

CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

U.S. Department of Agriculture FY 2021 Congressional Directives				
Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Date Due to Congress
Departmental Activities				
OPFM	USDA-Owned Vehicles	House Report	The Committee awaits the report requested in the fiscal year 2020 report on how the Department plans to better manage its vehicle fleet.	February 18, 2020
OBPA	Performance Measures	House Report	The Committee directs USDA to comply with title 31 of the United States Code, including the development of their organizational priority goals and outcomes such as performance outcome measures, output measures, efficiency measures, and customer service measures. The Committee looks forward to receiving a briefing from these agencies on the implementation plan for measures.	within 60 days of enactment
OBPA	Status of House and Senate Report Language	Conference Report	The Department is directed to include in its fiscal year 2022 Congressional Justification, as a single exhibit, a table listing all deliverables, with a column for due date if applicable. The agreement further directs the Department, through OBPA, to provide an update on all overdue reports and provide monthly updates thereafter.	Congressional Justifications, and as necessary
OBPA	Organizational Charts	Conference Report	The agreement directs the Office of Budget and Program Analysis (OBPA) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide an organizational chart for each agency funded by this Act to the division and subdivision level, as appropriate.	February 1, 2021
OBPA	Explanatory Notes	House Report	For fiscal year 2022 and future years, the Department is directed to present Explanatory Notes in a format consistent with the presentation used for the fiscal year 2020 Budget, with similar display and narrative and table contents. The Explanatory Notes should also put the accounts in the same order as the accounts in the bill. Any deviations from that format are to be approved in advance by the Committee. The justifications for the fiscal year 2021 budget request are also insufficient. Much of the justification materials is a restatement of the proposed changes and not an explanation or rationale to justify the changes. The Committee cannot support proposals in the budget submission that include significant changes with no justification and basis. The Committee strongly encourages the Department to improve the quality of its budget justifications.	Congressional Justifications
OBPA	Loans and Grant Programs	House Report	The Committee directs that if an estimate of loan activity for any program funded in Titles II and III of this bill indicates that a limitation on authority to make commitments for a fiscal year will be reached before the end of that fiscal year, or in any event when 75 percent of the authority to make commitments has been utilized, the Secretary shall promptly notify the Committees through OBPA. The Committee directs the Department, through OBPA, to provide quarterly reports to the Committees on the status of obligations and funds availability for the loan and grant programs provided in this bill.	quarterly

CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

OBPA	Spending Plans	House Report and Conference Report	Beginning with the fiscal year 2021 plans, the Committee requests that the USDA spending plans include for each program, project, or activity: (1) a comparison between the congressional budget justification funding levels, the most recent congressional directives or approved funding levels, and the funding levels proposed by the department or agency; and (2) a clear, concise, and informative description/justification. The Committee reminds USDA of notification requirements, also included in Title VII, for all applicable changes.	within 30 days of enactment
OBPA	Status of House and Senate Report Language	House Report	The Department is directed to include in its fiscal year 2022 Congressional Justification, as a single exhibit, a table listing all deliverable, with a column for due dates if applicable. OBPA is directed to provide updates on the status of House and Senate reports upon request from the Committees.	Congressional Justifications, and as necessary
OCFO/OCIO	National Finance Center (NFC)	House Report	To ensure that thousands of Federal employees' pay and human resources services are not interrupted or adversely impacted by major organizational changes, the Committee has modified requirements under current law relating to NFC payroll and shared services operations, missions, personnel, and functions. The Committee also directs the USDA to provide reports on full-time equivalent (FTE) levels for each of the current NFC divisions, operations, and functions, as well as each of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) and Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) divisions, operations, and functions currently co-located with the NFC. The reports also are to include a detailed breakdown of the FTEs for each and any of these same divisions, functions, or operations for the NFC and the co-located OCFO and OCIO functions compared to those during FY 2017 and 2018.	quarterly
OCIO	Goodfellow Federal Center	House Report	The Committee understands that USDA is working with GSA to obtain relief for buildout and relocation expenses, including furniture and equipment costs, for USDA occupants compelled to leave the facility for the continued health, safety, and welfare of its employees. The Committee directs USDA to continue working with GSA to help offset future relocation costs and to report regularly on this effort. The Committee awaits this information and further progress on the search for appropriate facilities before appropriating additional funds.	as necessary
OHRM	Performance Management	House Report	The Committee is aware of the Department's intention to transition from a five-tier performance rating system to a two-tier system in the coming months. The Committee is concerned about the short comment period provided for such a potentially significant shift in policy. Prior to finalizing any change to performance management policy, the Committee directs the Department to survey employees and to reopen the comment period to seek additional comments from the public. The Department is further directed to brief the Committee within 30 days after the end of the comment period. The briefing shall include, but not be limited to, results of the employee survey; all comments received; plans to address concerns; and data and analysis supporting any changes from the current system.	within 30 days after the end of the comment period

CONGESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

OPPE	Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Farmers	House Report	The Committee is interested in the actions the USDA has taken to recruit and outreach to Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander farmers. The Committee directs the USDA to provide a report on its outreach and recruitment activities, and a list of available required resources in additional Asian American and Pacific Islander languages.	within 120 days of the enactment
OSDBU	Advertising Expenditures	House Report	The Committee directs each department and agency to include the following information in its fiscal year 2022 budget justification: expenditures for fiscal year 2020 and expected expenditures for fiscal years 2021 and 2022, for (1) all contracts for advertising services; and (2) contracts for the advertising services of (a) socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses concerns (as defined in section 8(a)(4) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637 (a)(4)); and (b) women- and minority-owned businesses.	Congressional Justifications
OSEC	Customer Service	House Report	The Committee continues to support efforts to improve customer service in accordance with Executive Order 13571—Streamlining Service Delivery and Improving Customer Service. The Committee directs the Secretary to develop standards to improve customer service and incorporate the standards into the performance plans required under 31 U.S.C. 1115. The Department is further directed to brief the Committee.	within 60 days of the enactment
OSEC	New Initiatives	House Report and Conference Report	The Committee is concerned about the Department’s tardiness in implementing new initiatives funded in the annual appropriations Acts. No later than 60 days after enactment, the Department is requested to submit an execution strategy for each new initiative funded in this Act. This strategy should include, but is not limited to, the steps necessary to make funding available, the timeline thereof, targeted beneficiaries, and expected results. The Committee requests quarterly reports on these initiatives until the initiative has been fully implemented.	within 60 days of enactment quarterly

CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

OSSP	Federal Law Enforcement	House Report and Conference Report	The Committee notes that the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021 directs the Attorney General to establish a training program to cover the use of force and de-escalation, racial profiling, implicit bias, and procedural justice, to include training on the duty of Federal law enforcement officers to intervene in cases where another law enforcement officer is using excessive force, and make such training a requirement for Federal law enforcement officers. The Committee further notes that several agencies funded by this Act employ Federal law enforcement officers and are Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers partner organizations. The Committee directs such agencies to adopt and follow the training program established by the Attorney General, and to make such training a requirement for its Federal law enforcement officers. The Committee further directs such agencies to brief the Committees on their efforts relating to training no later than 90 days after the Attorney General has established such a training program. In addition, the Committee directs such agencies, to the extent that they have not already done so, to submit their use of force data to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)'s National Use of Force Data Collection database. The Committee further directs such agencies to brief the Committees no later than 90 days after enactment of this Act on their current efforts to tabulate and submit its use of force data to the FBI.	training within 90 days after the Attorney General establishes a training program force data within 90 day after enactment
OSEC	Alternative Power Generation	Senate Report and Conference Report	The Secretary is directed to provide a report, no later than March 1, 2021, on specific agency authorities and activities that could contribute to more robust solar power generation in rural areas, associated economic benefits for landowners and rural communities, and land use implications including wildlife habitat and soil and water quality. The Secretary should also outline opportunities for collaboration with the Department of Energy on this strategy.	no later than March 1, 2021
Research, Education, and Economics				
REE	Enhancing Land-Grant Coordination	House Report	USDA is to convene a blue-ribbon panel to acknowledge the important role that landgrant universities, including 1890 Institutions, play in food security in the U.S. and around the world. The result of the plan should be to evaluate the overall structure of research and education through the public and land-grant universities to define a new architecture that can integrate, coordinate, and assess economic impact of the collective work of these institutions. New focuses should be on sustainable agriculture production, innovation for small and large farming, integration of best practices for land management to support carbon capture, and markets to lead to better farmer outcomes and incomes.	as necessary
ARS/NIFA	Public Access to Research	House Report	The Committee commends USDA on issuing its Implementation Plan to Increase Public Access to Results of USDA-funded Scientific Research in November of 2014. However, the Committee notes that there is still no implementation date. The Committee urges USDA to issue an implementation date and continue its efforts to fully enact its plan and requires an update be included in USDA's fiscal year 2022 budget request.	Congressional Justifications

CONGESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

REE	Soil Health and Greenhouse Gas	House Report	The Committee directs USDA to establish a Soil Health and Greenhouse Gas Subcommittee under the National Agriculture Research, Education, Extension, and Economics Advisory Board to provide recommendations on the feasibility of establishing reliable outcomes-based measurement systems, existing technology that provides reliable measurement data, standards for data collection and dissemination, farmer data management and privacy, and other issues the Under Secretary deems necessary.	within 60 days of enactment
REE	Silvopasture Research and Education	Senate Report	The Committee recognizes the important role silvopasture farming has in stimulating farmer income, promoting local water retention and natural carbon sequestration, improving animal welfare conditions, and decreasing erosion. The Committee notes that USDA previously sponsored small-scale silvopasture efforts and therefore encourages the Secretary to prioritize funding for silvopasture research and education. The Committee also directs the Secretary to submit a report no later than 180 days after enactment of this Act evaluating the impact of current educational outreach on farmer utilization of silvopasture practices.	submit a report no later than 180 days after enactment of this Act
ARS/NIFA	Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority (AGARDA)	House Report and Conference Report	The Committee notes that Section 7132 of the 2018 Farm Bill directed the Office of the Chief Scientist to complete a strategic plan for AGARDA that demonstrates USDA's vision for AGARDA. The Committee directs USDA to complete this strategic plan. The plan should include a discussion of how AGARDA can work in collaboration with ongoing research programs operating in ARS and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).	within 180 days of enactment
ARS/NIFA	Nutritional Value of Food	House Report	The Committee directs USDA to provide a plan to coordinate ongoing and future research efforts at ARS and NIFA related to the effects of rising atmospheric carbon dioxide levels on the nutritional value of food through USDA's Agriculture Innovation Agenda.	within 180 days of enactment
ERS	Benefits of Conservation and Soil Health Practices	House Report	The Committee notes that the environmental benefits of participating in voluntary conservation practices such as those administered by the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service have been studied but the long-term economic dividends of these practices are not well understood and may not be readily apparent to those who are eligible and considering enrollment. The Committee directs ERS to produce a study on the relationship between conservation and soil health practices, farm financial health, and crop yield variability rates.	within 60 days of enactment
ERS	Cover Cropping and Livestock Integration	House Report	The Committee directs ERS to produce a study detailing the projected long-term economic impacts for farmers on the potential economic and environmental benefits of integrating livestock into cover cropping systems as a way of increasing soil health.	within 60 days of enactment
ERS	Data for Puerto Rico	House Report	The Committee directs ERS to take all reasonable steps to publish data on farm cash receipts, farm income, and agricultural exports for Puerto Rico based on the quinquennial estimates provided through the Census of Agriculture. The Committee directs ERS to provide a report on its efforts to accomplish this goal.	within 180 days of enactment

CONGESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

ERS	Impact of Foreign Tariffs	House Report	The Committee is concerned by the impact foreign tariffs on agricultural commodities have had on our nation’s agricultural producers. The Committee directs ERS to provide a report detailing, by state and commodity, the average amount of revenue lost by agricultural producers as a result of foreign tariffs on agricultural commodities.	within 180 days of enactment
ERS	Recovering Value from Animal Waste	House Report	The Committee notes that last year’s House Report directed ERS to issue a report on recovering value from animal waste. The Committee looks forward to an update on these efforts. The Committee is interested in understanding the potential cost savings that may arise from more efficiently processing and managing animal waste.	within 60 days of enactment
ERS	Agricultural Commodity Trade	Senate Report and Conference Report	The Committee recognizes the economic importance of international trade for U.S. agricultural commodities and believes that producers and markets would benefit from having access to additional data on the country of designation or origin of those commodities. Therefore, the Committee directs ERS to report on a quarterly basis the top five agricultural commodity exports and imports by State and identify the country of destination or origin of those commodities.	Quarterly
NASS/AMS	USDA Presence in Puerto Rico	House Report	The Committee recognizes the work undertaken by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to compile data that informs farmers and producers in U.S. jurisdictions. The Committee further recognizes the importance of their presence in Puerto Rico to have a complete understanding of the role of agriculture in Puerto Rico’s economy and food availability. The Committee notes that the fiscal year 2020 House report directed NASS to explore reestablishing a physical presence in Puerto Rico and report back to the Committees; the Committee looks forward to receiving this report. The Committee directs the Department to submit a report on the efforts and personnel of NASS and AMS in Puerto Rico.	within 60 days of enactment
NASS	NASS Pilot Study	House Report	The Committee includes no funding for the NASS Pilot Study proposed in the budget request. While the Committee supports the goals of the study, the budget justification did not provide sufficient information to support the funding. The Committee would like to better understand the tools already available to NASS to analyze and match data with detailed imagery for improved predictions of harvested acres and production. The Committee expects NASS to provide a briefing to the Committee on how the goals of the NASS Pilot Study can be achieved through better coordination with other USDA agencies.	within 60 days of enactment
ARS	1890s Partnerships	House Report	The Committee recognizes the importance of 1890s Land Grant Institutions and the collaborative relationships that have developed with ARS research facilities over the years. The Committee directs ARS to explore expanding partnerships with 1890s Land Grant Institutions on ongoing and new research to ensure future beneficial collaborations.	within 60 days of enactment

CONGESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

ARS	Agricultural Research Facilities	House Report	The Committee directs ARS to explore ways in which its labs could be better utilized, in cooperation with non- profits, consortiums, and land grant universities, to achieve new scientific goals that benefit the nation’s food and agriculture system. In addition, the Committee encourages ARS to work with the entities listed above to develop a smart agriculture industry technology roadmap. This research strategy can help guide the future development of technology in the agriculture industry and maintain U.S. leadership.	within 60 days of enactment
ARS	Animal Research	House Report and Conference Report	The Committee directs ARS to ensure that each of its facilities housing animals is adhering to the Animal Welfare Act at all times and to submit quarterly reports that include both all violations found by APHIS during that quarter and the specific actions that will be taken to prevent their recurrence.	quarterly
ARS	Optimizing Facility Operations	House Report	The Committee notes the significant capital investments for new and replacement research facilities ARS has received over the past few years. As construction nears completion for several of these facilities, the Committee directs ARS to coordinate ongoing research operations to ensure that when new facilities come online, ARS is positioned to fully utilize the new space for research activities. In addition, the Committee directs ARS to provide a briefing outlining how ARS will optimize operations at new facilities and take full advantage of the research capabilities that these investments will enable.	within 30 days of enactment
ARS/NIFA/ Forest Service/ APHIS	Tropical and Subtropical Research	House Report	The Committee directs ARS to coordinate with NIFA, the Forest Service, APHIS, and the USDA Climate Hubs to provide to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report on research relevant to and efforts to assist Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands in the following research areas: (1) land and forest resource management; (2) enhancing the viability and sustainability of local food production systems; (3) biology and control of invasive insects, plant diseases, weedy plant species, and the development of integrated pest management strategies to control them; (4) molecular biology and bioengineering advancements on agricultural production and human and ecosystem health in tropical and subtropical areas; and 5) the application of precision agriculture technologies, data, and tools to increase cost efficiencies.	within 180 days of enactment
ARS	Buildings and Facilities	House Report	The Committee recognizes the national importance of the research performed by ARS facilities that are not owned by ARS. Ongoing efforts to upgrade ARS facilities to be on par with the critical research done by the agency has not addressed ARS research done by ARS employees at non-ARS facilities. Accordingly, the Committee directs ARS to provide to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a long-term, multi-year plan to guide capital asset and construction decisions for new agricultural research facilities focused on regionally and nationally important research topics, including plant breeding and genetics research and plant germplasm preservation.	within 180 days of enactment

CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

ARS	Research Facilities	Conference Report	The agreement directs USDA to ensure that any final rule is based on science, is in accordance with underlying law, and will ensure a fair and reasonable regulatory framework for commercial hemp production in the United States. In addition, the agreement encourages the Secretary to utilize the current research at the Agricultural Research Service and the Land-Grant Universities partnering with the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to guide the hemp sampling and testing protocols.	No later than 60 days after enactment
ARS	Agricultural Research Facilities	Senate Report and Conference Report	The agreement notes the importance of ARS laboratories and the need for continued improvement. The agreement directs ARS to evaluate its capital asset requirements for necessary coordination with ongoing and emerging research opportunities. As part of this evaluation, ARS should provide opportunity for public comment in order to incorporate the priorities of all interested stakeholders, including ARS and other scientists, and users of ARS data. The agreement also notes the important collaboration between ARS and universities and the impact that aging facilities have on new research opportunities. The agreement directs ARS to submit a 12 report that includes information on the current utilization of ARS facilities by universities and other cooperators, as well as the extent to which ARS is housed in cooperator facilities. In addition, the agreement recognizes the national importance of the research performed by ARS facilities that are not owned by ARS. Ongoing efforts to upgrade ARS facilities to be on par with the critical research done by the agency has not addressed ARS research done by ARS employees at non-ARS facilities. Accordingly, the agreement directs ARS to provide to the Committees a long-term multi-year plan to guide capital asset and construction decisions for new agricultural research facilities focused on regionally and nationally important research topics, including plant breeding and genetics research and plant germplasm preservation.	no later than 180 days after the enactment
ARS	Research Assistance	Senate Report	The Committee encourages ARS to provide direct, place-based assistance to 1862 Institutions in States that do not have ARS facilities to address the research priorities of such States, such as invasive plant species and insects that cause significant impacts to agriculture, aquaculture, and communities in such States and to assist in the development of specialty and horticultural crops to increase food security and expand marketing opportunities for small farmers. The Committee direct ARS to submit a report on the prospective options of such assistance	within 120 days of enactment
NIFA	Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)	Conference Report and Senate Report	The agreement is concerned with the insufficient progress made in the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) to address conventional plant and animal breeding that can provide farmers with greater access to locally and regionally adapted cultivars. The agreement directs the agency to make regionally adapted, publicly held cultivar development a distinct funding priority within AFRI for fiscal year 2021 and directs the agency to take steps to improve its tracking of public cultivar projects within AFRI. NIFA is directed to submit a report to the Committees that describes the progress in meeting these two goals. In addition, the agreemental notes that research that improves fertilizer use efficiency in crops is eligible for the AFRI program and encourages the Department to further address this important issue.	within 60 days of enactment

CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

NIFA	Livestock and Poultry Waste Research	House Report	The Committee recognizes the benefits of improved methods of managing animal waste in livestock and poultry production and encourages NIFA to support research and development of innovative technologies, particularly those that are operationally and economically feasible and have a high probability of widespread implementation. The Committee notes that direction was included in the fiscal year 2019 House report requiring a report from NIFA on next steps to develop a comprehensive approach to all value chains of manure management to include energy production, energy credits, nutrient credits, and mineral supplements, taking into consideration the full range of livestock production to include cattle, poultry, and swine. The Committee has yet to receive this report and expects NIFA to immediately rectify this unacceptable delay.	within 60 days of enactment
NIFA	Organic Research and Extension Initiative	House Report	The Committee notes that farming without the use of pesticides through various agricultural practices or genetic modifications may offer yields equal to or greater than farming with pesticides. The Committee directs NIFA to submit a report on ongoing research activities, funding opportunities, and implementation grants for scientists and farmers seeking to understand and implement pesticide-free agricultural practices.	within 180 days of enactment
NIFA	Minority Outreach / Cooperative Extension System	Senate Report and Conference Report	The Committee is concerned that extension service resources do not reach minority, socially disadvantaged, and Tribal communities in proportion to their participation in the agricultural sector. All institutions that receive extension funding should seek to ensure that an equitable percentage of their overall extension work reaches minority, socially disadvantaged, and Tribal communities. The Committee directs NIFA to evaluate distribution of extension resources to these three populations and report to the Committee.	no later than 90 days after enactment of this Act.
NIFA/RD/DHHS	Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network	House Report	The Committee directs NIFA and the Department's Rural Health Liaison to coordinate with the Department of Health and Human Services to gather and utilize existing data sets prepared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on farmer and rancher mental and behavioral health. Further, the Committee directs NIFA and the Rural Health Liaison to work together to provide a report on farmers' and ranchers' mental health status, access to behavioral health care, as well as geographic and demographic factors that are associated with higher rates of substance use, suicide, and job dissatisfaction. The report should also discuss barriers to the Department in collecting or accessing this information.	within 180 days of enactment
NIFA	Farmer Stress #1	Conference Report and Senate Report	The agreement notes the concern that farmers and ranchers face highly stressful working conditions, which can contribute to serious behavioral health concerns, especially during downturns in the farm economy and trade uncertainty. The agreement urges the Department to prioritize proposals from regions that have seen high levels of farm bankruptcies, auctions, and other signals of severe economic distress when reviewing award applications for the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network program. The Secretary is directed to provide quarterly reports to the Committees detailing the indicators of stress, data on stress response strategies, and emerging trends in rural economic and healthcare needs resulting from these stress interventions.	Quarterly

CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

NIFA/RD/DHHS	Farmer Stress #2	Conference Report	In addition, the agreement directs NIFA and the Department's Rural Health Liaison to coordinate with the Department of Health and Human Services to gather and utilize existing data sets prepared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on farmer and rancher mental and behavioral health. Further, the agreement directs NIFA and the Rural Health Liaison to work together to provide a report on farmers' and ranchers' mental health status, access to behavioral health care, as well as geographic and demographic factors that are associated with higher rates of substance abuse, suicide, and job dissatisfaction. The report should also discuss barriers in collecting or accessing this information. The agreement directs the Department to provide the report not later than 180 days after enactment.	within 180 days of enactment
Marketing and Regulatory Programs				
APHIS/AMS/FSIS/REE/FAS	One Health Initiative	House Report	USDA has partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency to leverage its resources to address health risks to human and animals. The Committee requests a briefing on what USDA is currently doing with respect to this initiative.	within 60 days of enactment
APHIS	Coffee Berry Borer	House Report	The Committee recognizes the destructive effects brought by infestation of the Coffee Berry Borer insect on coffee production, and the negative impact this has on the agricultural sector of Puerto Rico. The Committee directs APHIS to actively design a Hierarchical Environment for Research Modeling of Ecological Systems, known as the Hermes model, to control the prevalence of the Coffee Berry Borer pest in this U.S. jurisdiction. The Committee further directs USDA to assign the necessary funds to accomplish project objectives. APHIS shall submit a report to Congress that includes project accomplishments and obstacles.	November 30, 2021
APHIS	In and Out Bound Market Access Report	House Report	The Committee awaits the report from APHIS on U.S. out-bound and foreign in-bound agricultural market access.	within 60 days of enactment
APHIS	Inspection Reports	House Report	This level includes funding to support the agreement between APHIS and ARS, under which APHIS conducts compliance inspections of ARS facilities to ensure compliance with the regulations and standards of the Animal Welfare Act. The Committee directs APHIS to conduct inspections of all such ARS facilities and to post the resulting inspection reports on line in their entirety without redactions except signatures. The Committee continues to direct APHIS to transmit to the Committees all inspection reports involving ARS facilities, including pre-compliance inspections. These facilities involve federal funds over which this Committee has oversight responsibilities. APHIS is directed to include every violation its inspectors find and never to frustrate the Committee's oversight activities by using so-called "teachable moments" or other means of not reporting ARS facility violations.	as necessary
APHIS	National Clean Plant Network (NCPN)	House Report	The Committee also expects a full report detailing the history of the NCPN-Berries program, the complete plan for future work, and the effort to establish adequate diagnostic and therapeutic redundancy.	within 90 days of enactment

CONGESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

APHIS	National Aquatic Animal Health Plan	Senate Report and Conference Report	The agreement supports the Department's decision to develop a new National Aquaculture Health Plan in accordance with Executive Order 13921 and directs APHIS to collaborate with State and land-grant university partners in the development of the new plan. The agreement further directs the Department to report to the Committees on its efforts in this regard.	within 60 days of enactment
APHIS	One Health	Senate Report	The Committee understands that complex problems affecting the health of humans, animals, and the environment are best solved through improved communication, cooperation, and collaboration. Within 120 day of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report detailing existing collaborative efforts between the FDA, USDA, and other agencies to prevent and respond to zoonotic disease outbreaks in animals and humans, as well as specific activities required to achieve a framework that builds upon, improves, or complements this collaboration. This may include, but is not limited to, competitive research grant programs; training and support for scientists, first responders, or medical personnel; engagement of nongovernmental entities; and participation in international collaboration and research to assist in establishing a One Health program.	within 120 days of enactment
APHIS	Animal Welfare	Senate Report	The Committee recognizes the recent enactment of a domestic ban on the slaughter, transportation, possession, purchase, and sale of dogs and cats for human consumption. The Committee urges the Secretary to work to move forward with an international agreement to ban the trade of dog and cat meat worldwide. The Committee requests an update on steps taken.	within 60 days of enactment
APHIS	Zoonotic Disease Collaboration	Conference Report	The agreement understands that complex problems affecting the health of humans, animals, and the environment are best solved through improved communication, cooperation, and collaborations. The Secretary shall submit a report to the Committees detailing existing collaborative efforts between FDA, USDA, and other agencies to prevent and respond to zoonotic disease outbreaks in animals and humans. The report may include, but is not limited to, competitive research grant programs; training and support for scientists, first responders, or medical personnel; engagement of nongovernmental entities; and participation in international collaboration and research to assist in establishing a One Health program.	Within 120 days of enactment,
AMS	Hemp	House Report	The Committee is aware of the difficulty farmers face in trying to control the legal tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content of their hemp. The Committee recognizes that these challenges are exacerbated by lack of information, best practices, and tools to control the hemp content of THC. The Committee directs USDA to report to Congress on the number of acres of hemp, by state that have been required to be destroyed because the crop exceeds the limit 0.3 percent THC content; the number of producers, by state, who are found to have a negligent violation of the 0.3 percent limit; and the total number, by state, of producers whose hemp has been tested for THC.	within 60 days of enactment
AMS	Organic Production and Market Data Initiative	House Report	USDA shall report to Congress within one year on the department's current collection and publication of organic data and identify gaps in the reporting or collection of organic specific data.	within one year of collection and publication of data

CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

AMS	Organic Certification for Wild Seafood	Senate Report and Conference Report	The Committee is aware of interest in developing organic production, handling, and labeling standards for wild caught seafood as provided for in Section 6506 of the Organic Foods Production Act (7 U.S.C. 6506©). The Committee urges USDA to reestablish the Wild Caught Working Group under the National Organic Standards Board to evaluate wild capture aquatic animal production systems and assess the feasibility and appropriateness of developing organic production and handling standards for their certification. USDA is directed to provide a report to the Committee on the status of discussions with interested parties, including the wild caught seafood industry and the organic community, regarding the feasibility and framework for establishing organic standards for wild-caught seafood.	within 60 days of enactment
AMS	Organic Data Initiative	Senate Report and Conference Report	The Committee recognizes that accurate data for the production, pricing, and marketing of organic products is essential to maintaining stable markets, identifying fraud, creating risk management tools, tracking production trends, and increasing exports. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary to require mandatory reporting on an annual basis by the accredited certifying agents on aggregate production areas certified by crop and location in order to accurately calculate organic acreage and yield estimates on a country-by-country basis. Additionally, the Committee directs the Secretary to submit a report to the Committee within one year of enactment of this Act detailing the Department's current collection and publication of organic data and identifying gaps in the reporting or collection of organic-specific data.	within 1 year of enactment
Food Safety				
FSIS	FSIS Rulemaking	House Report	The Committee has reviewed the Inspector General's (IG) recent report on the rulemaking process relating to worker safety analysis that was used to develop the modernized swine slaughter rule. The Committee is deeply concerned with the IG's findings about the shortcomings in meeting transparency requirements and determining the reliability and quality of worker safety data used in the rulemaking. The Committee directs FSIS to expeditiously implement all recommendations identified in the IG report. The agency shall brief the Committee on updates to the internal procedures on rulemaking and communication efforts with the public on the data used in developing the rule.	within 60 days of enactment
FSIS	Humane Methods of Slaughter	House Report	The Food Safety and Inspection Service shall ensure that all inspection personnel conducting humane handling verification procedures receive robust initial training and periodic refresher training on the FSIS humane handling regulations, FSIS humane handling and slaughter directives, and proper use of the Humane Activities Tracking System. The Committee directs the agency to resume preparation and online posting of the Humane Handling Quarterly Reports, to include: (1) the number of humane handling verification procedures performed, (2) the number of administrative enforcement actions taken, (3) time spent on Humane Handling Activities Tracking System activities, and (4) comparisons of these measurements by plant size and FSIS district.	as necessary

CONGESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

FSIS	Humane Slaughter	Senate Report	The Committee directs FSIS to continue to provide annual reports to the Committee on the implementation of objective scoring methods undertaken by FSIS to enforce the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (Public Law 85-765). The Committee also directs FSIS to ensure that personnel hired with funding previously provided specifically for Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (Public Law 85-765) enforcement focus their attention on overseeing compliance with humane handling rules for live animals as they arrive and are offloaded and handled in pens, chutes, and stunning areas and that all inspectors receive robust training.	Annually
FSIS	Brazilian Raw Beef Imports	Senate Report and Conference Report	The Committee is concerned with the Department's decision to lift the ban on Brazilian raw beef imports and directs FSIS to provide a report to the Committee no later than 120 days after enactment of this Act with strategies the agency is using to ensure that imports are meeting the set standards.	within 120 days of enactment
FSIS	Public Health Veterinarians	Senate Report	The Committee remains concerned about persistently high levels of public health veterinary [PHV] vacancies within FSIS and directs the agency to provide a report to the Committee detailing overall PHV workforce needs, including positions that may be chronically hard to fill; the recruitment and retention programs implemented to-date, including a status of the funding spent on these initiatives and an estimate of when funding will be exhausted; additional actions taken to resolve the chronic and perpetual workforce issues; and a discussion of the agency's efforts to address these workforce issues in the long-term.	Annually
FSIS	Food Supply Chain	Conference Report	The agreement recognizes the current pressure across the food supply chain. The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is directed to do everything possible to ensure employees are safe. This includes determining whether an establishment's operating procedures sufficiently protect the safety of inspectors. The agreement directs FSIS to review the impact of the linespeed waivers it has granted on employees' health and safety and report back to the Committees.	within 90 days of enactment
Farm Production and Conservation				
OCE	Emissions Reduction Plan	House Report	The Committee recognizes the urgent necessity of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in order to mitigate the impacts of global climate change and the important role the agriculture sector can play in that effort. The Committee encourages USDA to consider climate impacts and emissions reductions centrally in its activities and directs USDA to provide a report outlining its plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	within 180 days after the enactment
	Acreage Adoption Initiative	House Report	The Committee recognizes the conservation benefits of USDA's new pilot program, CLEAR30. The Committee encourages USDA, through the Lake Erie Basin Project, to explore creating a similar pilot project that allows farmers to adopt an acre of land around the basin to survey and research soil nutrient outcomes, through experiments with cover crops, phosphorus, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen. The Committee directs NRCS to inform the Committee of the pilot program's feasibility.	within 60 days of enactment
NRCS	Program Duplication	Senate Report and Conference Report	The agreement directs NRCS to provide a report on actions it will take to eliminate program duplication as identified in Inspector General reports.	within 60 days of enactment

CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

FPAC-BC	State Office Relocation	Senate Report and Conference Report	The Committee recognizes that co-locating agency State offices within the FPAC mission area has the potential to improve customer service and operational efficiency. However, the Committee does not support the co-location of FPAC agency State offices into General Services Administration [GSA] locations if it is not in the best interest of USDA employees, customers, and taxpayers. Therefore, the Committee directs the Under Secretary for FPAC to provide a report.	within 90 days of enactment (4/1/2021)
FPAC-BC	Business Center Report	Conference Report	The agreement reminds the Secretary that the detailed report required in the Explanatory Statement accompanying the fiscal year 2020 Consolidated Appropriations Act, which was due February 2020, regarding the FPAC Business Center's efficiencies gained, metrics, hiring plan, and potential reorganization, is overdue.	
FPAC-BC	Information Technology Briefing	House Report	The Committee directs the Under Secretary to provide briefings during fiscal year 2021 on the development and combination of information technology systems, specifically farm program modernization and the latest updates to the farmers.gov website.	within 60 days of enactment (3-1-2021)
FPAC-BC	Agricultural Labor	House Report	The Committee is concerned with the lack of available domestic agricultural workers and the increasing demand for agricultural labor across the United States. For this reason, the Committee encourages the Secretary to report to the Committee on the size of the agricultural workforce in the United States. The report should include the number of workers in the current agricultural labor force and the number of agricultural job vacancies in the United States. The report should assess both yearround and seasonal agricultural labor.	within 60 days of enactment
FPAC-BC	Distribution of Farm Subsidies	House Report	The Committee directs the Department to provide to the Committees a report on the distribution of farm subsidies, low interest loans, and cost-share conservation programs and its impact on minority-owned farms.	43999
FPAC	State Office Relocation / Co-location of offices	Senate Report and Conference Report	The Committee recognizes that co-locating agency State offices within the FPAC mission area has the potential to improve customer service and operational efficiency. However, the Committee does not support the co-location of FPAC agency State offices into General Services Administration [GSA] locations if it is not in the best interest of USDA employees, customers, and taxpayers. Therefore, the Committee directs the Under Secretary for FPAC to provide a report.	within 90 days of enactment
FPAC	Business Center Report	Conference Report	The agreement reminds the Secretary that the detailed report required in the Explanatory Statement accompanying the fiscal year 2020 Consolidated Appropriations Act, which was due February 2020, regarding the FPAC Business Center's efficiencies gained, metrics, hiring plan, and potential reorganization, is overdue.	Feb-2020
FSA	Information Technology Briefing	House Report	The Committee directs the Under Secretary to provide briefings during fiscal year 2021 on the development and combination of information technology systems, specifically farm program modernization and the latest updates to the farmers.gov website.	within 60 days of enactment

CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

FSA	Livestock Indemnity Payments	House Report	The Committee is concerned the current process for producers to apply for reimbursement due to attacks by animals under the Livestock Indemnity Program is burdensome and does not fully compensate producers for their loss. The Committee directs the Secretary to provide a report to the Committee on factors contributing to producers' challenges in the application process for the Livestock Indemnity Program. The report shall examine ways to streamline, simplify, and improve the application process for producers, and make recommendations on possible methods to fully and fairly compensate producers for direct and indirect costs of eligible attacks.	within 180 days of enactment
NRCS	Watershed Projects	House Report and Conference Report	The Committee directs the Secretary to report on the status of all federally funded watershed projects throughout the States and territories that remain unfinished or incomplete due to lack of funds. The Committee encourages the Department to focus on active projects that are over 50 percent complete and where participating states and territories have contributed their share of the project costs.	within 60 days of enactment
FSA	Heirs Property	House Report	The Committee acknowledges and appreciates the listening sessions conducted by the FSA on heirs property issues and encourages the FSA to continue to work with local persons knowledgeable about heirs property issues and to implement the program in such a way that it is accessible to those who could benefit. The Committee directs FSA to inform the Committee on how it will implement input from the listening sessions. The Committee also directs the FSA to create a strategic plan that addresses issues that could prevent heirs property owners from accessing and benefiting from the program, including the difficulties of collateralization for those with limited assets and credit history.	within 60 days of enactment
FSA	Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Fairness	House Report	The Committee is aware of the recent ruling from the USDA National Appeals Division finding that the FSA did not follow its own rules while attempting to adjust the approved yields for farmers and ranchers in Rio Arriba County, NM. USDA shall review the Farm Service Agency's actions, consistent with this ruling, and provide a report to the Committee on which counties in the United States may have been impacted by similar decisions from State FSA directors and what mitigating actions the Agency plans to take. The Committee directs the USDA to provide equitable relief to the impacted farmers and ranchers and directs USDA to make reforms to the NAP policies and procedures to ensure farmers and ranchers are held harmless when errors are discovered.	Within 120 days of the enactment of this legislation
FSA	Small Farms	House Report	The Committee is concerned that a majority of financial and technical assistance goes to larger farmers. The Department should make every effort to reach smaller farmers. rity of financial and technical assistance goes to larger farmers. The Department should make every effort to reach smaller farmers. The committee awaits the report on small farms as directed by House Report 116-107.	April 18, 2020

CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

FSA	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program [CREP]	Senate Report and Conference Report	The Committee recognizes that drought is now the largest cause of U.S. farm production losses and strongly supports the development of creative solutions to conserve water while maintain the productive use of farmland. The Committee is concerned that the Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment [PEA] for CRP published in the Federal Register on October 3, 2019 (84 FR 52868) ignores the intent of Congress and the urgent threat of drought by immediately dismissing without meaningful consideration the new authorization for CREP drought and water conservation agreements to permit dryland agricultural uses with the adoption of best management practices. The Committee directs the Secretary to revise the PEA to allow dryland agriculture uses on land enrolled in CREP in accordance with section 1231A(e)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C 3831a(e)(2)). The Committee further directs the Secretary to submit a report to the Committee detailing a full analysis of the new CREP dryland agricultural uses authority and what dryland farming best management practices could make advancements to protect groundwater and surface water quality and control soil erosion while enhancing wildlife habitat.	within 90 days of enactment
FSA	Inaccurate Estimates	Senate Report and Conference Report	The Committee is concerned that the Department provided inaccurate estimates to Congress on the available unused funding for the National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program [OCCSP] during the development of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334). The overestimates have lead to a funding gap that is leaving farmers with far less assistance for completing this expensive and essential step that is required to tap into the growing market for certified organic food in the United States. The Committee directs the Secretary to submit a report on how it will resolve inconsistencies in supplying Congress with estimates on funding available for the OCCSP and other Farm Bill programs.	within 60 days of enactment
FSA	Salaries and Expenses / Staffing Levels	House Report and Conference Report	Concerns remain about staffing shortages at FSA offices. from the enactment of this Act, the agreement directs the Secretary to submit a report to Congress with an administrative breakdown of allotment levels by State, current full-time equivalents, current onboard permanent employees by State, and funded ceiling levels by State.	No later than 90 days
FSA	Highly Fractionated Land Loans and Notes	Conference Report	The agreement includes \$5,000,000 for Indian Highly Fractionated Land Loans and notes there are sufficient carryover balances to help meet demand. The agreement directs FSA to provide a report on the program's utilization and directs FSA to increase outreach to tribes and tribal members to improve the accessibility of the program.	within 60 days of enactment

CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

FSA	Livestock Indemnity Payments	House Report	The Committee is concerned the current process for producers to apply for reimbursement due to attacks by animals under the Livestock Indemnity Program is burdensome and does not fully compensate producers for their loss. The Committee directs the Secretary to provide a report to the Committee on factors contributing to producers' challenges in the application process for the Livestock Indemnity Program. The report shall examine ways to streamline, simplify, and improve the application process for producers, and make recommendations on possible methods to fully and fairly compensate producers for direct and indirect costs of eligible attacks.	within 180 days of enactment (7-1-2021)
FSA	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program [CREP]	Senate Report and Conference Report	The Committee recognizes that drought is now the largest cause of U.S. farm production losses and strongly supports the development of creative solutions to conserve water while maintain the productive use of farmland. The Committee is concerned that the Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment [PEA] for CRP published in the Federal Register on October 3, 2019 (84 FR 52868) ignores the intent of Congress and the urgent threat of drought by immediately dismissing without meaningful consideration the new authorization for CREP drought and water conservation agreements to permit dryland agricultural uses with the adoption of best management practices. The Committee directs the Secretary to revise the PEA to allow dryland agriculture uses on land enrolled in CREP in accordance with section 1231A(e)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C 3831a(e)(2)). The Committee further directs the Secretary to submit a report to the Committee detailing a full analysis of the new CREP dryland agricultural uses authority and what dryland farming best management practices could make advancements to protect groundwater and surface water quality and control soil erosion while enhancing wildlife habitat.	within 90 days of enactment (4-1-2021)
FSA	Inaccurate Estimates	Senate Report and Conference Report	The Committee is concerned that the Department provided inaccurate estimates to Congress on the available unused funding for the National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program [OCCSP] during the development of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334). The overestimates have lead to a funding gap that is leaving farmers with far less assistance for completing this expensive and essential step that is required to tap into the growing market for certified organic food in the United States. The Committee directs the Secretary to submit a report on how it will resolve inconsistencies in supplying Congress with estimates on funding available for the OCCSP and other Farm Bill programs.	within 60 days of enactment (3-1-2021)

CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

NRCS	Conservation Data Collection	House Report	The Committee directs the Department to conduct a study to assess data collected from producers, across all USDA agencies, related to conservation practices and describe how that data can be used to increase and improve conservation efforts. The report should consider and share what additional data would improve the ability to better quantify the benefits of these practices. The Committee directs the Department to share its findings with the Appropriations Committees no later than one year after enactment of this Act.	within one year of enactment
NRCS	Forestry and Wetlands	House Report	The Committee directs NRCS to study the ability and effectiveness of managed forestry best practices to aid in combating and mitigating waste runoff and toxic elements in affected large water sources and watersheds where overapplication of toxins and manure is harming freshwater drinking supplies. NRCS should seek input from forestry experts. The Committee directs NRCS to report back on its findings.	within 180 days of enactment
NRCS	Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)	House Report	NRCS shall coordinate efforts to address harmful algal blooms with other federal partners through the Interagency Working Group on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research Control Act as authorized by Public Law 115–423. Further, the Committee directs NRCS, in collaboration with the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to report back on comparisons between soil health, water quality, and HABs presence in the Great Lakes.	within one year of enactment
NRCS	Program Duplication	Senate Report and Conference Report	The agreement directs NRCS to provide a report on actions it will take to eliminate program duplication as identified in Inspector General reports.	within 60 days of enactment
NRCS	Watershed Projects	House Report and Conference Report	The Committee directs the Secretary to report on the status of all federally funded watershed projects throughout the States and territories that remain unfinished or incomplete due to lack of funds. The Committee encourages the Department to focus on active projects that are over 50 percent complete and where participating states and territories have contributed their share of the project costs.	within 60 days of enactment (3-1-2021)
NRCS	Forestry and Wetlands	House Report	The Committee directs NRCS to study the ability and effectiveness of managed forestry best practices to aid in combating and mitigating waste runoff and toxic elements in affected large water sources and watersheds where overapplication of toxins and manure is harming freshwater drinking supplies. NRCS should seek input from forestry experts. The Committee directs NRCS to report back on its findings.	within 180 days of enactment (7-1-2021)
NRCS	Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)	House Report	NRCS shall coordinate efforts to address harmful algal blooms with other federal partners through the Interagency Working Group on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research Control Act as authorized by Public Law 115–423. Further, the Committee directs NRCS, in collaboration with the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to report back on comparisons between soil health, water quality, and HABs presence in the Great Lakes.	within one year of enactment (1-1-2022)

CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

NRCS	Soil Restoration in Watersheds	House Report	The Committee is concerned about soil quality near watersheds such as the Great Lakes Basin, Salton Sea, Lake Okeechobee, and the Chesapeake Bay. Water from these sources, used for agriculture, affects crop production and soil health, and through groundwater and surface water runoff, the health of the soil in turn affects adjacent water sources. Therefore, the Committee directs NRCS to evaluate outcomes of watershed and cropland projects implemented through its Conservation Effects Assessment Project, and report back to the Committee the results and effectiveness of conservation program practices. Emphasis should be placed on regenerative soil findings, soil health standards that can be established, and means to improve water quality.	within 180 days of enactment (7-1-2021)
NRCS	Technical Assistance	Senate Report	The Committee directs NRCS to maintain a record of total technical assistance dollars for the past 3 years and annually in the future and to provide the data to the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture and the Committee on Agriculture Nutrition and Forestry. This report should differentiate between mandatory and discretionary allocations	within 120 days of enactment
CCC	CCC Report	House Report	The Committee directs the Secretary to provide a report on November 15, 2020, and May 18, 2021, on planned uses of funding under the authorities of Section 4 and Section 11 of the CCC Charter Act.	November 15, 2020 and May 18, 2021
CCC	CCC Obligations and Commitments	House Report	The Secretary is directed to notify the Committees in writing 15 days prior to any announcement on the use of funds from the CCC or to the obligation or commitment of any emergency funds from the CCC.	as necessary
CCC	CRP Wetland Restoration and Wildlife Enhancement	Senate Report	The Committee notes that agricultural commodity crops, if left unharvested, may help reduce degradation of wetlands and improve sediment trapping, surface and ground water supply, erosion control, and wildlife habitat while providing winter food for waterfowl and other wildlife. The Committee directs CCC, to amend its program policies and guidelines for CRP conservation practices CP23 and CP23A, to provide that current and future participants are permitted to plant, but not harvest, agricultural commodity crops as wildlife food plots on up to 10 percent of the enrolled land to enhance waterfowl and upland bird food and habitat.	within 60 days of enactment
RMA	Haying and Grazing of Cover Crops	Senate Report and Conference Report	The Committee recognizes that planting cover crops is one of the best ways farmers can build soil health, improve crop health, and protect water quality. Therefore, the Committee directs RMA to provide flexibility to producers wishing to hay or graze cover crops on prevented planting acreage before November 1. The Committee further directs RMA to study alternatives to a nationwide haying and grazing date in order to avoid primary nesting and the potential impact of eliminating penalties for haying and grazing after the primary nesting season. RMA shall report the results of this study to the Committee.	No later than 180 days after enactment of this Act.

CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

RMA	Whole Farm Diversified Risk Management Insurance Plan	Conference Report	The agreement notes that the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334) directed the Board of Directors of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to consider treating the different growth stages of aquaculture species as separate crops for the Whole Farm Diversified Risk Management Insurance Plan. RMA is directed to submit a report to the Committees regarding the steps taken by the Board to consider the feasibility of this proposed change to recognize the difference in perils at different phases of growth for aquaculture species.	within 60 days of enactment
Rural Development				
RBS	Persistent Poverty Areas	House Report and Senate Report	The Committee supports targeted investments in impoverished areas, particularly in persistent poverty counties. To understand how programs funded through the Department are serving these areas, the Committee requested the Department submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate on the percentage of funds allocated by each rural development program in fiscal years 2017, 2018 and 2019 and estimates for fiscal year 2020 serving individuals living in persistent poverty counties. The Committee awaits this report.	within 60 days of enactment
RD	Placemaking: Revitalization of Rural Livable Places	House Report	The Committee provides an additional \$2,000,000 to expand or enhance cooperative agreements begun in fiscal year 2020 that utilize publicprivate partnerships involved in the “Placemaking Initiative”. Awards should take advantage of current or future highspeed broadband investments from the Rural Utilities Service’s ReConnect program. Selection criteria must include geographic and ethnic diversity as well as such factors as the revitalization and shaping of future town centers, community and county wellbeing and economic vitality, and the enhancement of full community participation in creating growth strategies. Where possible, the three main areas of Rural Development should support such efforts to help create greater social and cultural vitality in these livable rural communities. USDA shall report back to the Committee on how the Placemaking Initiative can help develop a tool kit that will allow other rural communities in the future to replicate the successful drivers of making a rural place more livable.	within 60 days of enactment
RD	Information Technology	Senate Report and Conference Report	The agreement remains concerned about IT systems within Rural Development (RD) and still awaits the requested briefing about the status of the Comprehensive Loan Program. The agreement directs the Department to provide a comprehensive report on how RD plans to modernize Rural Development’s aging technology systems, including a detailed cost breakdown for each system, the priority level, and the estimated timeline for completion.	within 120 days of enactment
RBS	Council on Rural Community Innovation and Economic Development	Senate Report and Conference Report	The Committee requests that the Department submit a report on implementation of Section 6306 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334), including a projected timeline for full implementation of this provision.	within 90 days of enactment

CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

RBS	Rural Cooperative Development Grants	Senate Report and Conference Report	The Committee recognizes the important role that cooperatives play in the Nation's rural economy and the continued need to fund established and successful development centers throughout the country. The Committee also recognizes the importance of economic development in rural communities and the importance of economic development in rural communities and the unique challenges to business growth in these areas. The Committee direct USDA to evaluate the feasibility of awarding multi-year Rural Business Development Grants and to report to Congress within 1 year of enactment of this Act on the barriers to implementing such a proposal.	within 1 year of enactment
RHS	Community Facility Loans	House Report and Conference Report	The Committee directs the Department to report on the Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant and Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan programs portfolio. The report shall include the number of approved and non-approved applications for fiscal years 2017–2020 within the North American Industry Classification System.	within 180 days of enactment
RHS	Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program	Senate Report and Conference Report	The Committee directs USDA to submit a report that includes loan processing times and strategies to make the loan review process more efficient for the Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program.	within 120 days of enactment
RHS	Multi-Family Housing Revitalization Program Account	Senate Report and Conference Report	The Secretary is directed to provide a report to estimate the cost of providing rural housing vouchers to all low-income households currently receiving USDA rental assistance and residing in a property financed with a Section 515 loan that are set to mature in the subsequent fiscal year and subsequent 10 fiscal years. In addition, the Secretary is directed to provide quarterly reports to the Committees on transfers between vouchers and the housing preservation demonstration program within the Multi-Family Housing Revitalization Program Account.	within 120 days of enactment Quarterly
RHS	Housing Preservation	Senate Report	The Secretary is directed to develop a biannual comprehensive multi-family housing preservation plan describing how the Department intends to preserve all viable Section 514 and 515 properties in the portfolio. This report shall also include a comprehensive description of the decision-making process, including any incentives offered, relating to any Section 514 or 515 property that exited the Rural Development portfolio during the preceding 24 months.	Bi-annually
RUS	Broadband Technologies	House Report	The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334) included new authorities for rural broadband programs that garnered broad stakeholder support as well as bipartisan, bicameral agreement in Congress. Therefore, the Secretary is directed to provide a report on how the Department plans to utilize these authorities to deploy broadband connectivity to rural communities.	within 60 days of enactment
RUS	Precision Agriculture	House Report	The Committee encourages the Department to identify opportunities for public-private partnerships to address the scale of the challenge of broadband infrastructure and Next Generation Precision Agriculture technology deployment. The Committee also directs the Secretary to publish a report on their efforts to aggregate local initiatives and private partnerships in order to develop the best strategies, and the most effective strategies used by rural communities to deploy internet infrastructure.	within 60 days of enactment

CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

RUS	Broadband on Tribal Lands	Senate Report and Conference Report	The Committee is aware that the Department continues to implement the recommendations published in the Government Accountability Office [GAO] report GAO– 18–682. The Committee requests an update on the status of implementation.	within 90 days of enactment
Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services				
FNS	Diet-related Chronic Diseases		The Committee is aware that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) is currently working on a review of the prevalence, direct medical costs, and mortality of selected diet-related chronic diseases; what federal agency diet-related efforts aim to reduce Americans’ risk of diet-related chronic disease; and the extent to which federal agencies effectively collaborate on these efforts. The Committee is very concerned about these issues as well, particularly the potential fragmentation among these programs, and looks forward to GAO’s findings in its upcoming report. The Committee directs the Secretary of Agriculture and the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, working with the other members of the Interagency Committee on Human Nutrition Research (ICHNR), to convene a meeting within 30 days of the release of the GAO report to address any shortcomings identified by GAO in how the various federal agencies and departments currently collaborate and utilize federal resources to reduce and eliminate diet-related chronic disease. Lastly, the Committee directs the USDA and FDA to provide a joint briefing to the Committees on the corresponding strategic plan within 60 days of the release of the GAO report.	meeting within 30 days of the release of the GAO report briefing within 60 days of the release of the GAO report
FNS	Farmers’ Market Nutrition Programs	House Report	The Committee recognizes the success of the Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) and the WIC Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program (FMNP). The Committee directs FNS to research the backlog of states requesting SFMNP and FMNP funding and to deliver their findings to the Committees.	within 180 days of enactment
FNS	Public Release of Information	House Report	The Committee directs FNS to continue making all policy documents related to the WIC program (including, but not limited to, instructions, memoranda, guidance, and questions and answers) available to the public on the Internet.	within one week of release to WIC state administrators
FNS	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	House Report	The Committee remains aware of the challenges people face when transitioning out of incarceration, including finding employment. Access to nutrition assistance is critical to successfully reentering society as it offers temporary assistance to ex-offenders as they search for stable employment. The Committee continues to direct the Department to research and report ways states, especially those who have lifted or modified the SNAP drug felony ban, can best serve this population, such as but not limited to pre-release applications for SNAP and employment and training programs for this population and make such findings available online for the public to utilize.	within 60 days of enactment
FNS	Added Sugars in School Meals	House Report	The Committee requests a report posted publicly on FNS’s website on the amount of added sugars in school meals, based on the most recent existing data. Specifically, the Committee is interested in the proportion of meals and competitive foods that would meet an added sugar standard consistent with the 2015–2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans that no more than 10 percent of calories from the meal or competitive food item come from added sugars.	within one year of enactment

CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

FNS	Nutrition Guidelines for Older Adults.	House Report	The Committee recognizes that more resources are needed to support the older adult day care component of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The Committee directs the Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to take steps to better disseminate existing information that could help state and local entities involved in providing CACFP meals meet the varying nutritional needs of older adult participants, as well as to continue to identify additional promising practices or other information on meal accommodations to share with CACFP entities. The Committee directs the FNS Administrator to report on its progress to the Senate and House Appropriations Committees.	within 180 days of enactment
FNS	School Nutrition Standards	House Report	The Committee directs the Department to publish on its website data on the compliance of school food authorities with respect to the nutritional requirements under section 9(f) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. The data reported should include the total number of school food authorities in each state, the number of school food authorities in compliance with the requirements, and the percentage of school food authorities in compliance with the requirements by state.	within 120 days of enactment
FNS	Sodium Reduction	House Report	Within one year of enactment, the Committee requests a report to be publicly posted on the agency's website on the use of the funds to provide schools with technical assistance, training resources, and mentoring to meet the sodium-reduction targets. Further, the Committee requests information on USDA's plans to update the sodium-reduction targets consistent with the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommendations on sodium. The Committee strongly encourages USDA to work with industry and other stakeholders to ensure there is a wide variety of lower-sodium options on the market from which schools can procure.	within one year of enactment
FNS	Team Nutrition	House Report	The Committee supports the promotion of nutritional health of school children by establishing team nutrition networks to promote physical fitness awareness and obesity prevention programs, and to establish programs such as school gardens. The Committee directs the Secretary to submit a report on the program's impact on physical wellness, environmental awareness, and nutrition.	within 180 days of enactment
FNS	Maternal Mortality Data	House Report	The Committee directs the Secretary to conduct a review of existing evidence and develop a plan to build evidence on the impact of the WIC Program on reducing maternal mortality among specific populations of mothers with the highest maternal mortality rates in the U.S., which includes African American, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and Indigenous (American Indian and Alaskan Native) mothers. An emphasis should be placed on the needs of disadvantaged communities of color. The USDA shall submit to the Committee a report setting forth a timeline and process for reviewing existing evidence, building new evidence, and analyzing data, disaggregated by race and ethnicity, for all the main categories of indicators tracked, and for publishing an annual, publicly available report describing the methodology and the results of the analysis as well as a summary of the data.	within 180 days of enactment

CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

FNS	College Hunger	House Report	The Committee remains concerned that SNAP eligible students who are food-insecure lack proper information about resources available to them. The Committee continues to direct FNS to make information available on its website regarding student SNAP eligibility requirements easier to understand and more accessible. The Committee further directs FNS regional offices to collect and review information about existing SNAP flexibilities and examples of approaches state SNAP agencies are taking to assist eligible college students to access SNAP benefits and share such information with state SNAP agencies. It also directs the Secretary to work with the Department of Education to share these best practices with higher education institutions. Finally, it directs USDA to develop and submit to the Committee a funding proposal to address college hunger, especially at the community college level.	within 60 days of enactment
FNS/AMS	Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) Demonstration Project for Tribal Organizations	House Report, Senate Report, and Conference Report	The Committee continues to support FDPIR and the ability of tribal organizations to enter into 638 self-determination contracts for the procurement of FDPIR foods, which would promote tribal sovereignty and allow tailoring of this vital program to meet specific tribal cultural and local needs. The Committee provides \$3,000,000 for the 638 Tribal Self Governance Demonstration Program for Tribal Organizations as described in Section 4003 of P.L. 115-334. The Committee encourages FNS, in collaboration with AMS, to provide information to the FDPIR community on how tribal vendors can sell foods to USDA for use in food distribution programs. The Secretary is directed to notify the Committee of the Department's efforts to engage tribes in the demonstration program and tribal participation in fiscal year 2020.	within 60 days of enactment
FNS	SNAP Eligibility for College Students	Senate Report	The Committee is deeply concerned by the findings of the December 2018 GAO report titled "Food Insecurity-Better Information Could Help Eligible College Students Access Federal Food Assistance Benefits," in which GAO found that students may be unaware or misinformed about their potential eligibility for SNAP. GAO found that FNS has not provided clear explanation that is easily accessible to students and college officials on SNAP eligibility requirements, and, as a result, students experiencing food insecurity may remain unaware that they could be eligible for SNAP. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary to provide a report on its current outreach efforts to colleges and their students on potential eligibility. Further, the Department should coordinate with the Department of Education to improve outreach to eligible college students and report on its efforts.	Secretary to provide a report within 90 days of enactment and Department report on its efforts within 180 days of enactment

CONGESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

FNS	Summer Food Service Program and Child and Adult Care Food Program	Senate Report and Conference Report	The Committee is concerned that the application process for organizations which participate in both the Summer Food Service Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program diverts resources away from serving vulnerable populations. The Committee directs USDA to determine ways to streamline the application process to reduce the administrative burden to providers. USDA is specifically directed to consider allowing organizations in good standing for 3 years participating in both programs to file only one application to administer both programs each year. USDA is further directed to provide a report to the Committee on steps they have taken to address this issue, including any additional streamlining actions the agency would recommend but lacks the authority to execute.	within 60 days of enactment
FNS	Summer Food Service Program	Senate Report and Conference Report	The agreement directs USDA to submit a report within one year of enactment of this Act describing the number of Summer Food Service Program grantees, the States in which they operate, the innovative methods of food delivery by non-congregate means and in noncongregate settings, the innovative methods used, and the number of additional youth served as a result.	within 1 year of enactment
FNS	National Accuracy Clearinghouse (NAC)	Conference Report	The agreement directs the Secretary to continue reviewing and evaluating the verification process of earned income at certification and recertification of applicant households for the SNAP program using electronic data matching. The agreement provides \$5,000,000 for continued implementation of the National Accuracy Clearinghouse (NAC) and strongly urges the Department to move forward with the NAC to prevent duplicative issuances of SNAP benefits and improve program integrity. The agreement requests an update on the progress of the NAC within 60 days of enactment of this Act.	within 60 days of enactment
FNS	Data discrepancies	Conference Report	The agreement directs FNS to provide an update on the implementation of controls to address the reconciliation of data discrepancies across administration systems and retailers that provide benefits to individuals using fraudulent credentials, as well as data demonstrating whether the controls have reduced error rates.	within 60 days of enactment
Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs				
FAS	Farmer-to-Farmer	House Report	The Committee notes that last year's House report directed USDA to provide a briefing to the Committee on how USDA can maximize its participation in the John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer program (Farmer-to-Farmer). As part of the brief, the Committee directs USDA to include a list of recommendations for how to enhance its participation in Farmer-to-Farmer, including a discussion of how Farmer-to-Farmer can work collaboratively with other USDA-funded programs such as 4-H, the Cooperative Extension System, the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, and other government agencies such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition, the Committee directs USAID to coordinate with USDA on incorporating the role of the agricultural officer to maximize the efficacy of the Farmer-to-Farmer program.	within 60 days of enactment

CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

FAS	International Agricultural Education Fellowship	House Report	The Committee notes that last year's House Report directed USDA to brief the Committees on how the International Agricultural Education Fellowship program will work in collaboration with other ongoing Foreign Agricultural service program to achieve USDA's goals. The Committee expects this brief to also include a discussion of how this program will work in collaboration with other USDA-funded programs such as 4-H, the Cooperative Extension System, the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, and other government agencies such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.	within 60 days of enactment
FAS	Technical Assistance	House Report	The Committee recognizes the challenge of global hunger and the need to improve the delivery of assistance to meet food security requirements and to improve nutritional standards for underserved populations. The Committee encourages the Department to provide technical assistance to international entities and organizations that develop and improve food and nutrition safety net systems. The Committee directs the Department to provide to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a briefing on its ongoing and previous technical assistance efforts described above.	within 180 days of enactment
FAS	U.S. Central America, Mexico Cooperation	House Report	The Committee directs FAS to work with its counterparts in Central America and Mexico to develop agricultural working groups focused on improving the efficiency of the agricultural inspection process and agricultural trade facilitation issues. In addition, FAS shall use existing programs for academic exchanges in agriculture-related fields of study in this region. The Committee notes that last year's House report directed the Department to brief the Committees on these efforts. The Committee looks forward to receiving this report.	within 60 days of enactment
FAS	Nutrition Targets	House Report	The Committee directs the Department to submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report on nutrition outcomes achieved by the McGovern-Dole program.	within 180 days of enactment
FAS	Data Matching	Senate Report and Conference Report	The Committee is concerned that USDA has not met the deadline established in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334) to issue regulations providing guidance to States on the operations and use of the NAC or contracted with an independent entity to provide the data matching, call center, and other services necessary to implement the NAC. The Committee strongly urges the Department to move forward with the NAC to prevent duplicative issuances of SNAP benefits and improve program integrity. The Committee requests an update on the progress of the NAC.	within 60 days of enactment