economically important diseases of tomatoes. Using basic molecular approaches, the investigators will identify tomato host factors that regulate viral infection to confer resistance against tomato spotted wilt virus.
- Sustainable Wood to Fuel and Fish Feed (SWF3) for Strengthening the U.S. Bioeconomy (2024-69012-41754). This award to the University of Maine will advance technologies that co-produce fish feed ingredients and sustainable aviation fuel from low grade woody biomass. An overarching goal of this project is to provide forest owners with additional income streams while also incentivizing sustainable forest management and improving forest health.

National Research Artificial Intelligence Institutes

NIFA allocated $100 million for the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Institutes program; funding was provided for five institutes at $20 million each beginning in 2020. This is a National Science Foundation program, in collaboration with NIFA.

Examples of funded projects include:

- AgAID (Washington State University) - The Institute for Agricultural AI for Transforming Workforce and Decision Support integrates AI methods into a variety of agriculture operations for specialty crops, including water availability prediction, decision support for farm operations and robotics-enabled agriculture.
- AIFarms (University of Illinois) - The Artificial Intelligence for Future Agricultural Resilience, Management, and Sustainability Institute brings together researchers in artificial intelligence and agriculture, combining their expertise to promote advances in agriculture through AI. The mission is to use core AI research areas such as computer vision, machine learning, data science, soft object manipulation, and intuitive human-robot interaction, to address major challenges in agriculture such as labor shortages with autonomy, advance welfare in animal agriculture and enhance environmental resilience of crops, safeguarding soil health.

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program

The Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) provides up to $75,000 in loan repayment over a three-year period to help eligible veterinarians offset a significant portion of the debt incurred in pursuit of their veterinary medical degrees in return for their service in certain high-priority veterinary shortage situations. There is a critical shortage of food animal veterinarians in both private and public practice, particularly in rural communities, in the United States and insular areas. Food animal producers rely on veterinarians with expertise in food animal medicine and surgery as well as advanced training in herd health, diagnostic medicine, epidemiology, public health and food safety.

Examples of funded projects include:

- In 2024, state and federal animal health officials nominated 240 food animal veterinarian shortage situation areas in private and public practice. The program received 167 applications from veterinarians to fill these shortages and made 115 awards, a 30% increase over the number of awards in 2023. Of the 115 awardees, 14 serve in public practice and 101 in private practice, representing a $11.3 million investment to support food animal veterinary practitioners.
- In 2024 VMLRP's sister program, the Veterinary Services Grant Program (VSGP), received 78 applications for rural veterinary practice support and for education and training for food animal veterinarians and veterinary technicians. VSGP awarded 25 projects, 19 for rural practice and six for education and training. One of the rural practice awards was to a large animal clinic in Kentucky to enhance services to beef, dairy, small ruminants, poultry, cervid and swine clients. This award will also fund the establishment of a summer internship program for junior and senior high school students who are interested in careers in food animal veterinary medicine. Through support of another VSGP grant, Hereford Vet Clinic in Texas has contracted to provide clinical training for food animal medicine to 4th year veterinary students at Texas Tech University's School of Veterinary Medicine, beginning in June of 2024. To provide world-class training to these students, Hereford Vet is investing approximately $6 million in a new veterinary hospital to handle the necessary case load. The proximity of this hospital to approximately 900,000 head of feeder cattle, allows a perfect opportunity for the clinic to offer a much wider range of services to these feedlots while giving these students the chance to work on these cases.

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program is to encourage research and outreach designed to increase knowledge concerning agricultural production systems that:

- Maintain and enhance the quality and productivity of the soil.
- Conserve soil, water, energy, natural resources, and fish and wildlife habitat.
- Maintain and enhance the quality of surface and ground water.
- Protect the health and safety of people involved in the food and farm system.
- Promote the well-being of animals.
- Increase employment opportunities in agriculture (7 U.S.C. 5801 and 5811).

Examples of funded projects include:

- Potter Valley Tribe's Native Mushroom Cultivation from Waste Byproduct Substrate for Food Sovereignty—Potter Valley Tribe. Food sovereignty is crucial to sustaining the cultures, economies, community health, food security and identities of Native American peoples across the nation. While food programs focused on traditional foods and native plants have sprouted up on tribal lands, mushroom production is uncommon. The Potter Valley Tribe, descendants of the Northern Pomo people, cultivates a small variety of mushroom species on their land in Fort Bragg, Calif. They've implemented a closed-loop production system that allows them to increase the kinds of mushrooms they grow using waste substrates produced by local businesses, like spent coffee grounds, hardwood sawdust, spent brewer's grain and cannabis

stalks. After constructing a cultivation lab, they stopped outsourcing mushroom spawn by producing their own on site, with the goal of selling mushrooms and subsequent products at farmers markets and co-ops. Supported by a Western SARE Research to Grassroots grant, this project expanded current production by growing different mushrooms known for their medicinal and culinary uses. They carefully documented the cultivation process from collection, to inoculation, to harvest. Mushrooms and mushroom medicine products were then given to tribal members. Educational materials were created to teach tribal youth and other regional tribes how to generate income by growing their own mushrooms using sustainable practices and recycled waste materials. The project team collaborated with eight regional tribes for mushroom workshops, cooking demonstrations and mushroom gathering with youth.

Urban, Indoor & Other Emerging Ag. Production (Urban Ag)

The Urban, Indoor, and other Emerging Agricultural Production Research, Education, and Extension Initiative (UIE) is a NIFA competitive grant program to support research, education and extension activities that facilitate development of urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production systems. The UIE emphasizes activities on several segments of the value chain, including production, harvesting, transportation aggregation, packaging, distribution, and marketing needs. Many challenges face farmers who live and operate in and around urban centers.

Key accomplishments of the program include a University of Alabama that developed the local food value chain in Birmingham, Al. In a story by the local ABC news affiliate, residents noted how the project has improved their lives, increasing access to fresh produce in food deserts. Another project that had significant impacts is "Circular Soil for City Spaces: Advancing the Circular Bionutrient Economy to Support Urban and Peri-urban Gardeners", led by Cornell University. This project focuses on recycling liquid waste as fertilizer and was featured in the Cornell Chronicle. Outputs include a microchip sensor system and online interface that allow growers to incorporate liquid waste into compost, saving growers money and supporting sustainability. to incorporate liquid waste into compost, saving growers money and supporting sustainability.

Examples of funded projects include:

- Indoor Sustainable Urban Robotic Farming (ISURF) for Discovery, and Experiential Learning (DEL) in STEM. The University of Maryland Eastern Shore project focuses on integrating robotic farming technologies (FarmBots) in research and education. Specifically, the project examines the impacts of horticultural, social and economic factors contributing to successful urban, indoor, sustainable agricultural production systems with emerging technology. For example, they will evaluate the impacts of harvested rainwater and growth-promoting substances on beets, carrots and spinach. They will also quantify the impacts of education and training on indoor robotic agriculture for Black, Indigenous, and/or People Of Color (BIPOC) farmers, educators, youth and the Rappahannock Tribe of Virginia.
- Expanding Connecticut Urban Agriculture through Vacant Lot Activation and Peri Urban Farmland Access Linking. This project, led by the University of Connecticut, connects existing and aspiring urban farmers with underutilized lands so that they can launch and/or expand their farming business. The project objectives include:
    - Conducting research into the land-related needs of urban farmers and identify the characteristics of vacant urban and peri-urban lots that will make them suitable for agricultural use in collaboration with urban farmers, community organizations and Councils of Government (COGs).
    - Utilizing the research results to identify potential farm parcels through geospatial analysis and community input in select municipalities and land trust organizations.
    - Identifying additional parcels on state managed public lands that meet the research criteria in the targeted region.
    - Providing training to urban and peri-urban land use officials on best practices for farmland leasing and associated zoning policies,

Connecting urban farmers with identified land opportunities and assist with securing an agriculture-friendly farm lease.

Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) is the nation's first federal nutrition education program for low-income populations, established in 1969. Through nutrition and physical activity education, EFNEP works to change health behaviors with efforts reaching all 50 states, six U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. Roughly 75 percent of adult participants are at or below the federal poverty line, and more than 70 percent of adult participants are people of color and/or of Hispanic ethnicity. Annually, more than 95 percent of adults and 85 percent of youths report improved behavior. Last year, 94 percent of adults improved their diet, including consuming additional fruits and vegetables, with program graduates reporting collective food cost savings of $764,072.

Additionally, EFNEP provided employment to 1,155 peer educators who are members of the communities they serve. Last year, EFNEP educators worked directly with 54,665 adults and 220,181 youths. The program reached an additional 147,220 family members indirectly, as changes participants make can benefit the whole family. EFNEP educators tailored lessons on diet quality and physical activity, food resource management, food safety, and food and nutrition security to meet the specific needs of their respective program participants.

Examples of funded projects include:

- By targeting both adult and youth audiences, the impact of EFNEP can be felt across the lifespan. For example, a mother with heart disease, diabetes, and obesity had been advised many times by her doctors that she needed to make lifestyle changes that included healthy eating habits and physical activity. Despite her doctors' advice, the changes she needed to make "never really clicked" until she participated in the hands-on demonstration and activities facilitated by EFNEP's peer educator. Seeing the correct portion sizes and the actual teaspoons of salt and sugar in the food and drinks she was consuming opened her eyes to her eating habits, and she began to make changes. In addition to improving her own lifestyle habits, she also influenced her mother and daughter by preparing easy, healthy recipes and sharing about healthier eating habits and physical activity that she learned in EFNEP.

- In an example of youth-based impact, more than 140 third-grade students who participated in EFNEP's Choose Health: Food, Fun, and Fitness classes learned to choose healthy snacks, read nutrition facts labels, develop healthy eating habits, increase physical activity, practice safe food handling, and prepare healthy dishes. Some children felt they were not given the option to choose their own foods. They learned how to make healthier choices even when eating out at fast food places. As the students encouraged their parents to make more healthy meals at home, parents began posting on the school's social media page pictures of the meals that their families had prepared together using the recipes the students were given in class. These children were positively impacting the health of their entire family.

- Being nimble, flexible, current, and accurate are essential to EFNEP's ability to meet program participants where they are at and help them achieve desired changes in their lives. In February 2024, NIFA held a national listening session to learn what was important to those responsible for EFNEP across the nation. More than 350 individuals attended in person or online, representing all 50 states, six U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. Themes that emerged are being reviewed for actions that NIFA can take to strengthen the program. In November 2024, NIFA held a live virtual recognition event which honored all university and local staff responsible for EFNEP at state and county levels and highlighted their influence in changing participants' lives. More than 1,000 front-line peer educators were invited. Some universities also held local wrap-around events honoring their front-line staff – individuals who often come from the low-income, vulnerable populations that they serve.

Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (formerly Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive)

The Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP) is a collection of three competitive grant programs that bring together stakeholders from various parts of the food and healthcare systems. The Nutrition Incentive Program (NI) supports projects that aim to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables among consumers participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) block grants by providing incentives at the point of purchase. NI projects reached an estimated average of 235,000 participants each month. The Produce Prescription Program (PPR) provides competitive grants to projects which partner with healthcare providers to implement and evaluate projects aiming to reduce individual and household food insecurity, improve dietary health, and reduce healthcare use and costs by providing prescriptions for fresh fruits and vegetables. PPR projects enrolled an average of more than 1,800 participants each month. The Nutrition Incentive Program Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation, and Information Centers (NTAE) provides support and resources to applicants and grantees, as well as collecting and aggregates standardized outcome data sets from grantees to inform best practices. Annual impact findings consistently show participating in NI and PPR projects results in higher fruit and vegetable intake and improved food security. Altogether, NI and PPR participants redeemed $52.1 million worth of incentives. This generated $107.4 million impact for local communities, demonstrating a significant return on investment from federal funding.

Examples of funded projects include:

- The Food Trust operates the GusNIP Nutrition Incentive Program Food Bucks project. This project provides fruit and vegetable incentives to SNAP shoppers in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. In Philadelphia, PA, there are 25 food outlets participating in Food Bucks, serving approximately 29,500 participants. At Fresh Grocer locations, distribution of fruit and vegetable incentives has been automated. Technology increased incentives issued tenfold.
- Alameda County's Recipe4Health is built on a "3 ingredient model": 1) A Food Farmacy, which offers weekly doorstep delivery of locally and regeneratively grown food that is nutrient dense and free of pesticides; 2) Group and individual health coaching; and, 3) Food as Medicine Training for health centers and staff on how to effectively treat, prevent and reverse chronic disease in 15-minute visits. The Recipe4Health's Food Farmacy is a 100-plus acre farm that is growing food regeneratively and organically for Food as Medicine clinics. The Recipe4Health Administrative and Training Hub provides the following:

    - A back-end mechanism for drawing down Medicaid funding through health plans to sustain Food as Medicine;
    - Training and implementation support with Federally Qualified Health Centers;
    - Behavioral Pharmacy: Nutrition coaching, behavioral coaching support paired with the food; and
    - Evaluation and data updates with Stanford School of Medicine/University of California, San Francisco.

Institute of Bioenergy, Climate, and Environment

McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act

The purpose of the McIntire-Stennis Capacity Grant is to increase forestry research in production, utilization, and protection of forestland; to train future forestry scientists; and to involve other disciplines in forestry research. The grant is used to assist all states in carrying out a program of state forestry research at state forestry schools and colleges and developing a trained pool of forest scientists capable of conducting needed forestry research. In 2024, more than 150 McIntire-Stennis projects were initiated across the United States and its insular areas across an estimated 40 subject areas, 30 fields of science, and 35 knowledge areas.

Examples of McIntire-Stennis funded research include:

- Wildland Fuels and Fire Management at the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) in Texas, Stephen F. Austin State University. East Texas contains rapidly changing fragmented forest communities that exhibit differing wildland fire conditions. This represents a potential danger to human lives and sustainable forest management activities. Understanding the causes for these differences is vital for protecting WUI communities and the economic success of forest management. A risk assessment index — based on vegetation type along with soil chemical properties — has assisted land managers in better understanding how these conditions can influence management, thus reducing costs of fire protection and ensuring economic sustainability of these forests.

- Improving Decision-Making for Invasive Species Control in Central Hardwood Forests, Purdue University. Invasive plants in forests are creating significant economic, ecological, and social damages. It is vital to learn from the successes and failures of past invasive control efforts to make informed decisions. Examining past activities assisted in constructing an economic and ecological model to better understand the impacts of past control and conservation programs. Land managers, landowners, and conservationists are using this toolbox to better use public funding for these activities.

- The Use of Riparian Buffer Best Management Practices to Reduce Thermal Stress on Trout Populations, Pennsylvania State University. Agricultural and forestry activities can have negative impacts on streams and riparian areas. The impact on the critical trout population in these systems has received almost no attention due to the lack of effective assessment tools. Work done by this research, in partnership with the PA Fish and Boat Commission and private landowners, has constructed an extensive database focusing on the chemical and stream composition that will support future management decisions.

Small Business Innovation Research

The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs offer competitively awarded grants to qualified small businesses to support high quality research related to important scientific problems and opportunities in agriculture that could lead to significant public benefits.

The USDA SBIR/STTR programs seek to:

- Stimulate technological innovation in the private sector.
- Strengthening the role of small businesses in meeting Federal research and development needs.
- Increase private sector commercialization of innovations derived from USDA-supported research and development efforts.

The USDA SBIR/STTR programs recognize that small businesses are often the driver of both innovation as well as industry and sector disruption. In this spirit, NIFA welcomes high risk-high reward proposals.

In 2023, USDA invested over $12.5 million in SBIR/STTR awards. The Phase I awards support 76 small businesses conducting high-quality research that addresses critical scientific challenges and opportunities in agriculture.

Examples of funded projects include:

- SBIR funding enabled Green Technologies LLC, developer and manufacturer of USDA Certified Biobased GreenEdge fertilizers, to be named one of America's Top 100 Small Businesses by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. This prestigious acknowledgement highlights the grantee's commitment to innovation and commercialization of sustainable products for plant nutrition and soil health. SBIR support was instrumental in driving the grantee's research, innovation,

and commercialization efforts, allowing development of cutting-edge solutions that address pressing agricultural and environmental challenges. Consumers in the U.S. can find GreenEdge products at Home Depot, Amazon, and ACE Hardware.

- Whole Trees is a woman-owned B-Corp that has leveraged SBIR funding to invest in 3D scanning technology and inventory platforms to streamline the use of Structural Round Timber (SRT) in architectural design. As a result, Whole Trees' unmilled timber products have been used in place of traditional concrete or steel in award-winning, high design architectural projects like Festival Foods Grocery Store and the Children's Museum of Eau Claire (CMEC). The CMEC has been praised for bringing biophilic and sustainable design to a smaller community and incorporating locally sourced materials.

Institute of Youth, Family, and Community

Research at 1890 Institutions (Evans-Allen Program)

Through the Evans-Allen Program, NIFA approved 316 projects in 2023 and 332 in 2024, significantly advancing agricultural research and achieving numerous accomplishments. These projects boosted rural economies by improving agricultural practices and increasing food production through innovative research. The initiatives also advanced the bioeconomy with cutting-edge research, developed strategies to mitigate climate variability, and addressed critical water availability issues. Ensuring food safety and security, the program's research efforts enhanced human nutrition and trained the next generation of the agricultural workforce. Additionally, the program achieved scientific breakthroughs benefiting local communities across the Southern region and the Nation, demonstrating its substantial impact on advancing food and agricultural sciences.

Examples of funded research include:

- Smart Ultraviolet (UV) Light-emitting Diode System for Controlling Chemical and Biological Contaminants in Foods and Food Contact Surfaces (Tennessee State University). The project seeks to advance ultraviolet light technology for food and non-food applications. UV-C irradiation may be an eco-friendly alternative to thermal/chemical treatment for sanitizing liquid foods (e.g., plant-based milk, dairy milk) and food contact surfaces. Low-pressure mercury lamps (254 nm) are common, but UV LEDs are weaker.

  The project engages a diverse group of stakeholders, including reactor manufacturers, regulatory bodies, food companies, academics, and students. Its core achievement is advancing knowledge on UV-C's effectiveness in inactivating bacteria and spores. Comprehensive pilot studies with industry partners included educating and training employees on safe technology use. Future advancements hinge on controlling factors like UV sensitivity. The project pioneers assessing high-intensity UV-C LED light and low-pressure lamps against biofilm-forming bacteria, with findings aiding the development of advanced UV-based products by stakeholders.

  Three cases were studied:

  - Disinfection of stainless-steel surfaces with Listeria monocytogenes, *Escherichia coli*, and *Salmonella Typhimurium* was tested with UV-C LEDs. UV-C LEDs reduced microbial loads, with *E. coli* being least sensitive and Listeria initially resistant but significantly reduced at higher doses.
  - S. Typhimurium, *E. coli* O157:H7, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, and T1UV were inactivated (over 4 log reductions) in almond milk using a Dean Flow system with UV-C light. UV-C could make plant-based milks safe and commercialize them, according to the study.
  - UV-C irradiation inactivated *Coxiella burnetii* in skim milk. The study compared UV-C treatment to traditional pasteurization and suggested serotypes of salmonella italics for pilot-scale studies, demonstrating UV-C's non-thermal pasteurization potential.

- "Alternative Poultry Production: A Sustainable Integrative Poultry Production Model for Small Scale Farmers" (Tuskegee University). The poultry industry in the U.S., notably Alabama, heavily relies on intensive indoor production systems but is seeing rapid growth in alternative methods such as pastured, organic, and free-range systems. These versatile, cost-effective methods enhance agricultural sustainability and reduce parasites. This project evaluated the efficiency and performance of these systems. Cool and warm season forages were established for co-grazing chickens and goats, with soil and forage samples collected at various intervals to assess nutrient quality. Researchers evaluated performance of broiler chickens raised on pasture versus indoors through weekly weight checks, organ measurements, and stress levels. They monitored layer chickens' productivity through egg measurements and feed intake. The project demonstrated that co-grazing chickens with livestock reduced gastrointestinal nematodes in goats. Fecal egg count (FEC) was used to measure parasite load, with goats inoculated if initial FEC was too low. Three treatments were applied: untreated goats co-grazed with chickens, goats given anthelmintic, and untreated goats rotated on pasture, with evaluations conducted biweekly.
    - Issue Addressed: Successfully addressed the rising demand for pasture-raised chicken meat and eggs by researching and disseminating best practices for quality production to producers and consumers, focusing on forage quality and bird management for both broiler and layer chickens.
    - Major Activities and Goals: Achieved significant progress by investigating the impact of pastured poultry systems on performance, welfare, and product quality, integrating this system with other farm enterprises, and demonstrating co-grazing benefits with small ruminants in parasite control. Statistically analyzed collected research data and conducted experiments on cool and warm season forages.
    - Target Audience Benefits: Provided extensive training and professional development opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and agricultural Extension personnel. The project facilitated the dissemination of practical techniques and results, enhancing knowledge and practices among poultry and goat producers, researchers, students, and industry stakeholders.

Payments to 1994 Institutions (Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants)

The Tribal College Education Equity Grants (TCEG) program focuses on development of culturally responsive students and faculty who use students' backgrounds and identities to create a dynamic and engaging learning environment. The purpose is to prepare students for roles in Tribal leadership, traditional knowledge, and other qualities of one's culture that are necessary to prepare students for agricultural and related careers in the private sector, for work with Tribal and non-Tribal government, and in academia. TCEG teaching applications must demonstrably incorporate a Tribal leadership development component to equip students with technical and leadership abilities upon graduation.

Examples of funded projects include:

- Native Food Pathways: Equity Program. This four-year award that started in 2022 and is now in the third year has awarded $562,856 to the Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College (KBOCC) to strengthen the Equity Program by increasing student educational courses related to topics of traditional foods, science, and agriculture that are cultivated with Indigenous knowledge and Ojibwa culture. The program will also provide students with an equitable learning environment and offer experiential learning opportunities. The goal of this project was to increase the number of Native Americans pursuing secondary education in topics of food, science, and agriculture. This program has developed two continuing education units that totaled approximately 50 individuals. The students worked with Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Natural Resources Department Wildlife Section and the KBOCC Staff. A Land Grant Assistant position was hired with these funds and textbooks were provided in biology, dendrology, earth science, and local and native cuisine.
- Native Path Educational Model- Coursework Incorporating Native Relevance and Increasing Science Literacy. The Native Path Educational Model project includes opportunities for Tribal

students to experience and explore fields of sciences with curriculum incorporating Native relevance and increased laboratory experiences. The goal of this project is to include the infusion of Native relevance into science curriculums, increase student science literacy, increase recruitment and retention, and increase incorporation of GIS technology in course work. There are four main objectives included in this project:

- Increase the enrollment in business, entrepreneur, science, nutrition, and Native American-related programming to increase sustainable rural economies and healthy living
- Expansion of retention counseling for NIICC students enrolled
- Incorporation of experiential learning and new technologies
- Increased awareness and solicitation of stakeholder input by monthly reports from the entrepreneur, business, and math/science instructor, monthly reports to academic council, and an end of semester focus group with relevant students.

Graduates were awarded degrees in the following fields: 5 diplomas in business, 5 diplomas in early childhood education, 9 diplomas in general liberal arts, and 5 diplomas in general science studies.

Education Grants for Hispanic-Serving Institutions

The Hispanic-serving Institutions (HSI) Education Grants Program seeks to promote and strengthen the ability of Hispanic-serving Institutions to carry out higher education programs in the food and agricultural sciences. Projects funded by this program attract and support undergraduate and graduate students from underserved groups to prepare them for careers related to the food, agricultural, natural resources, and human systems and sciences in the United States; enhance the quality of postsecondary instruction within the above disciplines; provide opportunities and access to food and agricultural careers in the public, nonprofit and private sectors, and/or align the efforts of HSIs and other nonprofit organizations to support academic development and career attainment of underserved groups. This investment supports academic development and career attainment of underserved students. The program is competitive and open to over 600 institutions in 28 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Together, these institutions serve over 5.2 million students.

Examples of funded projects include:

- A project in Texas entitled "BE AWARE" 2 aims to continue and expand their traineeship model to a greater recruiting scale by: offering a modular education model that includes courses/certificates/projects in Internet of Things (IoT) security, data science, machine learning, and artificial intelligence for the optimization and design of agricultural systems; providing all students with the opportunity to get access to instructional materials (including a cyberinfrastructure platform) and multiple certificates; adding new HSI partners; expanding USDA partners for summer internships; and leveraging USDA-HSI funds with external funding mechanisms for a sustainable program. Major project objectives are to attract, recruit, and retain fellows. Recruitment activities will be leveraged with existing programs and institutional resources at the participant institutions. A fellowship program was established at each HSI participating to select qualified students. Other objectives include: implementing the career-oriented BE AWARE 2 education model; developing a USDA-career oriented adaptive mentorship/education program, where students are exposed early in their studies to basic and applied research aligned to NIFA priority areas and guided throughout their studies to be USDA career-ready at graduation; and establish an experiential learning program with USDA ARS/FS labs. Students will be provided with summer internships at USDA laboratories. Moreover, USDA Career seminars will also be organized to inform students about USDA career opportunities. Students will be able to take forefront technical courses on machine learning, data analytics, and IoT cybersecurity to furnish students with differentiating credentials.
- The Citrus Greening CURES project in Florida provides a pathway to increase the overall success and retention of students in the Indian River State College (IRSC) biology program at both the associate's and baccalaureate levels by providing experiential learning-based research experiences as part of students' courses. IRSC supports a diverse community of

students. Degree completion represents a major hurdle for underrepresented minorities in the agricultural sciences. The project builds on a trend in biological science education which introduces students early in their academics to real-world research to help develop scientific thinking while teaching them practical skills. This early exposure to research has been shown to increase students' interest in science and their persistence in science programs. However, challenges in developing, instructing and funding research experiences for a large group of inexperienced students often prevent these activities from being offered. The Citrus Greening CURES project also works to provide research experiences to over 460 students at the associate's and baccalaureate level to provide a pathway to increase success, retention, and completion. This is done by building on a partnership between IRSC and Boyce Thompson Institute that provides students the opportunity to conduct research on the Asian Citrus Psyllid genome. This research is scalable to different educational levels and is less expensive than lab-based projects. Students will be using bioinformatics, which is the use of computers to study DNA sequences, genes, proteins and genomes, to help provide scientists with a better understanding of the biology of the insect that spreads the devastating citrus greening disease. Through this work, students will be able to make scientific contributions while learning the foundational concepts in biology that will complement their coursework and support their educational progress. The first goal of the project will be to increase students' success at the associate degree level. A course-based undergraduate research experience (CURE) will be designed to be completed by 320 students in an introductory biology course. The CURE will introduce students to important concepts in molecular biology as they explore the genome of an important agricultural vector.

Education Grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions

The purpose of the Alaska Native-serving and Native Hawaiian-serving Institutions program is to promote and strengthen the ability of Alaska Native-serving Institutions and Native Hawaiian-serving Institutions to carry out education, applied research, and related community development programs.

Examples of funded projects include:

- GoFarm Hawaii: Enhancing Hawaii's Agricultural Workforce. In 2023, GoFarm Hawaii (GFH) at the University of Hawaii at Manoa received a grant to develop and support commercial farmers who are well prepared to meet production and business challenges and immediately contribute to the state's food sustainability goals. GoFarm Hawaii has hosted events to reach newcomers to farming while teaching more in-depth content at multiday workshops and schools. Additionally, Extension professionals conducted more than 60 one-on-one business consulting sessions to support existing farming operations and taught sessions on topics including on-farm scaling and value-added product development. More than 40 GFH graduates began farming commercially, while other graduates are working for others in farming or supporting the food system. This grant strengthens the institution's educational capacities by offering noncredit pathways that combine practical technical knowledge and skills with business and financial training. GFH will improve and expand agricultural education and support targeted to adult learners across the state who want to become farm entrepreneurs or obtain employment in the local food system.
- Drumbeats Alaska: Place-Based Solutions for Alaska Native Food & Energy Sovereignty 2023-26. This grant is building capacity amongst the five rural campuses of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks (UAF) that serve 166 Native Alaskan communities. The grant focuses on food and energy sovereignty and educational equity through programs providing relevant, experiential learning to underrepresented Alaska Native students, increasing UAF's capacity to design and deliver curricula, inclusive of traditional knowledge bearers and community leaders, through innovative instructional delivery systems in ethnobotany, high latitude range management, Tribal governance and stewardship, sustainable energy, food security and sovereignty, and Alaska gardens.

Research Grants for 1994 Institutions (Tribal Colleges)

The Tribal College Research Grant Program helps 1994 Land-grant Colleges become centers of scientific inquiry and learning for remote and rural Tribal communities. The 1994 Land-grant schools often serve as the primary institution of scientific inquiry, knowledge, and learning for reservation communities. This funding allows Tribes to address the questions that matter to these communities such as protecting reservation forests or monitoring water quality. Projects may help a Tribe improve bison herd productivity or discover whether traditional plants can play a role in managing diabetes or controlling invasive species.

Examples of funded research include:

- Using Molecular Methods to Determine the Role of Phytoplankton in West Coast Shellfish Die-Offs. In 2023, Northwest Indian College was awarded a two-year $500,000 grant through the Tribal Colleges Research Program. The goal of this project was to identify the cause of the decrease in shellfish from the coasts of California to the State of Washington. This project used molecular methods to identify and quantify phytoplankton, called dinoflagellates, that produce yessotoxin (YTX). This project aimed to use a suite of molecular techniques to identify toxic YTX-producing algae in marine waters and in shellfish and determine the concentration of YTX in samples from the Salish Sea, WA, as well as locations in California. This research helped to enhance the capacity to use genomic tools for monitoring phytoplankton and identify safe times to harvest shellfish. This project supports Tribal interests in safe seafood harvesting.
- Exploring Cover Crops to Improve Soil Properties and Vegetable Production for the Red Lake Nation. In 2023, Red Lake Nation College was awarded a two-year grant through the Tribal Colleges Research Program. The goal of this project was to develop a model to include soil-improving cover crops in vegetable rotations for the Red Lake Nation in northern Minnesota. The project's focus is to assess several best-bet legume species/mixes for soil-improving contributions and impacts on vegetable production. This project was awarded $220,000 and is one of the first research projects ever funded at Red Lake Nation College.

New Beginning for Tribal Students

The purpose of the New Beginning for Tribal Students (NBTS) grant program is to increase the retention and graduation rate of Tribal students attending 1994, 1862, and 1890 Land-grant Universities. The primary goals and objectives of the program are for Land-grant Colleges or Universities to use NBTS funding to support Tribal students through all, but not limited to, the following: recruiting; tuition and related fees; experiential learning; student services, including tutoring; counseling; academic advising; and other student services that would increase the retention and graduation rate of Tribal students enrolled at Land-grant Colleges or Universities.

Examples of funded research include:

- Alliance for Success: Remapping Tribal Higher Education to Prepare Food Industry Leaders. The bond between the land and Native tribes of Oklahoma carries tradition and hope for the future. Through the New Beginning for Tribal Students project, a partnership between Oklahoma State University (OSU) and Pawnee Nation College (PNC), this hope is taking root. With USDA support, the program engages 15 students annually from 10 Tribes in north-central and eastern Oklahoma. Designed to increase Tribal student enrollment in two-year, four-year, and graduate programs, the initiative combines hands-on training in agriculture, food safety, and entrepreneurship. Students participate in an intensive summer session focused on greenhouse management, multispecies meat harvesting, and traditional food production. One Pawnee student has completed an M.S. at OSU, with three more graduate students (one M.S. and two Ph.D.) progressing toward their degrees. PNC's enrollment has grown by 27.58 percent, and many participants now pursue four-year degrees after completing their associate programs. Graduates are finding jobs in food production or launching businesses that celebrate their heritage, like producing traditional Pawnee corn and ceremonial foods. This program is more than education – it's a bridge connecting tradition, opportunity, and a brighter future for Tribal communities.

Grants for Insular Areas

Insular area Land-grant Institutions receive both capacity (formula) funds and competitive funds. Competitive grant programs for the insular areas include the Distance Education Grants, the Resident Instruction Grants, and the Agriculture and Food Sciences Facilities and Equipment Grants. The Distance Education and Resident Instruction grants programs are open to all institutions of higher education in the insular areas while the Agriculture and Food Sciences Facilities and Equipment Grants are open to Land-grant Institutions. These competitive grant programs seek to improve capacity of insular area institutions to teach and perform research in the food and agricultural sciences.

NIFA is committed to providing technical assistance and resources to insular area Land-grant Institutions to assist them with preparing competitive grant applications, managing competitive and capacity awards, complying with grant requirements, and submitting accurate and timely reports through REEport and ezFedGrants.

Examples of funded projects include:

- The Distance Education Grants program funded "Using Distance Education to Enhance Aquaponic Production in Puerto Rico's Model Forest" at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez. This project sought to train Extension agents and farmers and community members in aquaponic production. Recently, Puerto Rico has faced extreme weather with the aftermath of Hurricane Fiona and heatwaves in summer 2023. Realtime virtual communication, video-based reports, and the existence of a chat network between distance education hubs created via the grant allowed fast reporting and sharing of information within the network of Extension agents and community members to keep five aquaponics sites running and save hundreds of fish when island travel was difficult. Grant funds helped train eight Extension agents and 58 community members.
- The Resident Instruction Grants program funded "Building sustainable agriculture education systems in the Micronesian region for the next decade" at the University of Guam. This project focuses on increasing student experiential learning opportunities and strengthening connections between two insular institutions, the University of Guam (UOG) and College of Micronesia-FSM (COM) for enhancement of agriculture education. Students and faculty have been able to participate in experiential learning by participating in an exchange between the UOG and COM campuses and sharing information on agricultural practices on both islands as well as supporting student-led research projects. Faculty at both campuses were also able to discuss curriculum alignment to provide an easier pathway for students at the College of Micronesia to earn a bachelor's degree from UOG.

Research Facilities Act

Established in 2023, the Research Facilities Act Program (RFAP) aims to enhance institutional capacities at Land-grant Institutions by funding the acquisition and improvement of facilities and equipment, including libraries. RFAP has supported projects across 12 states, contributing to significant research advancements in areas, such as meat and poultry processing, horticulture, aquaculture, and cattle production. This program has played a crucial role in advancing food and agricultural sciences research and education nationwide.

Examples of funded projects include:

- Extrusion Facility Renovations to Advance Underutilized Crops in Mountain States. The Montana State University (MSU) project operates the MSU Extrusion Unit, the only pilot-scale food research extruder for the public in the Mountain states, providing critical regional technology for value-added innovations. To adhere to food safety and workspace safety codes and improve product quality, this project is focused on renovating the Unit. The renovation will reduce manual cleaning and maintenance time to increase annual extrusion project capacity, enable public product tasting, and speed up product development and commercialization. The renovation will enhance MSU's testing service capacity to sustain its long-term facility operations. The lack of value-added innovation infrastructure has led to the co-existence of

food production and food insecurity in many rural agricultural areas. This project engages underserved stakeholders in value-added innovation of underutilized crops. Such an effort can diversify cropping and localize food manufacturing, ultimately creating a more resilient food system. These outcomes align with the national research priorities in rural American productivity, rural economy and technology transfer, value-added new products, higher education in agriculture, nutritious and safe supply of foods, and international collaborations.

- Advancing Poultry Science: Establishing a State-of-the-Art Broiler Facility for Research, Education, and Industry Collaboration at Tennessee State University (TSU). This TSU project focuses on building a cutting-edge broiler house research facility that will support the College of Agriculture's research, education, Extension, and industry collaboration activities in the field of poultry production. It will enable a dedicated team of poultry and animal scientists and faculty members to conduct studies on various aspects of broiler genetics, nutrition, health, and management. The facility will incorporate all the industry standards for modern broiler houses and thus provide a controlled environment conducive to conducting experiments (particularly pen trials). The research outcomes will contribute to the advancement of knowledge in poultry science and the development of sustainable practices in broiler production. In addition to research, the facility will offer invaluable educational opportunities for students. Through hands-on training, students will gain practical experience in broiler production, management, and research techniques. This experiential learning will prepare them for careers in the poultry industry and other agricultural disciplines and equip them with the skills necessary to address 21st-century challenges. The facility will also provide opportunities to engage with poultry producers (both large- and small-scale), industry professionals, and government agencies to exchange knowledge, share best-management practices, and address industry needs.

Extension Services at 1890 Institutions

Extension Services at 1890 Institutions funded 181 programs in 2023 and 187 in 2024, significantly empowering agricultural and forestry Extension activities at 19 Historically Black Land-grant Universities (1890 LGUs). These efforts provided essential funding with matching non-Federal sources. The programs advanced the well-being of families, businesses, and communities through innovative Extension efforts, such as modernizing food systems, supporting local economies, and mentoring youths. Small to medium-sized farm families enhanced their marketing skills, allowing them to place products in various markets. Additionally, the programs supported farmers and landowners by providing training to acquire capital, adopt new technologies, and utilize estate planning and tax incentives, ensuring their operations' sustainability and growth.

Examples of funded projects include:

- Eliminating the Effects of Food Insecurities in Food Desert Areas through Youth Gardening (Southern University and A&M College). Food deserts, defined as areas lacking access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food, plagued many urban and rural neighborhoods, contributing to food insecurity. This Extension program project addressed these issues by developing youth gardens, educating the community on growing produce, and teaching sustainable gardening techniques. It aimed to increase agricultural knowledge, mental health awareness, leadership skills, and environmental stewardship among elementary and middle-school youths in food desert areas, benefiting both producers and consumers. The Extension program contributed to: Improved Access to Healthy Foods: addressed food deserts in Louisiana by developing community gardens, increasing awareness, and strengthening partnerships between local nonprofits and schools; Youth Agricultural Education: exposed youths to agricultural practices, enhancing their connection to agriculture, food, health, and the environment through hands-on gardening lessons; Promoted Environmental Stewardship: fostered sustainable agricultural practices among youths, improving their skills in areas like seed saving, organic gardening, pest management, and more; Community Engagement and Mental Health: encouraged intergenerational connections and active meditation through garden activities, enhancing youths' mental health and academic skills; and Outreach and

Volunteerism: expanded audience reach via partnerships with Louisiana Public Broadcasting and increased youth participation in community farm projects and local markets.

- Enhancing and conserving Florida's natural resources and environmental quality (Florida A&M University) successfully enhanced Florida's natural resources and environment through comprehensive educational programs on conservation, public issues, and resource efficiency. The project addressed urban development, energy, and water use pressures while promoting best management practices and training numerous volunteers and provided science-based information to local governments, balancing economic needs with environmental safeguards. Significant outcomes included 149 adults and 259 youths completing programs, 93 participants adopting stewardship behaviors, and over 500 students impacted by trained pre-service teachers, fostering deeper understanding and appreciation of natural resources.

Rural Health and Safety Education Programs

Many individuals and families living in rural areas and communities experience disparities related to physical and behavioral health, safety, and well-being. Such disparities are often triggered by the hardships of poverty and inadequate access to gainful employment and resources. Through the Rural Health and Safety Education Program, NIFA helps enhance rural health and safety through national program leadership, funding for integrated research, education, and Extension activities, and strategic partnerships and collaborations. Such efforts help promote and enhance rural health, strengthen economic vitality and, over time, break the rural poverty cycle.

Examples of funded projects include:

- Mobilizing Rural Communities to Improve Quality of Life and Promote Opioid Prevention Among Low-Resource Veterans. The overall goal of this Purdue University project was to improve the quality of life for low-resource veterans living in rural areas, particularly those with substance use and mental health problems. The objective was to deliver the Reaching Rural Veteran program in five rural counties in each of three states: Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio. In total, 399 unique veterans attended Reaching Rural Veterans events. A total of 2,260 connections were made with veterans and resources across all events. Based on evaluation data, most veterans reported an increase in awareness of and willingness to use local counseling, financial, housing, and healthcare services. Follow-up evaluations also indicated an increase in the percent of veterans receiving disability payments from non-Veterans Affairs sources and payments from Social Security.

- Rural Resiliency: Expanding Access to Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM). This goal of this Montana State University project was to combat the alarming increase in mental health concerns and opioid misuse among rural and reservation youth in Montana and Idaho. YAM was the ideal response to address this challenge because it is a mental health promotion program that allows adolescents to develop life-long resilience skills shown to help young adults avoid high risk behaviors that can lead to poor academic achievement, substance misuse, severe psychiatric conditions, and suicide. The project trained three additional Extension agents and four community partners to become YAM instructors to expand the program to 6 new sites, sustain 11current sites, and reached 1,844 rural and Native youths in two years. Ninety-one percent of the students reported they can recognize the signs of depression. Seventy-five percent reported that because of YAM, they were more likely to reach out to an adult and seek help for themselves.

Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network

NIFA's Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) connects farmers, ranchers, and others in agriculture-related occupations to stress assistance programs. Creating and expanding a network to assist farmers and ranchers in times of stress can increase behavioral health awareness, literacy, and positive outcomes for agricultural producers, workers, and their families.

Projects funded through the FRSAN must initiate, expand, or sustain programs that provide professional agricultural behavioral health counseling and referral for other forms of assistance as

necessary through farm telephone helplines and websites; training programs and workshops; support groups; and outreach services and activities.

Examples of funded projects include:

- The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is the lead institution for the North Central Regional Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Center (NCFRSAC). The goal of NCFRSAC is to develop, deliver, and expand stress and mental health resources and services to agricultural producers, workers, and others in agricultural occupations. The Center includes 15 key collaborators across 12 states. Since 2020, the NCFRSAC has expanded a telephone helpline for agricultural producers and workers and published a clearinghouse website. In addition, the network has trained over 11,000 agricultural supporters in mental health programming, trained over 18,000 agricultural producers in stress management and mental health awareness programming, engaged over 850 farmworkers in support groups, and delivered more than 1,200 hours of professional behavioral health services.

Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Military Veterans Competitive Grants Program

The Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Military Veterans Program provides grants to nonprofits to increase the number of military veterans gaining knowledge and skills through comprehensive, hands-on and immersive model farm and ranch programs offered regionally that lead to successful careers in the food and agricultural sector. The program encourages the development of training opportunities specifically designed for military veterans. Ensuring there are pathways for military veterans interested in pursuing careers in agriculture regardless of age or production choice strengthens agricultural production and rural economies across the United States.

Examples of funded projects include:

- The agricultural program proposed by Not Forgotten Outreach (NFO) is an Implementation Project designed for military veterans and military veteran family members. It is a twice a year, experiential agricultural training program that will increase food production for the Taos community. It involves emerging and innovative technology such as hydroponics and vertical farming. VetCorps promotes agricultural businesses through job training and provides resources to help historically underserved communities in northern New Mexico Community Through Colors (CTC) will provide direct training, land access, marketing services, financial assistance, and business support to 45 military veteran farmers in Vieques, Puerto Rico over a three-year project period. Veterans will become equipped with the tools and networks necessary to successfully enter the agricultural workforce. Through this project, CTC will provide military veterans an innovative internship program that exposes participants to a wide range of opportunities in the agricultural workforce. Internships address four unique program areas, with participants able to experience the full internship program over a one-year period. Program areas cover the following topics: agroecological production, livestock management, organic waste management, and value-added food products. Military veteran farmers and ranchers will be trained in regenerative and sustainable agriculture, helping ensure an environmentally sound approach to farming in Vieques. This project will help military veteran farmers in Vieques make their operations more financially viable, where CTC assists farmers with production planning, one-on-one technical assistance, and centralized point-of-sale opportunities.

Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program

The purpose of the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTEP) is to establish an Extension presence and support Extension education on Federally Recognized Indian Reservations and Tribal jurisdictions of Federally Recognized Tribes. FRTEP builds Tribal capacity and promotes Tribal self-determination through 4-H programming for Tribal youths, agriculture and livestock management, natural resources conservation, food sovereignty initiatives, entrepreneurship and workforce development, Native language and culture preservation, and traditional ecological knowledge sharing and learning on reservations across the Nation.

Examples of funded projects include:

- The Michigan State University FRTEP project builds upon existing relationships and more than a decade of educational programming partnerships with four Michigan tribes: Bay Mills Indian Community; Hannahville Indian Community; Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians; and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Three programmatic themes serve as the framework for this project: Tribal youth education focuses on healthy local food production that highlights Indigenous foods while promoting STEM education; Tribal community food systems education/engagement extends youth-directed activities to broader Tribal community members while supporting intergenerational teaching and learning; and Tribal Farmer education efforts provide Tribal farmers and community members with education and resources to successfully engage in food system development practices, enterprise development, and farm operation success. In 2024, the Gitigaan/Gtegan/Kitigaan (Garden) Kit effort distributed free garden kits containing seed packets, starter garden plants, educational materials, and a magnet with a QR code linked to a recently refreshed MSU Tribal Extension website that includes Anishinaabe Culture and Language Gardening Resources to Tribal families within each of the four partnering Tribal communities. A total of 673 kits were distributed to 2,142 community members.
- The North Carolina State University Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) FRTEP project focuses on: creating a more sovereign Tribal food system that includes invested Cherokee farmers, food business owners, and home producers; educating Cherokee youths in agriculture, natural resources, traditional artisan resources, and traditional foodways; and cultivating a tradition of Gadugi (community) and Tohi (peace/balance) by encouraging community members to serve themselves by living a healthy lifestyle and serving the community as citizen leaders. To meet these objectives, the 4-H program facilitated a financial literacy simulation as part of Cherokee High School's Real-Life Expo that engaged 120 high school juniors and seniors. "Farms to Go" bags procured from local farmers were distributed to local unhoused populations, in cooperation with the EBCI Public Health & Human Service Syringe Exchange Department, to feed people who do not have readily available access to fresh produce or a way to cook fresh produce while encouraging the use of the syringe exchange program. A Food Truck Boot Camp was implemented in collaboration with the EBCI Department of Commerce, North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Mountain BizWorks, and the Sequoyah Fund. This event supported over 30 new and established food trucks in the region and beyond, offering over 30 unique educational presentations from marketing and menu development to regulations and mobile kitchen vehicle layout. Additional Tribal food sovereignty efforts included the distribution of 900 Chief's Garden Kits, the creation of a new community garden site, and the establishment of 55 community member gardens.

Small Business Innovation Research and Technology Transfer Programs

The Small Business Innovation Research Act (SBIR) and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Act are codified at §9 of the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. §638. The SBIR program was designed to strengthen the role of small, innovative firms in federally funded research and development (R/R&D). The STTR program requires participating agencies to allocate a certain percentage of its extramural R/R&D budget to be reserved for awards to small business concerns for cooperative research and development.

The SBIR and STTR Extension Act of 2022 (Pub. L. 117-183) reauthorizes SBIR and STTR programs and pilot programs thru 2025 with a set aside of not less than 3.2 percent of appropriations in 2017 and each fiscal year thereafter for the SBIR program and a set aside of not less than 0.45 percent for 2016 and each fiscal year thereafter for the STTR program.

Table NIFA-12. Funding for SBIR by Agency (thousands of dollars)

Agency	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimate	2026 Estimate
Agricultural Research Service	$7,110	$8,012	$8,076	$8,076
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	35	65	65	65
National Institute of Food and Agriculture	42,467	34,608	34,560	34,214
Economic Research Service	138	138	27	19
Forest Service	1,044	1,367	1,073	1,073
National Agriculture Statistics Service	34	26	21	4
Total	50,828	44,216	43,822	43,451

NOTE: Estimates have been provided for 2025 and 2026. A report to the Small Business Administration for planned investments in 2025 and 2026 will be updated based on final appropriations.

Table NIFA-13. Funding for STTR by Agency (thousands of dollars)

Agency	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimate	2026 Estimate
Agricultural Research Service	$1,000	$1,127	$1,136	$1,136
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	9	9	9	9
National Institute of Food and Agriculture	1,987	4,867	4,860	4,811
Economic Research Service	19	19	4	3
Forest Service	147	192	151	151
National Agriculture Statistics Service	4	21	3	1
Total	3,166	6,235	6,163	6,111

NOTE: Estimates have been provided for 2025 and 2026. A report to the Small Business Administration for planned investments in 2025 and 2026 will be updated based on final appropriations.

The staff functions of USDA's SBIR program have been centralized in NIFA to serve the SBIR community most effectively and efficiently. Ten research topic areas have been established.

Forests and Related Resources – Topic Area 8.1: The Forests and Related Resources topic area aims to address the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests to meet the needs of present and future generations through the development of environmentally sound approaches to increase productivity of forest lands, improve sustainability and develop value-added materials derived from forest resources.

Plant Production and Protection - Biology – Topic Area 8.2: The objective of this topic area is to develop novel ways of enhancing crop production and protection against abiotic and/or biotic stresses through the use of novel diagnostic technologies, plant improvement approaches, and tools or management practices that ensure healthy pollinators.

Animal Production and Protection – Topic Area 8.3: The Animal Production and Protection topic area aims to develop innovative, marketable technologies that will provide significant benefit to the production and protection of agricultural animals.

Conservation of Natural Resources – Topic Area 8.4: The Conservation of Natural Resources topic area aims to develop innovative technologies that are developed with the purpose to conserve, monitor, improve and/or protect the quality and/or quantity of natural resources while sustaining optimal farm and forest productivity and profitability. Encourage new technologies and innovations that will help improve soil health, reduce soil erosion, improve water and air quality, improve nutrient management and conserve and use water more effectively.

Food Science and Nutrition – Topic Area 8.5: The Food Science and Nutrition topic area aims to fund projects that support research focusing on developing new and improved processes, technologies, or services that address emerging food safety, food processing, and nutrition issues.

Rural and Community Development – Topic Area 8.6: The Rural and Community Development topic area aims to fund the development of new technologies, or for the utilization of existing technologies, that address important economic and social development issues or challenges in rural America. The

applications need not be centered on agriculture but may be focused on any area that has the potential to provide significant benefit to rural Americans.

Aquaculture – Topic Area 8.7: The Aquaculture topic area aims to develop new technologies that will enhance the knowledge and technology base necessary for the expansion of the domestic aquaculture industry as a form of production agriculture.

Biofuels and Biobased Products – Topic Area 8.8: The objective of this topic area is to promote the use of biofuels and non-food biobased products by developing new or improved technologies that will lead to increased production of biofuels, industrial chemicals, and other value-added products from agricultural materials.

Small and Mid-Size Farms – Topic Area 8.12: The Small and Mid-Size Farms topic area aims to promote and improve the sustainability and profitability of small and mid-size farms and ranches (where annual sales of agricultural products are less than $350,000 for small farms and between $350,000 and $999,999 for mid-size farms).

Plant Production and Protection – Engineering – Topic Area 8.13: The objective of this topic area is to enhance crop production by creating and commercializing engineering technologies that enhance system efficiency and profitability and protect crops from pests and pathogens in economically and environmentally sound ways

AFRI Requests for Applications

Foundational and Applied Science RFA | The AFRI Foundational and Applied Science RFA is organized by, and directly aligns with, the six priority areas as of the 2018 Farm Bill. NIFA will invest $294,000,000 of appropriated AFRI funds to support *new* grants in the Foundational and Applied Science Program, as well as interagency programs. These investments will allow sustained foundational efforts on adaptation and resiliency of agricultural systems, as well as enhanced focus in promising new areas of agricultural science such as robotics, sensors, cyber physical systems, and application of artificial intelligence.

NIFA proposes to continue investments in the plant and animal breeding program area priorities that support classical breeding efforts to improve crop and animal productivity, local adaptation of cultivars and breeds, and development of cultivars through public breeding programs. Additional investments will be made in emerging technologies such as gene editing for agricultural applications, autonomous systems and machine learning for agricultural applications, and production of new agriculture-based products. Enhanced investments will foster research on agricultural biosecurity; precision livestock farming; the microbiome of foods, human gut microbiome, food animals, plants, and soils; and on strategies to mitigate antimicrobial resistance. Investments will also be made through interagency programs related to technology and data-driven solutions in agriculture such as the application of artificial intelligence to resilient agriculture, forestry and food system supply chains.

Research supported by the Foundational and Applied Science RFA provides the knowledge base required for subsequent transformative future research, extension, and education programs at NIFA. Additionally, discoveries derived from program area priorities in the Foundational and Applied Science RFA often lead to valuable intellectual properties that are later further developed for commercialization to drive local economic development.

Table NIFA-14. Foundational and Applied Science 2026 RFA (in dollars)

Request for Applications (RFA)	New Grant Awards
Foundational and Applied Science Program	$294,000,000

In 2026, the AFRI Foundation and Applied Science RFA will include the following additional goals:

- Improving human health through precision nutrition, production of healthy foods, and empowering consumer choice;
- Continued support for mitigation, adaptation, and resiliency of food and agricultural systems in all program areas and cross-cutting programs to provide foundational knowledge;
- Continued investment in innovative foundational and applied research on bioproducts to provide knowledge required to develop cost-competitive bioproducts for development of bioeconomies;
- Continued support for the novel "Rapid Response to Extreme Weather Events" cross-cutting program to rapidly deploy strategies and fill knowledge gaps that protect the nation's food and agricultural supply chains during and after extreme weather events and natural disasters;
- Continued support for alleviating the impacts of pest and disease events across food and agricultural systems through origin of the pest/disease emergence, preventing further spread, and mitigating the impacts to protect America's farming communities and continuing to ensure the availability of a safe, nutritious, affordable, and abundant food supply;
- Continued support for early-career scientists and educators through awarding New Investigator Seed Grants and New Investigator Standard Grants;
- Development of precision agricultural technologies paired with educational programs to enhance adoption of these technologies by small- and medium-sized farmers and ranchers; and
- Continued fostering of interagency collaborations to leverage greater investment in agriculturally relevant areas of science, and to attract new communities of scientists to address challenging agricultural issues.

Sustainable Agricultural Systems RFA | In 2026, NIFA will invest $70,806,000 of appropriated funds in the AFRI Sustainable Agricultural Systems RFA. The integrated transdisciplinary approach taken in the Sustainable Agricultural Systems RFA will enable NIFA's goal of advancing the convergence of agricultural and food sciences with engineering, social sciences, technology, computational sciences, and advanced manufacturing to generate new scientific discoveries, new products, new markets and, consequently, new high-skill jobs. These system-level projects address interrelated challenges of agricultural productivity, water quality and availability, food safety, environmental resilience, and food and nutrition security.

Table NIFA-15. Sustainable Agricultural Systems Program 2026 RFA (in dollars)

Request for Applications (RFA)	New Grant Awards
Sustainable Agricultural Systems Program	$70,806,000

Through investments in systems-level Coordinated Agricultural Projects (CAPs) of up to $10 million per project focused on technology, data, and innovation, NIFA will catalyze transformative changes throughout U.S. agricultural systems and contribute to the following goals:

- Improve food and nutrition security by enhancing the contribution of food and agriculture to health of the nation through development, adoption, and application of new or existing technologies, decision-support tools, education, and other resources to ensure access to sufficient quantities of safe, nutritious, and affordable food;
- Catalyze innovations in production of bioproducts for use in food and agricultural systems that contribute to development of rural agricultural economies through advanced technologies and creation of high-value biobased products from agricultural feedstocks;
- Enhancing market opportunities in the food and agricultural sectors, especially for farmers, ranchers, producers, and communities: these opportunities include high-

value biobased products, agricultural economies, local and regional food systems, and use of scale-appropriate technologies and management practices; and
- Research, education, and extension to support food and agricultural systems to solve key problems of local, regional, and national importance.

Education and Workforce Development RFA | NIFA will invest $40,500,000 of appropriated AFRI funding in *new* grants for Education and Workforce Development that focus on further enhancing three distinct components of the pipeline for developing the food and agricultural sciences workforce. The first component is institutional grants to help K-14 teachers and administrators develop improved curricula to train the food and agricultural workforce of the future. This will also include training and retraining agricultural workers to create a technology and data-savvy workforce. The second component is to provide pathways for undergraduates to develop applied technical and leadership skills required for careers in agricultural sectors, farming enterprises, or graduate programs. Finally, the third component will support graduate and post-graduate education in food, agriculture, and related disciplines by awarding pre- and post-doctoral fellowships. These investments will address the projected shortfalls in the availability of a qualified scientific workforce in food and agriculture in the United States.

Table NIFA-16. Education and Workforce Development Program 2026 RFA (in dollars)

Request for Applications (RFA)	New Grant Awards
Education and Workforce Development Program.....	$40,500,000

In 2026, the AFRI Workforce Development RFA will maintain emphasis on:

- Investments to enhance support for innovation, translation and entrepreneurship training, especially in rural communities in order to solidify U.S. global leadership in bioeconomy development;
- Workforce development at educational institutions and community supports;
- Continued support for predoctoral fellowships, postdoctoral fellowships, and experiential learning for undergraduate students at the baccalaureate and community college level; and
- Support for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education.

Table NIFA-17. Proposed AFRI 2026 President's Budget Funding Allocations by RFA (in dollars)

Request for Applications (RFA) Title	Funding Allocation
Foundational and Applied Science Program[1]	$294,000,000
Sustainable Agricultural Systems Program	$70,806,000
Education and Workforce Development Program	$40,500,000

[1] Funding for interagency programs is included within the Foundational and Applied Science RFA, as appropriate.

Table NIFA-18. Estimated AFRI 2026 President's Budget Funding Allocations by Farm Bill Priority Area (in dollars)

Farm Bill Priority Area	Total Percentage of AFRI	Foundational and Applied Science	Sustainable Agricultural Systems	Education and Workforce Development
A. Plant Health and Production and Plant Products	20%	20%	18%	23%
B. Animal Health and Production and Animal Products	18%	17%	18%	19%
C. Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health	16%	17%	16%	16%
D. Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment.....	18%	19%	19%	16%
E. Agriculture Systems and Technology.....	17%	17%	16%	17%
F. Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities	11%	10%	13%	9%

Table NIFA-19. AFRI Funding Allocations by RFA from 2019 to 2026 Budget (thousands of dollars)

AFRI Program Areas	2019 Enacted	2020 Enacted	2021 Enacted	2022 Enacted	2023 Enacted	2024 Enacted	2025 Enacted	2026 Budget
Foundational and Applied Science Program.....	$273,282	$279,242	$304,330	$326,584	$317,901	$327,000	$323,480	$294,000
Sustainable Agricultural Systems Program	98,374	87,210	74,215	77,159	82,873	77,200	77,200	70,806
Education and Workforce Development Program.....	43,344	58,548	56,455	41,257	54,226	41,000	44,520	40,500
Total.....	***415,000***	***425,000***	***435,000***	***445,000***	***455,000***	***445,200***	***445,200***	***405,306***

Other Competitive Program RFAs

Non-AFRI competitive programs Requests for Application are listed below. 2025 estimates for discretionary funding are based on a 2025 Annualized Continuing Resolutions. Programs funded by mandatory funding are included based on the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill). 2025 and 2026 mandatory funding reflects the impact of a 5.7 percent sequestration reduction.

Table NIFA-20. Other Competitive Program RFAs (thousands of dollars)

Program	Authority	Scope of RFA and Budget Justification	2025 Estimated Budget	2026 Estimated Budget	RFA Dates (Actual / Estimated)
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program	7 U.S.C. 5811, 5812, 5831, and 5832	The 2025 directed RFA will fund four SARE (7 U.S.C. 5812) regional centers who each administer a variety of competitive research and extension grant programs (7 U.S.C. 5811) and the regional implementation of the National Training Program (7 U.S.C. 5832). Projects awarded support research and extension for all types of farming, large or small, organic or conventional, urban or rural, row crops, livestock, small fruit and vegetables, and aquaculture. Projects can be inclusive of multiple agricultural science disciplines and address multiple points on the value chain including production, processing,	$48,000	$40,000	2025: January 17, 2025 2026: January 08, 2026

Program	Authority	Scope of RFA and Budget Justification	2025 Estimated Budget	2026 Estimated Budget	RFA Dates (Actual / Estimated)
		distribution, and marketing. The directed RFA identifies the purpose of the SARE program, Assistance Listing 10.215, to be research and outreach designed to increase knowledge concerning agricultural production systems with goals and objectives to: (1) maintain and enhance the quality and productivity of the soil; (2) conserve soil, water, energy, natural resources, and fish and wildlife habitat; (3) maintain and enhance the quality of surface and ground water; (4) protect the health and safety of persons involved in the food and farm system; (5) promote the well-being of animals; and (6) increase employment opportunities in agriculture (7 U.S.C. 5801 and 5811). Additionally, per 7 U.S.C. 5832 the Secretary shall establish a National Training Program in			

Program	Authority	Scope of RFA and Budget Justification	2025 Estimated Budget	2026 Estimated Budget	RFA Dates (Actual / Estimated)
		Sustainable Agriculture to provide education and training for Cooperative Extension Service agents and other professionals involved in the education and transfer of technical information concerning sustainable agriculture in order to develop their understanding, competence, and ability to teach and communicate the concepts of sustainable agriculture to Cooperative Extension Service agents and to farmers and urban residents who need information on sustainable agriculture. The National Training Program includes support for a SARE coordinator in each state's Cooperative Extension Service and for a regional competitive grants program to provide training for extension agents and other agricultural professionals. Typically, approximately 75% of the award to a SARE regional host institution supports			

Program	Authority	Scope of RFA and Budget Justification	2025 Estimated Budget	2026 Estimated Budget	RFA Dates (Actual / Estimated)
		competitively awarded sub-awards. The 2026 directed RFA will be very similar to the 2025 RFA.			
Minor Crop Pest Management Program – Interregional Research Project #4 (IR-4)	7 U.S.C. 3157(e)	The 2025 and 2026 RFA will focus on projects that demonstrate the capacity and commitment required to achieve the following regionally-oriented goals: 1. Expedite the registration of newer, reduced-risk pest management products for minor agricultural uses and specialty crops. 2. Conduct efficacy research to identify new, more effective minor agricultural use and specialty crop pest management products. Projects must also demonstrate a commitment to addressing the societal challenge of keeping American agriculture competitive	$15,000	$15,000	2025: Actual TBD/ Est End of Month May 2025 2026: January 24, 2026

Program	Authority	Scope of RFA and Budget Justification	2025 Estimated Budget	2026 Estimated Budget	RFA Dates (Actual / Estimated)
		and reducing world hunger by improving the availability and accessibility of safe and nutritious food. NIFA is committed to supporting new science to boost U.S. agricultural production, improve global capacity to meet growing food demand, and fight hunger by addressing food security for vulnerable populations.			
Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI)	7 U.S.C. 7632	The 2025 RFAs will focus on projects that support research and extension that address key challenges of national, regional, and multi-state importance in sustaining all components of food and agriculture, including conventional and organic food production systems; and include explicit mechanisms to communicate results to producers and the public. Except for Research and Extension Planning Projects, the SCRI program only considers projects that integrate research and	$75,440	$75,440	2025: Actual TBD, 2026: Request for Pre-application: September 1, 2026 Request for Full Application: January 16, 2026

Program	Authority	Scope of RFA and Budget Justification	2025 Estimated Budget	2026 Estimated Budget	RFA Dates (Actual / Estimated)
		extension activities. Applications are required to address one of the five legislatively mandated focus areas. The 2026 RFAs will focus on addressing the critical needs of the specialty crop industry by developing and disseminating science-based tools to address needs of specific crops and their regions, as specified by statutory requirements by Section 7305 of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018. Specifically, the RFA will focus on research and extension that address key challenges of national, regional, and multi-state importance in sustaining all components of food and agriculture.			
Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) (Mandatory Funds)	7 U.S.C. 2279	The 2025 and 2026 RFAs will support the delivery of education, outreach, and technical assistance for beginning farmers and ranchers in the United States and its territories that are entering,	$23,575	$23,575	2025: February 06, 2025 2026: February 05, 2026

Program	Authority	Scope of RFA and Budget Justification	2025 Estimated Budget	2026 Estimated Budget	RFA Dates (Actual / Estimated)
		establishing, building, and managing successful farm and ranch enterprises. In 2025, NIFA is soliciting applications under the following program categories: 1) Standard Grants (Small, Medium, Large and Simplified Standard) and 2) Education Team Grants.			
Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI)	7 U.S.C. 5925(b)	The 2025 RFAs will focus on solving critical organic agricultural issues, priorities, or problems through the integration of research, education and extension activities in order to enhance the ability of producers and processors who have already adopted organic standards to grow and market high quality organic agricultural products. Priority concerns include biological, physical, and social sciences, including economics. The focus will be on the eight legislatively defined goals: (1) Facilitating the development and improvement of organic	$47,150	$47,150	2025: Dec. 11,2024 2026: Nov. 20 2025

Program	Authority	Scope of RFA and Budget Justification	2025 Estimated Budget	2026 Estimated Budget	RFA Dates (Actual / Estimated)
		agriculture production, breeding, and processing methods; (2) Evaluating the potential economic benefits of organic agricultural production and methods to producers, processors, and rural communities; (3) Exploring international trade opportunities for organically grown and processed agricultural commodities; (4) Determining desirable traits for organic commodities; (5) Identifying marketing and policy constraints on the expansion of organic agriculture; (6) Conducting advanced on-farm research and development that emphasizes observation of experimentation with, and innovation for working organic farms, including research relating to production, marketing, food safety, socioeconomic conditions, and farm business management; (7) Examining optimal conservation, soil health, and environmental outcomes relating to			

Program	Authority	Scope of RFA and Budget Justification	2025 Estimated Budget	2026 Estimated Budget	RFA Dates (Actual / Estimated)
		organically produced agricultural product; and (8) Developing new and improved seed varieties that are particularly suited for organic agriculture. The 2026 RFA focus will be similar to 2025 and will include any emerging and high priority organic agriculture issue			
Scholarships for Students at 1890 Institutions (Discretionary Funds)	7 U.S.C. 3222(a)	Through the 2025 and 2026 RFAs, the program provides scholarships to outstanding students at 1890 institutions to pursue and complete baccalaureate degrees in the food and agricultural sciences and related fields that would lead to a highly skilled food and agricultural systems workforce.	$10,000	$10,000	2025: March 20, 2025 2026: March 20, 2026
Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP)	7 U.S.C. 7517	The GusNIP portfolio is made up of three competitive grant programs (1) Nutrition Incentive Program, (2) Produce Prescription Program, and (3) National Training, Technical Assistance,	$52,808	$52,808	2025: Nutrition Incentive Program: January 13, 2025 Produce Prescription Program: February 18, 2025 2026:

Program	Authority	Scope of RFA and Budget Justification	2025 Estimated Budget	2026 Estimated Budget	RFA Dates (Actual / Estimated)
		Evaluation, and Information Centers. The 2025 and 2026 Nutrition Incentive Program RFAs will invite proposals that aim to develop and evaluate projects to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables by providing incentives at the point of purchase among income eligible consumers participating in the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the USDA Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP). The 2025 and 2026 Produce Prescription Program RFAs will invite proposals to conduct projects to demonstrate and evaluate the impact of fresh fruit and vegetable prescriptions to increase procurement and consumption of fruits and vegetables, reduce individual and household food insecurity, and reduce healthcare usage and associated costs.			Nutrition Incentive Program: January 13, 2026 Produce Prescription Program: January 13, 2026

Program	Authority	Scope of RFA and Budget Justification	2025 Estimated Budget	2026 Estimated Budget	RFA Dates (Actual / Estimated)
		The National Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation, and Information Centers (NTAE) Cooperative Agreements offer training, technical assistance, evaluation, and informational support services to potential applicants, nutrition incentive projects, produce prescription projects, and to GusNIP as a whole. Cooperative agreement applications will be invited again in 2027, when the current cooperative agreement ends.			
Agriculture Risk Management Education Partnerships Competitive Grants Program (ARME)	7 U.S.C. 1524(a)	The 2025 and 2026 directed RFAs will continue the work of the 2024 competitive awards. The program will fund four regional centers and one electronic support (digital) center. Through competitive grants programs, the centers will emphasize risk management education programs that support pre- and post-farm management activities that include but are not limited to	$9,052	$9,052	2025: May/June 2025 (exact date TBD) 2026: April 2026

Program	Authority	Scope of RFA and Budget Justification	2025 Estimated Budget	2026 Estimated Budget	RFA Dates (Actual / Estimated)
		production, processing, storage, and logistics. Applicants to the regional competitive grants programs include public and private sector agricultural professionals. Grants awarded by the four regional centers will support applied outreach projects that promote risk management education that targets risk associated with production, price/marketing, human, legal and finance. Projects will directly serve farmers, ranchers, producers, and their families from 2026 to 2029.			

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AGENCY-WIDE PERFORMANCE

Introduction

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) provides leadership and funding for programs that advance agriculture-related sciences. NIFA invests in and supports initiatives that ensure the long-term viability of agriculture. NIFA applies an integrated approach to ensure that groundbreaking discoveries in agriculture-related sciences and technologies reach the people who can put them into practice.

The purpose of the Summary of Performance section is to provide an update on Performance and Evidence and Evaluation efforts, facilitating compliance with the Government Performance Results Modernization Act (GPRMA) and the Evidence Act of 2018, as well as departmental Key Performance Indicators (KPI). The Office of Budget and Program Analysis (OBPA) leads the Department in performance, evaluation, evidence, and risk management and chairs the Performance, Evaluation, Evidence Committee (PEEC) and the Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) committee. Each USDA Mission Area is represented on these committees.

The Research, Education, and Economics (REE) mission area and the Office of the Chief Scientist are jointly represented through the OCS' Strategic Planning, Program Evaluation, and Enterprise Risk Officer, whose team functions as the coordinating members on USDA's PEEC and ERM committees.

The Research, Education, and Economics (REE) mission area of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has Federal leadership responsibility for advancing scientific knowledge related to agriculture through research, extension, and education. The mission area office is led by the Under Secretary for the Research, Education, and Economics (REE) and Chief Scientist for USDA, whose responsibilities include oversight of the four agencies that comprise OCS/REE, the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Economic Research Service (ERS), and National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS.) The National Agricultural Library, National Arboretum, and the Office of the Chief Scientist also fall under this mission area.

The mission of the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) is to provide strategic coordination of the science that informs the Department's and the Federal government's decisions, policies, and regulations that impact all aspects of U.S. food and agriculture, related landscapes, and communities.

Therefore, REE performance, evaluation, evidence, and risk management efforts are coordinated and led by the Office of the Chief Scientist on behalf of the Mission Area. The OCS Strategic Planning, Program Evaluation, and Enterprise Risk Officer leads the Mission Area by chairing two committees: the OCS/REE Performance, Evaluation and Evidence Committee (OCS/REE-PEEC) and the OCS/REE Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Committee. The two Mission Area committees are comprised of REE agency leaders in performance, evaluation, evidence, and risk management, as well as the Mission Area's functional and operational leads as necessary.

Alignment to USDA Strategic Plan

NIFA activities contribute to the success of USDA's overall mission to provide leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues using sound public policy, the best available science, and effective management, to the benefit of all Americans. USDA is currently developing the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan and will report alignment in the 2027 Explanatory Notes.

SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE

USDA is currently developing the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan, including new KPIs. A more detailed report of the performance plan can be found at https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/about-usda/performance.