

**U.S. Department of Agriculture**

**2023 Congressional Directives**

Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
OASCR	Obligation Limitation	Omnibus Act	<p>Provided further, That no funds made available under this heading for the Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations may be obligated after 30 days from the date of enactment of this Act, unless the Secretary has notified the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the allocation of these funds by USDA agency: Provided further, That during any 30 day notification period referenced in section 716 of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall take no action to begin implementation of the action that is subject to section 716 of this Act or make any public announcement of such action in any form.</p>	Within 30 days after enactment
OBPA	Spending Plans	House Report 117-392/Omnibus Act	<p>The bill continues a provision in Title VII that requires USDA to submit spending plans to the Committee. Previous versions of these plans have not included adequate details that would be useful for Committee oversight. 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.</p> <p>GP 721: Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration and the Chairman of the Farm Credit Administration shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a detailed spending plan by program, project, and activity for all the funds made available under this Act including appropriated user fees, as defined in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).</p>	30 days after enactment of this Act

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
OBPA	New Initiatives	House Report 117-392	The Committee requests USDA, no later than 120 days after enactment, to submit an execution plan 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.	120 days after enactment of this Act and Quarterly reports
OBPA	Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers	House Report 117-392	The Committee recognizes the importance of the Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers program. The Committee requests the Secretary identify any barriers to access the program, make recommendations to improve the program and report to the Committees.	60 days after enactment of this Act
OBPA	Organization Chart	Explanatory Statement/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, within 60 days of enactment of this Act.	60 days after enactment of this Act
OBPA	Status of House and Senate Report Language	House Report 117-392	The Department is directed to include in its fiscal year 2024 Congressional Justification, as a single exhibit, a table listing all deliverables, 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 upon request
OBPA	Advertising Expenditures	House Report 117-392	The Committee believes that, as the largest advertiser in the United States, the federal government should work to ensure fair access to its advertising contracts for small, disadvantaged businesses and businesses owned by minorities and women. The Committee directs each department and agency to include the following information in its fiscal year 2024 budget justification: expenditures for fiscal year 2022 and expected expenditures for fiscal years 2023 and 2024 for (1) all contracts for advertising services; and (2) contracts for the advertising services of 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 women- and minority-owned businesses.	Congressional Justifications

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Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
OCE	Study of U.S. Biobased Economy	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The agreement directs the Secretary to study the U.S. bioeconomy's size and scope in comparison with other nations according to available data and direct/indirect jobs and average wages, economic output, tax contributions, and investment. The agreement directs to Department to consult with the Committees on the details of the study and submit a report within one year of enactment of this Act.	Within one year after enactment of this Act
OCFO	Working Capital Funds - Transferred Funds	Omnibus Act	GP 702: Provided further, That none of the funds transferred to the Working Capital Fund pursuant to this section shall be available for obligation without written notification to and the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress:	Prior to obligation of funds transferred to WCF
OCFO	Working Capital Funds - Changes to NFC	Omnibus Act	GP 702: Provided further, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act or made available to the Department's Working Capital Fund shall be available for obligation or expenditure to make any changes to the Department's National Finance Center without written notification to and prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress as required by section 716 of this Act:	Prior to changes to NFC
OCFO	Working Capital Funds - Administrative Funds	Omnibus Act	GP 702: Provided further, That none of the amounts reserved shall be available for obligation unless the Secretary submits written notification of the obligation to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress:	Prior to obligation of funds

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Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
OCFO/OCIO	National Finance Center (NFC)	House Report 117-392	The National Finance Center (NFC) is the largest designated Federal Government Payroll Shared Service Provider and it provides integrated payroll and personnel services for over 640,000 Federal employees. To ensure that thousands of Federal employees' pay and human resources services are not interrupted or adversely impacted by major organizational changes, the Committee maintains the requirements under current law relating to NFC payroll and shared services operations, missions, personnel, and functions. The Committee also directs USDA to provide quarterly 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 break down 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 fiscal year 2017 and 2018.	Quarterly reports
OCFO-OCIO	Working Capital Funds - Changes to OCFO or OCIO in NFC	Omnibus Act	GP 702: Provided further, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act or made available to the Department's Working Capital Fund shall be available for obligation or expenditure to initiate, plan, develop, implement, or make any changes to remove or relocate any systems, missions, personnel, or functions of the offices of the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Information Officer, co-located with or from the National Finance Center prior to written notification to and prior approval of the Committee on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress and in accordance with the requirements of section 716 of this Act:	Prior to changes to NFC
OCIO	Transfer of Funds to OCIO	Omnibus Act	GP 706: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be transferred to the Office of the Chief Information Officer without written notification to and the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress:	Prior to transfer of funds to OCIO

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Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
OSSP	Federal Law Enforcement	House Report 117-392	The explanatory statement that accompanied the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2022 directed the Attorney General to ensure implementation of evidence-based training programs on de-escalation, the use-of force, and the protection of civil rights, that are broadly applicable and scalable to all Federal law enforcement agencies. Several agencies funded by this Act employ Federal law enforcement officers and are Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers partner organizations. These agencies are again directed to consult with the Attorney General regarding the implementation of these programs for their law enforcement officers. The Committee further directs such agencies to submit a report to the Committee on their efforts relating to such implementation not later than 90 days after consultation with the Attorney General. In addition, the Committee continues to direct such agencies to the extent that they are not already participating, to consult with the Attorney General and the Director of the FBI regarding participation in the National Use-of-Force Data Collection. The Committee further directs such agencies to submit a report to the Committee not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act on their efforts to so participate.	Two submissions  no later than 90 days after enactment of this Act  No later than 180 days after enactment of this Act
ARS	Animal Research	House Report 117-392	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 reports
ARS	Post-Research Animal Placements	House Report 117-392	The Committee continues to be very interested in the ARS framework, requested in the 2022 report, to allow the retirement of dogs and cats, and other domesticated animals as appropriate, that are no longer used in intramural agency research to private homes, rescues or sanctuaries.	180 days after enactment of this Act 09/15/2022
ARS	Sustainable Marine Aquaculture	House Report 117-392	The Committee supports rapid response research on sustainable marine aquaculture for coldwater and warmwater production coastal environments, with special emphasis on workforce education. The Committee requests a report on how the Agriculture Experiment Station model could be applied to support the U.S. aquaculture industry to develop and deploy sustainable production practices and better manage coastal aquaculture resources.	60 days after enactment of this Act

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Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
ARS	Greenhouse Production Research Report	House Report 117-392	The Committee appreciates the work of the Greenhouse Production Research Group (GPRG) to develop new technologies for controlled environment agriculture. The Committee looks forward to receiving the report requested in House Report 117–82.	180 days after enactment of this Act 09/15/2022
ARS	Hawaii and U.S. Territories.	House Report 117-392	The Committee finds that Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories have unique challenges in establishing sustainable food production systems; controlling and managing invasive species; protecting its diverse and fragile tropical and subtropical ecosystems; and advancing molecular biology and bioengineering. The Committee requests ARS, in collaboration with NIFA and APHIS, to report to the Committee on their efforts to assist Hawaii and these territories in: • breeding and crop improvement; variety selection for pest and disease resistance; identification and evaluation of new specialty crops; nutrient and water management; livestock production; protected agriculture; and aquaponics and hydroponics;• the biology and control of priority invasive insects, plant diseases, and weedy plant species, including their impacts on farms, native biota, and local ecosystems, and developing integrated pest management strategies to control them; • land and forest resource management, agroforestry, wildland fire science and fire management, nutrient management, soil erosion, soil quality and bioremediation, biological diversity conservation and restoration, rehabilitation of degraded and/or idle lands, and water quality; and • molecular biology and bioengineering opportunities in tropical and subtropical areas.	Within 30 days after enactment
ARS and NIFA	Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority (AGARDA)	House Report 117-392	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. As the Committee awaits this plan, the Committee provides \$2,000,000 for the Office of Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics to further build out the planning and management structure of AGARDA and hire staff.	Over Due - 6/25/2021

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Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
ARS and NRCS	Improved Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Imaging Research	House Report 117-392	The Committee understands HABs are a detriment to human and animal health, aquatic ecosystems, and local economies. <b>looks forward to receiving the report requested in House Report 117–82.</b>	180 days after enactment of the 2022 Appropriations Acts 9/15/2022
ERS	Agricultural Trade Imports	House Report 117-392	The Committee directs ERS to study and report back within 120 days of the enactment of this Act findings on the top 15 nations, within the last five years, from which the United States imports agriculture products. The report shall also include the average wages for farmworkers of those countries and a discussion, if possible, of health benefits, safety regulations, and working conditions of their farm labor per commodity to those found in the U.S. <b>The Committee looks forward to receiving the report requested in House Report 117–82.</b>	120 days after enactment of this Act
ERS	Carbon Sequestration	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The agreement directs ERS to report on a quarterly basis the top five agricultural commodity exports and imports by State and to identify the country of destination or origin of those commodities.	Quarterly reports
ERS	Benefits of Conservation and Soil Health Practices	House Report 117-392	The Committee looks forward to receiving the study requested in the fiscal year 2021 House Report 116–446.	Two studies - one due within 90 days for 2022 and the other is overdue from 2/25/2021.
ERS	Nutrition Security Metrics	Senate and Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The Committee directs USDA to formalize metrics for evaluating nutrition security. This definition should be developed in consultation with other Federal agencies, researchers, and public health organizations. Within 1 year of enactment of this Act, the Committee requests a report, to be posted publicly on USDA’s website and submitted to the Senate and House Appropriations Committees, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, and the House Committee on Agriculture, on this definition. Conf Report - The agreement directs USDA, within 18 months of enactment of this Act, to formalize and publish metrics for evaluating nutrition security in consultation with other Federal agencies, researchers, and public health organizations.	547 days after enactment of this Act

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Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
ERS	Cover Cropping and Livestock Integration	House Report 117-392	The Committee notes that the fiscal year 2021 House report directed ERS to produce a study detailing current best practices as well as the projected longterm economic impacts for farmers and the Committee looks forward to reviewing the results of the study. The Committee looks forward to receiving the study requested in the fiscal year 2021 House Report 116–446.	Was due on 2/25/2021
ERS	Incentives for Voluntary Carbon Sequestration	Senate Report	The Committee directs ERS to provide, a report on incentive programs for encouraging the voluntary adoption various agricultural management practices that increase carbon sequestration in soil. ERS is encouraged to consider how alternative policies or voluntary programs would manage the tradeoff between incentivizing new adopters and rewarding and sustaining existing adopters of techniques that sequester soil carbon, regional and geographic differences in incentive programs, social and behavioral obstacles, and the differences across program designs.	One year after enactment of this Act
ERS	Life Cycle Analysis [LCA] for Various Biobased Products	Senate Report	The Committee therefore directs the Department to complete a study of existing life cycle analyses for key biobased chemicals, polymers, plastics, and fibrous materials and environmental impact data across various categories, and to make its findings publicly available for consumers and industry to access. The Secretary shall submit a report detailing the Department’s findings to the Committee not later than 1 year after the date of enactment and provide an in-person briefing.	One year after enactment of this Act
ERS	Incentives for Voluntary Carbon Sequestration and Life Cycle Analysis [LCA] for Various Biobased Products	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The agreement reminds the Secretary of directives in fiscal year 2022 to submit reports to the Committees on both voluntary carbon sequestration incentives and life cycle analysis (LCA) for various biobased products.	Within one year after enactment of the 2022 Act and no later than one year after the date of enactment of the 2022 Act
ERS	Top five agricultural commodity exports and imports	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The agreement directs ERS to report on a quarterly basis the top five agricultural commodity exports and imports by State and to identify the country of destination or origin of those commodities.	Quarterly



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Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
ERS	Biobased and U.S. grown alternatives to plastic	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The agreement recognizes the need for biobased and U.S. grown alternatives to plastic. The agreement directs the Secretary to explore U.S. based hemp as a robust and dependable plastic alternative and issue a report to the Committees within 180 days of passage of this Act.	180 days after enactment of this Act
ERS	Rural Tract Codes	Senate Report/Explanatory Statement	The Committee recognizes the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy's [FORHP] use of Rural-Urban Commuting Area [RUCA] and the Frontier and Remote [FAR] codes, developed by ERS to define rural populations. However, neither of these codes are designed to measure rurality in mountainous regions, such as the Appalachian Mountains. The Committee appreciates ERS' ongoing efforts to identify census tracts with difficult and mountainous terrain, and directs ERS to continue this research. The Committee further directs ERS to keep the Committee, and any other interested parties, regularly apprised of progress, and to make all efforts to expedite the report's completion while maintaining the integrity of the research.	within 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act and regular updates
ERS	Small Meatpackers	House Report 117-392	The Committee recognizes small meatpackers need capital availability to build or expand services. The Committee directs USDA, to evaluate the need of small meatpacking plants and make recommendations for how to provide capital to support flourishing small and medium sized meatpacking plants.	180 days after enactment of this Act
ERS	Agricultural Commodity Trade	Senate 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 destination 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 to identify the country of destination or origin of those commodities.	Quarterly reports

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Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
ERS and NIFA	Regenerative Soil Agriculture Plan	House Report 117-392	The Committee acknowledges the critical importance regenerative soil policies can have in helping agriculture rebuild the soil health of agricultural lands. Given the overlapping role of these entities in advancing a regenerative soils policy, the Committee encourages USDA to develop a strategic plan for leveraging the various USDA research entities for a unified R&D mission to enable regenerative agriculture strategies. Within 180 days, the Agency shall submit a report which describes USDA efforts to unify a philosophy of soil health within the research mission of these agencies; describe the agencies efforts to coordinate among the R&D agenda of ARS, NIFA and NRCS; and describe USDA’s efforts to coordinate with other partners such as the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy on regenerative agriculture related research topics including microbiomes, soil chemistry, and edge of field dynamics and resilience to extreme weather events.	180 days after enactment of this Act
NASS	Data Collection on Urban, Indoor, and Emerging Agricultural Production	House Report 117-392	The Committee directs NASS to continue its outreach to stakeholders to develop a better understanding of how to collect more accurate information on urban, indoor, and emerging agricultural production. The Committee recognizes that the current census of agriculture definition may not fully address the landscape and scope of urban agriculture across the Nation. The new information will be critical to the policy development and outreach carried out by the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production. The Committee requests NASS to brief the Committee on how this information can be better addressed in the upcoming Census of Agriculture.	60 days after enactment of this Act

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Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
NASS	Report Improvements	Senate Report	The Committee is aware of concerns regarding recent NASS reports. The Committee provides funding for NASS to provide a customer-centric data collection dashboard for ease of use, improving the data-user experience with simplified access and increased usability, creating a reimagined operating model that equips the agency with the best tools and technology and allows the agency to recruit and retain top talent, and other initiatives that will allow NASS to meet future data needs. The Committee directs NASS to provide a report not later than 120 days after the enactment of this Act on how the agency can improve report accuracy, including through new technology, updated methods, and better coordination with other USDA agencies and the private sector.	120 days after enactment of this Act
NIFA	Livestock and Poultry Waste Research	House Report 117-392	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 looks forward to receiving a report from NIFA requested in H. Rpt. 117–82.	60 days after enactment of 2022 Appropriations Act 05/15/2022
NIFA	Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)	House Report 117-392	The Committee strongly supports AFRI. The Committee supports research focused on “alternative proteins” from plant proteins, animal cell cultivation, or fermentation. The Committee encourages NIFA to continue collaborating with the Agricultural Research Service and other relevant agencies to provide and promote collaboration opportunities among land-grant and minority serving institutions. The Committee requests NIFA submit a report summarizing the type and focus of research awarded through AFRI over the past five years within 180 days of the enactment of this Act. This report should also outline ways the agency can improve program outreach and the regional diversity of AFRI awardees.	180 days after enactment of this Act

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Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
NIFA	Aquaculture Assistance Programs	House Report 117-392	The Committee recognizes the important role the Aquaculture Assistance Programs and NIFA Regional Aquaculture Centers play in aquaculture research, education and extension. The Committee requests a summary of current Regional Aquaculture Center projects and identify gaps to make recommendations to increase efficiency and impact of individual regional aquaculture centers.	60 days after enactment of this Act
NIFA	Cybersecurity	House Report 117-392	The Committee remains concerned about the rising cybersecurity threats to our nation’s agricultural systems. The Committee requests that the Secretary report to the Committee on the research needed to identify, assess, and mitigate cybersecurity gaps within the agricultural spectrum, from seed, crop, and livestock production to distribution supply chains, with the goal of creating a national research network of regional academic cybersecurity centers in collaboration with industry partners, cooperatives, government authorities, and other stakeholders to strengthen security, data privacy, and resiliency, bolster the interdependent networks, and develop a skilled workforce for this critical area.	60 days after enactment of this Act
NIFA	Minority Outreach / Cooperative Extension System	Senate 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.	90 days after enactment of this Act
NIFA	Rural Opioid Addiction Training	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The agreement reminds the Secretary of the report directed in fiscal year 2022 detailing Rural Health and Safety Education Program funding awarded to projects addressing opioid abuse, projects combatting other types of substance abuse, and projects unrelated to substance abuse.	Report - Rural Health and Safety Education (RHSE) Programs awards past 3 years for opioid abuse, etc.

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Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
NIFA, RD and DHHS	Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN)	House Report 117-392	The Committee appreciates the updates provided in NIFA’s fiscal year 2023 budget justification and requests additional information in the next budget. The report should include details about how the program has evolved since inception, including but not limited to how many people have utilized the services associated with FRSAN each year, what kinds of programming is being provided, and what each FRSAN center’s strategy is for continuing to improve coordination with its partners and outreach to farmers, ranchers, farm workers, and others using its services. Lastly, this report should identify the impact additional funding could have on expanding programing and outreach for this program.	60 days after enactment of this Act
AMS	Farm and Food Workers Relief Grant Program	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The Farm and Food Workers Relief Grant program was established by USDA as a support program for frontline farm, grocery and meatpacking workers directly impacted by the pandemic. The agreement directs the Department to update the Committees on the program and provide legislative and/or policy recommendations for dealing with expenses incurred, including PPE, by frontline workers in any future pandemics.	60 days after enactment of this Act
AMS	Organic fluid milk data	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The agreement recognizes the need for organic dairy producers to have detailed data about market conditions in order to make decisions about the value of their products. Within 60 days of enactment of this Act, AMS is directed to brief the Committees on the feasibility of collection and publication of organic fluid milk data from all Federal Milk Marketing Orders.	60 days after enactment of this Act
AMS	Organic acreage and yield estimates	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The agreement directs the Secretary to require mandatory reporting on an annual basis by 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. The agreement maintains funding for AMS to coordinate with NASS for activities related to expanding organic price reporting and organic data collection.	Annual reports

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Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
AMS	Hemp	Senate Report	The Committee is concerned that producers of high value, horticultural hemp are being prevented from accessing USDA programs designed for specialty crops, including the Specialty Crop Block Grants and crop insurance. Within 90 days of enactment of this Act, the Committee directs the Secretary to establish a dual designation for hemp as a specialty crop based on the manner and purpose for which it is grown.	90 days after enactment of this Act
AMS	Plastic Alternative	Senate Report	The Committee recognizes the need for biobased and U.S.-grown alternatives. The Committee directs the department to explore U.S.-based hemp as a robust and dependable plastic alternative and issue a report to the Committee on how to best facilitate its cost-efficient use in government-produced or funded materials within 180 days of the passage of this act.	180 days after enactment of this Act
AMS	Fairer market for domestic honey producers	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The agreement directs the Department, in collaboration with Customs and Border Protection, FDA, and domestic commercial honey producer stakeholders, to provide a report on the resources and authorities needed to ensure a fairer market for domestic honey producers and a more transparent market for American consumers.	60 days after enactment of this act
AMS	Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives	House Report 117-392	The Committee continues funding for the Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives in this account at \$25,000,000. The Committee encourages AMS to work with the established initiatives to enhance cooperation with land-grant and minority serving institutions and provide support to small, minority-owned, socially-disadvantaged producers, processors, or distributors. AMS shall report back to the Committee on the status of these efforts within 60 days of enactment of the Act.	60 days after enactment of this Act
AMS	National Organic Program (NOP)	House Report 117-392	Within the funding provided, AMS is urged to focus on standards development and addressing the backlog of National Organic Standards Board recommendations. The Committee requests that the budget request for NOP include details on key expenditures such as compliance and enforcement activities and standards development. The request should also include a breakdown of expenditures and status of the \$5 million in mandatory funding provided by the 2018 farm bill for NOP technology upgrades	Not later than 120 days after

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Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
APHIS	Risk Assessment for Motile Aeromonad Septicemia (MAS)	Senate Report	The Committee is concerned about the risk of introduction off foreign animal diseases associated with the importation of farm-raised Siluriformes fish, such as catfish. Chronic infectious diseases such as MAS pose a significant economic risk to the long-term health of the domestic farm-raised fish industry, and the Committee notes that MAS outbreaks like those from virulent Aeromonas hydrophila in the U.S. have been linked back to farmed fish in China and Southeast Asia. The Committee also notes that, while FSIS regulates the processing of catfish under the Federal Meat Inspection Act, there are no USDA-Veterinary Services regulations for MAS, nor do FSIS regulations apply regarding MAS. The Committee is displeased with the length of time it has taken APHIS to complete its ongoing MAS risk assessment, and directs APHIS to complete it within 30 days of enactment of this Act.	30 days after enactment of this Act
APHIS	Agricultural Imports	House Report 117-392	The Committee recognizes that there is a need to update APHIS physical facilities and processes due to the increased volume of agricultural imports. The Committee requests a plan to address the needs of the programs, including steps to collaborate with stakeholders on supplemental inspection and pathogen identification services and to improve the transparency of the importation process.	60 days after enactment of this Act
APHIS	APHIS Inspections of ARS Facilities	House Report 117-392	The funding provided for the Animal Welfare program 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 online 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.	60 days after enactment of this Act

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Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
APHIS	Canine Detection and Surveillance	House Report 117-392	The Committee recognizes the important role APHIS' canines program plays in invasive species and disease detection and continues to provide \$3,000,000 to support these efforts. The Committee requests that APHIS keep it apprised of program activities, including how the agency uses funding provided.	60 days after enactment of this Act
APHIS	Canine Detection and Surveillance	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The agreement directs USDA to submit a report to the Committees within 1 year of enactment of this Act regarding the National Detector Dog Training Center's role in protecting the domestic agriculture sector from pests and diseases. The report shall include a description of domestic pest and disease programs that use canine detector teams, coordination between APHIS and U.S. Customs and Border Protection on use of canine teams for agricultural quarantine inspections, and the Center's current capacity level.	within 365 days after enactment of this Act
APHIS	Fruit Fly Exclusion and Detection	House Report 117-392	The Committee provides an increase of \$4,000,000 for exotic fruit fly detection, response, and prevention. The Committee requests a report, in consultation with the Department of Defense, on plans for repairs, improvements, maintenance, and construction of the Sterile Insect Release Facility at Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, California.	60 days after enactment of this Act
APHIS	Sterile Insect Release Facility	Senate Report	The Committee directs APHIS to consult with the Department of Defense on plans for repairs, improvements, maintenance, and construction of the Sterile Insect Release Facility at Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, California and to provide the Committee with a report no later than 90 days after enactment of this act.	no later than 90 days after enactment of this act.
APHIS	In and Out Bound Market Access Report.	House Report 117-392	The Committee requests APHIS to continue submitting the report on U.S. out-bound and foreign in-bound agricultural market access. The report should provide data for the last three years, including the date access was granted and the in-bound and out-bound volumes shipped by country and commodity.	60 days after enactment of this Act



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Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
APHIS	Lacey Act Implementation	Senate Report	To combat illegal imports of timber and timber products, protect natural resources, and promote fair trade, the Lacey Act, as amended, requires an import declaration for certain plants and plant products. Since 2009, APHIS has been phasing in enforcement of the declaration requirement. The Committee is concerned with the pace of enforcement and provides \$4,984,000, more than doubling the 2021 level, for additional enforcement phases. The Committee urges APHIS to work with federal partners and stakeholders to enhance Lacey Act program analysis and compliance efforts, and looks forward to receiving the report requested in House Report 117–82.	90 days after enactment of the 2022 Appropriations Act 06/15/2022
APHIS	Carrizo Cane and Cattle Fever Ticks	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The agreement directs the Department to submit a report to the Committees on its efforts to manage Carrizo cane and cattle fever tick within 60 days of enactment of this Act.	60 days after enactment of this Act
APHIS	Marine Mammals	House Report 117-392/Senate Report	<p>House: The Committee is concerned that USDA’s handling, care, treatment, and transportation standards for marine mammals in captivity are seriously outdated. Current standards do not adequately protect the welfare of captive marine mammals. An effort to modernize these standards that began in 2002 ended in 2021 when a proposed rule published in 2016 was withdrawn, recognizing it was now outdated. The Committee directs APHIS to prioritize the development and finalization of a humane and science-based rule to modernize its marine mammal regulations and to report back within six months on its progress in achieving that goal.</p> <p>Senate: The Committee is concerned that USDA’s handling, care, treatment, and transportation standards for marine mammals in captivity are outdated. Marine mammal science has progressed significantly in the almost 40 years since the most important of these regulations were last updated, and the current standards do not adequately protect the welfare of captive marine mammals. The Committee directs APHIS to prioritize the development and finalization of a humane and science-based rule to modernize its marine mammal regulations and directs the agency to report back within 90 days on its progress in achieving that goal.</p>	90 days after enactment of this Act

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
APHIS	Mink STAMP Program	House Report 117-392	The Committee is concerned about the low level of state and industry participation in the new Mink SARS-CoV-2 Transmission Avoidance and Monitoring Plan (Mink STAMP) program, designed to monitor for SARS-CoV-2 infection on mink farms and minimize risk of transmission of the virus between mink, humans, and other animals on and around mink farms. The Committee requests a written report within 90 days delineating State agencies and mink farms that are currently participating and what proactive steps are being taken or should be taken to encourage greater state and industry participation in the Mink STAMP program. Additionally, the report shall explain what education, incentives, infrastructure support, surveillance activities, multimedia resources, and herd management recommendations are being provided to mink farmers as part of the Mink STAMP program. Finally, the report shall describe what steps the Department will take to ensure comprehensive SARS-CoV-2 monitoring at mink farms if only partial participation by states and farmers is achieved. The report should include any corresponding documentation indicating that the above steps and actions were taken. The report shall also provide farm owners with an outline of processes, procedures, and reimbursements in the event of farm closures.	90 days after enactment of this Act
APHIS	Spotted Lanternfly	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The agreement directs APHIS to consider options for expanding environmental documentation for spotted lanternfly treatments in areas outside the states currently included in APHIS' environmental analysis as well as the cost of such treatments and to provide a report on these topics 90 days after the enactment of this Act.	90 days after enactment of this Act
APHIS	National Detector Dog Training Center	Senate Report	The Committee supports the work of the National Detector Dog Training Center in protecting the domestic agriculture sector from invasive pests and diseases. The Committee requests USDA, within 1 year after enactment, to submit a report to Congress regarding the Center's role in protecting the domestic agriculture sector from pests and diseases. The Committee requests that the report include a description of domestic pest and disease programs that use canine detector teams, coordination between APHIS and U.S. Customs and Border Protection on use of canine teams for agricultural quarantine inspections, and the Center's current capacity level.	within 1 year after enactment

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
APHIS	Non-lethal Strategies	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	APHIS is directed to provide an annual report within 120 days of the end of the fiscal year, detailing how the funds for non-lethal strategies were dispersed; including regional distribution, wild and domestic species impacted, number and size of livestock/agricultural operations impacted, and nonlethal tools and methods implemented and supported.	120 days after end of the fiscal year
APHIS	Spotted Lanternfly	House Report 117-392	The Committee continues to be concerned about the recent Spotted Lanternfly outbreak and provides an increase of \$1,000,000 to support efforts in combatting this pest. The Committee requests that APHIS keeps it apprised of the program’s strategy and progress.	60 days after enactment of this Act
APHIS	Wildlife Services	House Report 117-392	The Committee requests an annual report documenting all work on nonlethal strategies development and progress in this area, and detailing how funds were dispersed, including regional distribution, wild and domestic species impacted, number and size of livestock/agricultural operations impacted, and nonlethal tools and methods implemented and supported.	60 days after enactment of this Act

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
APHIS	Wildlife Services	House Report 117-392	The Committee is aware that APHIS has worked with landowners to deploy nonlethal strategies. APHIS is directed to implement and prioritize nonlethal strategies by: (1) promoting and implementing nonlethal livestock-predator conflict deterrence and mitigation techniques; husbandry practices, night corralling, shed lambing, attractant and carcass removal, livestock herding, and human presence; (2) providing training in selection, implementation, monitoring and adaptation of nonlethal techniques for agricultural producers, landowners, federal and state agency personnel, and others; and (3) collaborating with the National Wildlife Research Center to advance and improve nonlethal predator coexistence methods, research on monitoring methods for efficacy of nonlethal control methods implemented to reduce predation, and establish clear documentation protocols for nonlethal approaches implemented in advance of lethal control measures where applicable. The Committee provides no less than \$4,680,000 for these activities in fiscal year 2022. Within these funds, APHIS should expand, develop, and implement nonlethal methods with a focus on reducing human-wildlife conflicts related to predators and beavers in the Western Region and Great Lakes states. The Committee requests APHIS to document all work on nonlethal strategies development and submit a report demonstrating progress in this area.	180 days after enactment of this Act
APHIS and Forest Service	Feral cattle	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The continued presence of feral cattle in the Gila National Forest Wilderness Area in New Mexico is negatively impacting both the ecosystem and recreational use of the area. The agreement directs APHIS Wildlife Services and the United States Forest Service to address this issue as expeditiously as feasible. The agencies shall provide reports to the Committees on their progress in the first and third quarters of the year.	first and third quarters of the year
FSIS	Workplace Hazards	House Report 117-392	The Committee is concerned about the implementation and renegotiation of the 1994 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and FSIS towards establishing a process for FSIS inspection personnel to be trained to recognize and report serious workplace hazards. The Committee requests a status update on implementation status of this renegotiated MOU 90 days following enactment of the bill.	90 days after enactment of this Act

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
FSIS	Salmonella Initiative Report	House Report 117-392	The Committee recognizes the Department's commitment to reduce illnesses attributable to Salmonella in poultry and urges FSIS to adopt enforceable, science-based product standards aimed at reducing illness by focusing on the Salmonella most likely to cause illness and addressing Salmonella contamination before birds enter the slaughter facility. Not later than 180 days after enactment FSIS shall report to the Committees on reforms under its Salmonella initiative.	within 180 days of enactment Act
FSIS	Inspection Processes	House Report 117-392	The Committee includes \$500,000 for FSIS to provide a report within 90 days of enactment of this Act on how the agency may establish a process for seafood facilities that process multiple species, including wildcaught, invasive blue catfish, to seek a waiver from FSIS inspection requirements to process seafood according to their seafood HACCP plan as required by the FDA. The report should include any barriers and challenges these processors encounter under the FSIS program.	90 days after enactment of this Act
FSIS	Cooperative Interstate Shipment Report	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The Committees still await the report on the Cooperative Interstate Shipment (CIS) program as outlined in Section 764( e )(2) of Division N of Public Law 116-260.	no later than December 27, 2021
FSIS	Poultry Slaughter Good Commercial Practices	Senate Report and House Report 117-392	The Committee recognizes that the humane handling of birds at slaughter according to Good Commercial Practices [GCPs] reduces the occurrence of adulterated poultry products in the marketplace and can improve the treatment of birds at slaughter. The Committee awaits the Department's briefing requested in the fiscal year 2022 report on documented instances where establishments lost control of their processes for handling birds, and consequently were not operating in accordance with GCPs	within 180 days of enactment of 2022 Appropriations Act 09/15/2022
BC	Business Center Report	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The agreement reminds the Secretary of the report directed in S. Rept. 116-110 regarding the FP AC Business Center's efficiencies gained, metrics, hiring plan, and potential reorganization, which is now long overdue.	report pending by S. Rpt. 116–110 which was due February 2020
CCC	Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Report	House Report 117-392	The Committee directs the Secretary to provide a report on November 15, 2022, and May 15, 2023, on planned uses of funding under the authorities of Section 4 and Section 11 of the CCC Charter Act.	November 15, 2022, and May 15, 2023

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
FSA	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The agreement recognizes that drought is the largest cause of U.S. farm production losses and reminds the Secretary of the report directed in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 116-260 detailing a full analysis of the new CREP dry land agricultural uses authority and which dry land farming best practices could make advancements to protect ground water and surface water quality and control soil erosion while enhancing wildlife habitat.	90 days after enactment of the 2021 Appropriations Act
FSA	Organic Feedstock Prices	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The agreement is concerned with the dramatic rise in organic feedstock prices for livestock, especially organic dairy producers, as a result of severe drought conditions, international trade wars, supply chain backlogs, and unprecedented inflation. The Committees are working closely with the department to better understand this issue and find a solution. The agreement directs the department to report back to the Committees within 30 days of enactment of this Act on available funding sources to address this problem, including exercising authority under the Commodity Credit Corporation.	30 days after enactment of this Act
FSA	Dairy Indemnity Program	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The agreement also recognizes that USDA updated the Dairy Indemnity Payment Program (DIPP) to provide additional options to dairy producers impacted by PFAS contamination, but directs USDA to evaluate additional resources available to producers facing PFAS contamination, and to inform the Committees of additional resources needed to provide relief.	60 days after enactment of this Act
FSA	Inaccurate Estimates	Senate Report	The Committee directs the Farm Service Agency to brief the Committee within 90 days of enactment of this act on actions being taken to correct the accounting error that caused National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program [OCCSP] and other Farm Bill program reimbursements to be cut below mandated levels.	90 days after enactment of this Act

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
FSA	FSA IT Related to Farm Program Delivery	Omnibus Act	Provided, That not more than 50 percent of the funding made available under this heading for information technology related to farm program delivery may be obligated until the Secretary submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, and receives written or electronic notification of receipt from such Committees of, a plan for expenditure that (1) identifies for each project/investment over \$25,000 (a) the functional and performance capabilities to be delivered and the mission benefits to be realized, (b) the estimated lifecycle cost for the entirety of the project/investment, including estimates for development as well as maintenance and operations, and (c) key milestones to be met; (2) demonstrates that each project/investment is, (a) consistent with the Farm Service Agency Information Technology Roadmap, (b) being managed in accordance with applicable lifecycle management policies and guidance, and (c) subject to the applicable Department’s capital planning and investment control requirements; and (3) has been reviewed by the Government Accountability Office and approved by the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress:	Before the remaining 50 percent of the funds can be obligated
FSA	FSA IT Plan for Operational Projects	Omnibus Act	That the agency shall submit a report by the end of the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2023 to the Committees on Appropriations and the Government Accountability Office, that identifies for each project/investment that is operational (a) current performance against key indicators of customer satisfaction, (b) current performance of service level agreements or other technical metrics, (c) current performance against a pre-established cost baseline, (d) a detailed breakdown of current and planned spending on operational enhancements or upgrades, and (e) an assessment of whether the investment continues to meet business needs as intended as well as alternatives to the investment:	end of the fourth quarter

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
FSA	Loans and Grant Programs	House Report 117-392	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 Office of Budget and Program Analysis (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 reports
FSA	Agritourism	House Report 117-392	The Committee notes the growth of the agritourism industry and the importance of agritourism in supporting local economies, diversifying revenue sources for farmers, providing educational opportunities to kids and families, and maintaining the rural character of agricultural communities. The Committee looks forward to the Department’s updated agritourism resource manual and Agriculture Census follow-on study regarding agritourism as directed in House Report 117–82.	60 days after enactment of the 2022 Appropriations Act
FSA	Staffing Levels	House Report 117-392	The Committee directs the Secretary to report on a plan to address retention and communication between FSA offices and the national office. Additionally, the committee encourages FSA to factor in administration of disaster assistance programming when contemplating additional staffing resources needed to successfully carry out its mission.	60 days after enactment of this Act
FSA and NRCS	PFAS contamination	Omnibus Act	GP 766: That, not later than 90 days after the end of fiscal year 2023, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Congress specifying the type, amount, and method of such assistance by state and territory and the status of the amounts obligated and plans for further expenditure, and include improvements that can be made to U.S. Department of Agriculture programs, either administratively or legislatively, to increase support for agricultural producers impacted by PFAS contamination and to enhance scientific knowledge on PFAS uptake in crops and livestock and PFAS mitigation and remediation methods and disseminate such knowledge to agricultural producers.	not later than 90 days after the end of fiscal year 2023



2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
NRCS	Irrigation Agriculture	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The agreement further directs NRCS to provide a report within 60 days of enactment of this Act detailing the steps taken to streamline the program to reflect expanded use of funds for irrigation modernization projects that also improve drought response and wildlife habitat.	60 days after enactment of this Act
NRCS	Program Duplication	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The agreement directs NRCS to provide a report within 90 days of enactment of this Act on actions it will take to eliminate program duplication as identified in IG Audit Report 10601- 0004-KC and IG Audit Report 10601-0001-32.	90 days after enactment of this Act
NRCS	Technical Assistance	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The agreement continues to direct NRCS to maintain a record of total technical assistance dollars, differentiated between mandatory and discretionary allocations, and to provide the data to the Committees on Appropriations.	60 days after enactment of this Act
NRCS	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, within 60 days of enactment of this Act, 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.	60 days after enactment of this Act
NRCS	Conservation Programs timeline	House Report 117-392	The Committee recognizes the importance of NRCS’s conservation programs and their positive impact on water and soil quality. The Committee also recognizes these programs must consist of realistic timelines and outcomes as identified by the farmers using them. The Committee encourages NRCS to review all conservation programs to ensure their timelines related to conservation planning and program delivery meet legislatively mandated timelines to support farmers to develop their practices and fulfill the mission of the programs and report back on its findings and efforts to improve program funding timelines.	60 days after enactment of this Act

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
RMA	Administrative and Operating Expenses	House Report 117-392	The Committee is aware that due to current historically higher prices for some commodities, the Administrative and Operating expense subsidy for specialty crop policies has been factored lower for the 2021 reinsurance year and is also expected for the 2022 reinsurance year. The Committee encourages RMA to continue engagement with the crop insurance industry on this issue. The Committee further directs RMA to jointly brief the Committees on Appropriations and the Committees on Agriculture of both Houses of Congress on this issue.	60 days after enactment of this Act
RMA/FSA	Acreage Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative [ACRSI]	Senate Report	The Committee has long recognized the potential of ACRSI to reduce the time and burden of Federal crop reporting requirements on farmers by allowing farmers to report electronically and securely to both the Risk Management Agency and the Farm Service Agency. The Committee again reminds USDA that the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 116–220 directed FSA to allocate all necessary resources to identify the software options necessary to ensure that ACRSI technology would be adopted and deployed within 120 days of enactment of the act. The USDA failed to respond to this directive; therefore, the Committee directs USDA to brief the Committee on the status of ACRSI implementation within 60 days of enactment of this Act.	60 days after enactment of this Act
RBS	Council on Rural Community Innovation and Economic Development	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The Committee is still awaiting the 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.	3/27/2021
RBS	Cellular Service	House Report 117-392	The Committee acknowledges certain rural areas lack access to strong or reliable cellular service and notes that robust rural cellular coverage is necessary for individuals to contact emergency services, engage in precision agriculture and participate in a wide range of day-to-day activities. The Committee encourages the Department to examine potential pathways to expand cellular coverage to unserved rural areas through existing programs and provide the Committee with an update on whether such pathways exist.	60 days after enactment of this Act

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
RBS	Persistent Poverty Areas	House Report 117-392	The Committee supports targeted investments in impoverished areas. The Committee urges the Department to implement measures to increase the share of investments in persistent poverty counties, distressed communities, and any other impoverished areas. The Committee directs the Department to define performance measures, increase capacity to collect and analyze data, evaluate data sets, and develop a report to the Committee on how investments in persistently poor communities have improved economic outcomes.	60 days after enactment of this Act
RD	Loans and Grant Programs	House Report 117-392	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 Office of Budget and Program Analysis (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 reports
RD	Colonias and Farmworker Communities	House Report 117-392	The Committee recognizes the challenges facing colonias and farmworker communities and urges the Department to work with other Federal agencies to identify best practices and other ways to further assist colonias communities and farmworkers. The Committee encourages USDA to explore strategies to adopt and address the unique participation challenges faced by rural communities in the border region colonias communities. Further, the Committee encourages the Secretary to support these communities with funds appropriated for the Rural Partnership Network. The Committee requests a briefing on these efforts within 90 days following enactment.	90 days after enactment of this Act

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Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
RD	Rural Partners Network	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The agreement provides \$5,000,000 for the Rural Partners Network and still awaits the updated report that includes key performance measures to evaluate the success of this new initiative. Additionally, the fiscal year 2022 joint explanatory statement requested monthly updates on the rollout of the program, and the Committees have yet to receive an update. The agreement directs the Department to begin sending those updates immediately.	Two deliverables: Overdue report and Overdue Monthly Updates
RD	Staffing Increases	Senate and Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The Committee provides an increase of \$25,802,000 for pay costs. The agreement directs the Department to continue to fill vacancies, prioritizing ongoing mission critical activities, and to brief the Committees prior to advancing or expanding the Rural Partners Network and onboarding Community Liaisons. The agreement also directs the Department to provide a report that breaks out staffing by program, including current levels and end of year goals within 30 days of enactment of this Act and monthly reports to the Committees with hiring updates thereafter.	Two deliverables: 30 days after enactment of this Act and Monthly Updates
RD	IT Systems	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The agreement remains concerned about IT systems within Rural Development and provides an increase of \$25,000,000 to continue making improvements and retiring legacy systems. This increase shall be used to update or retire the following systems: Unifi/SURPASS, Hyperion Reports, and PLAS. Furthermore, the agreement directs the Department to provide a report listing the programs that still require paper applications and the estimated cost to develop online portals, as well as monthly updates on making improvements to the systems listed above and any other IT development.	Monthly Updates

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
RHS	Single Family Housing Efficiency Concerns	Senate and Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The Committee is concerned that there are unnecessary impediments facing individuals who utilize Single Family Housing Direct Loans and the Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program to purchase homes or property in rural areas. The Committee reminds the Department that efficient review and approval of these applications is essential to the success of these programs, especially in the current housing market. Additionally, the Committee directs the Department to submit a report, within 60 days of enactment, on the current appraisal requirements for these homes and whether these requirements are adopted from requirements used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development or the Department of Veterans Affairs.	60 days after enactment of this Act.
RHS	Multifamily Technical Assistance Report	Senate and Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The Committee reminds the Department that the fiscal year 2017 Appropriations Act required the Department to conduct research and identify policy, program reforms, and incentives for preserving rural rental housing and a report summarizing those findings to be submitted to the Committee 2 years later. The report is now 3 years overdue and the Committee directs the Department to submit the completed report within 30 days of enactment of this Act.	30 days after enactment of this Act.
RHS	ReConnect Loans for satellite, or other technologies	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The agreement also encourages the Department to allow service areas that received CAF II funds to allow other entities to apply for ReConnect funding for the same service area if the CAF II funds supported satellite deployment and the entity that received CAF II funds cannot provide terrestrial broadband. In addition, the agreement is concerned that States and territories outside the contiguous United States are having difficulty participating with the USDA broadband programs, and encourages the Secretary to consider grants or loans for satellite, or other technologies, if such middle mile infrastructure predominantly serves a "rural area" as defined in section 601 (b) and do not lead to overbuilding. The agreement also remains concerned that States and territories outside the contiguous United States are having difficulty utilizing this program and directs the agency to report back to the Committees with recommendations to address these concerns.	60 days after enactment of this Act

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Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
RHS	Multi-Family Housing Revitalization Program Account	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The Committees are interested in the fiscal year 2023 President's budget request to decouple rental assistance from Section 515 loans but believe additional information is needed. Therefore, the agreement directs the Department to hold at least three listening sessions and stakeholder meetings within six months of enactment of this Act. Furthermore, the Department shall brief the Committees, within 60 days after the final listening session, on how decoupling rental assistance would be implemented.	within 60 days after final listening session
RUS	Satellite Service	Senate and Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The Department is required to submit a report within 90 days on the feasibility and cost of utilizing satellite internet service under its existing programs. The report must cover a cost comparison of fiber versus satellite costs with a focus on reaching rural areas. Additionally, USDA should report on any statutory barriers that prevent program dollars to go toward satellite internet access.	90 days after enactment of this Act
FNS	Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The Committee directs USDA to submit the report on FDPIR food packages as required by the fiscal year 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 116-260) within 30 days of enactment of this act.	30 days after enactment of this Act
FNS	Military Food Insecurity	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The Committee is very concerned about the high rates of food insecurity among active-duty service members, particularly in rural and remote areas. The Committee directs FNS to submit a report on steps taken to address food insecurity in military communities, including efforts to identify eligible individuals, outreach efforts on military bases, and resources available to military families.	60 days after enactment of this Act
FNS	SNAP Fraud	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The agreement remains concerned about data discrepancies that allowed benefits to be issued using fraudulent credentials. The agreement encourages FNS to implement controls to address these problems and update the Committees on its progress in addressing the issues outlined in the January 2017 OIG report.	60 days after enactment of this Act

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
FNS	Non-dairy Milk Alternatives	House Report 117-392	The Committee is supportive of the National School Breakfast Program and the National School Lunch Program remaining accessible to all students while maintaining its nutritional standards. As allergies may prevent children from consuming dairy-based milk, non-dairy milk alternatives may be the best option for children in school meals that achieve the intended nutrition goal. The Committee requests a briefing, not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, from FNS on the availability of non-dairy milk alternatives in school meal programs.	90 days after enactment of this Act
FNS	Improving Breastfeeding Rates	House Report 117-392	The Committee remains interested in how to improve breastfeeding rates and eliminate barriers to breastfeeding for low-income and minority women. To meet their breastfeeding goals, according to the CDC, mothers need continuity of care which is achieved by consistent, collaborative, and high-quality breastfeeding services and supplies. Reports that some WIC agencies only make breast pumps and related supplies available to WIC participants who meet certain difficult criteria are concerning and seem to be in opposition to the goals of encouraging breastfeeding. Food and Nutrition Service is directed to collect information from all WIC agencies and prepare a report to the committee, within 180 days of enactment of this bill, detailing any conditions WIC agencies consider, or requirements they impose, when determining whether a WIC participant who intends to fully breastfeed her infant may access breastfeeding supplies and services.	180 days after enactment of this Act
FNS	Maternal Mortality Data	House Report 117-392	The Committee remains concerned about maternal mortality and awaits the report detailed in H. Rpt.116-446.	Was due on 6/25/2021

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
FNS	Barriers to Accessing SNAP	House Report 117-392	The Committee recognizes the Families First Coronavirus Response Act directed the Secretary of Agriculture to submit a report to Congress 18 months after the public health emergency ends on the measures taken to address the food security needs of affected populations during the emergency and recommendations for changes to the Secretary’s authority under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to assist the Secretary and States and localities in preparations for any future health emergencies. The Committee is eager to learn about the impact of temporary SNAP related improvements during the COVID–19 pandemic, lessons learned, and recommendations on promoting food security during COVID–19 and beyond.	18 months after the public health emergency ends
FNS	College Hunger	House Report 117-392	The Committee remains concerned that SNAP eligible students who are food-insecure lack proper information about resources available to them. Under regular SNAP eligibility requirements, students enrolled at least half time in an institution of higher education are typically ineligible for SNAP benefits unless they meet certain specific exemptions. Public Law 116–260 included provisions to temporarily expand SNAP eligibility to students. 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 directs FNS to report back on the number of students who enrolled in SNAP due to this increased flexibility and provide any lessons learned.	60 days after enactment of this Act
FNS	Retailer Language Access	House Report 117-392	The Committee supports cultural retailers participating in SNAP for their role ensuring immigrant communities have affordable access to cultural foods. Such retailers may be led by individuals with Limited English Proficiency. The Committee directs FNS to submit a plan within 180 days for ensuring meaningful language access when serving retailers. The plan shall include the implementation of language translation and interpretation services.	180 days after enactment of this Act



2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
FNS	SNAP Application Reporting	House Report 117-392	The Committee is interested in the number of approved applications, and nonapproved applications due to a drug felony conviction, a condition related to a drug felony conviction, or a time limit related to a drug felony ban for each state. The Committee is also interested in the number of total applications and incomplete or abandoned applications due, whether in whole or in part, to a drug felony conviction, a condition related to a drug felony conviction, or a time limit related to a drug felony ban for each state. The Committee recognizes FNS does not have complete information on denials related to drug felonies at the state-level, and requests a briefing, within 90 of enactment of this Act, to better understand the various aspects and limitations to this data collection, and the costs and timeframe for such as study.	90 days after enactment of this Act
FNS	SNAP Online Pilot Program	House Report 117-392	The Committee supports increased flexibility for SNAP beneficiaries to use their benefits for online purchases. The Committee is concerned that barriers for entry to the program are higher for independent retailers. The committee urges USDA to continue to pursue the SNAP EBT Modernization Technical Assistance Center to assist small, independent retailers in overcoming barriers to participation in the online purchasing pilot, and to report to the committee on ways to facilitate independent retailers' participation in the pilot.	60 days after enactment of this Act
FNS	Territories	House Report 117-392	The Committee recognizes the inadequacy and inefficacy of the current Nutrition Assistance Program block grant funding for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa, which has had to be repeatedly supplemented in response to natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee encourages FNS to continue engaging the appropriate stakeholders and directs FNS to provide the Committee with updates on the separate plans and discussions to includes these territories in SNAP.	60 days after enactment of this Act

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Due to Congress
FNS	Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program	House Report 117-392	The Committee recognizes the importance and success of the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition program in helping to provide support to over 725,000 low-income seniors in purchasing healthy and nutritious food options from local farmers. The Committee notes USDA invested \$50 million in SFMNP as part of its framework to shore up the food supply chain and transform the food system. The Committee directs FNS to brief the Committee within 180 days of enactment on any remaining backlogs and how to improve the program and serve more eligible low-income seniors.	180 days after enactment of this Act
FNS	Health Effects of Alcohol Consumption	Omnibus Act	GP 772: That not later than eighteen months after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine shall submit its report to the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Congress of its systematic review and data analysis of the eight research topics	not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act
FNS	Child and Adult Care Food Program [CACFP]	Senate Report	The Committee encourages FNS to explore utilizing third-party services to deliver meals and snacks through CACFP in a non-congregate setting, particularly in school districts in which the poverty rate is higher than the national average. The Committee directs FNS to provide a report within 90 days of enactment of this act detailing steps taken and potential cost savings to school districts, States, and the Federal government.	90 days after enactment of this Act
FNS	Streamline Application Processes	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The agreement directs the Secretary to determine ways to streamline the application process for the Summer Food Service Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program. The Secretary is directed to consider allowing organizations in good standing for 3 years to file only one application to administer both programs each year. The agreement directs the Department to submit the report on ways to streamline the application process for SFSP and CACFP as required by Public Law 116-260.	60 days after enactment of this Act
FNS	Summer Food Service Program	Senate and Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The Committee directs USDA to submit the report on the Summer Food Service Program as required by the Fiscal Year 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 116-260) within 30 days of enactment of this Act.	30 days after enactment of the 2021 Appropriations Act

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FAS	Ready-To-Use Therapeutic Foods [RUTF]	Senate and Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The Committee notes that there has been a global spike in cases of child wasting as a result of the COVID–19 pandemic and persisting and emerging humanitarian crises. There is also a significant global deficit in the availability of therapeutic food treatments. RUTF is a proven intervention to address global hunger and childhood malnutrition, and up to 90 percent of children treated with RUTF recover. The Committee directs USDA to work with USAID to support the scale up of U.S. production and procurement of RUTF, and to develop a multi-year strategy to support this effort. The Committee further directs USDA to report on this strategy within 90 days of enactment of this act.	90 days after enactment of this Act
FAS	Foreign Investments in Agricultural Land	Omnibus Act	The Secretary, as part of the report on foreign landholding required under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (Public Law 95–460), shall report to Congress on foreign investments in agricultural land in the United States, including the impact foreign ownership has on family farms, rural communities, and the domestic food supply: Provided, That within 3 years after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a streamlined process for electronic submission and retention of disclosures made under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act, including an internet database that contains disaggregated data from each disclosure submitted	within 3 years after the enactment of this Act
FAS	Food for Peace Title II Grants	Explanatory Statement/Conference Report	The Secretary is directed, in consultation with the Administrator of USAID, to provide to the Committee a quarterly report on obligations and current balances of Food for Peace Title II grants. This report should also include any supplemental funding.	Quarterly reports

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FAS	Tariffs	Senate Report/Explanatory Statement	The Committee is concerned about the long-term impacts of tariffs on the domestic farm economy. Within 180 days of enactment of this Act, USDA is directed to submit a report that examines the impact that tariffs imposed pursuant to sections 232 and 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 and associated retaliatory tariffs are having and have had on: (1) the rate at which farms, particularly small and medium sized operations, go into bankruptcy; (2) the ability of farmers and ranchers to receive loans; and (3) the overall size of the agriculture workforce. The report should include projections on each of these impacts should these tariffs continue without relief for the next 5 years, an assessment of how much market share has been lost by the American agriculture sector as a result of ongoing trade disputes, and how long USDA expects it will take to reestablish export markets that have been lost or diminished due to the imposition of tariffs. Conf Report: The agreement is concerned about the long-term tariffs on the domestic farm economy. The Department is directed to submit a report, after consultation with the Committees, that examines the impact that tariffs imposed pursuant to sections 232 and 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 and associated retaliatory tariffs are having on the farm economy.	180 days after enactment of this Act
CCC	Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Obligations and Commitments	Formal Secretary Response	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

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AMS	Section 32 Authorities	Formal Secretary Response	Under the authority described in clause 3 of 7 U.S.C. 612c, the Secretary is able to direct funds from the section 32 account to increase the purchasing power of producers. This practice has been used on various occasions to provide direct assistance to producers when market forces or natural conditions adversely affect the financial condition of farmers and ranchers. The Committee notes the importance of the ability of the Secretary to utilize this authority but believes that communication between USDA and Congress should be improved when this practice is used. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary to provide notification to the Committee in advance of any public announcement or release of section 32 funds under the specific authorities cited above.	as necessary
FSA	ACIF Transfer of Funds	Formal Secretary Response	The Agricultural Credit Insurance Program Account for farm ownership, operating and conservation direct loans and guaranteed loans may be transferred among these programs: Provided, That the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress are notified at least 15 days in advance of any transfer.	at least 15 days in advance
OCFO	Working Capital Funds - Transferred Funds	Mission Area Response	GP 702: Provided further, That none of the funds transferred to the Working Capital Fund pursuant to this section shall be available for obligation without written notification to and the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress:	Prior to obligation of funds transferred to WCF
OCFO	Working Capital Funds - Changes to NFC	Mission Area Response	GP 702: Provided further, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act or made available to the Department's Working Capital Fund shall be available for obligation or expenditure to make any changes to the Department's National Finance Center without written notification to and prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress as required by section 716 of this Act:	Prior to changes to NFC

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OCFO-OCIO	Working Capital Funds - Changes to OCFO or OCIO in NFC	Mission Area Response	GP 702: Provided further, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act or made available to the Department’s Working Capital Fund shall be available for obligation or expenditure to initiate, plan, develop, implement, or make any changes to remove or relocate any systems, missions, personnel, or functions of the offices of the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Information Officer, co-located with or from the National Finance Center prior to written notification to and prior approval of the Committee on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress and in accordance with the requirements of section 716 of this Act:	Prior to changes to NFC
OCFO	Working Capital Funds - Administrative Funds	Formal Secretary Response	GP 702: Provided further, That none of the amounts reserved shall be available for obligation unless the Secretary submits written notification of the obligation to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress:	Prior to obligation of funds
OCIO	Transfer of Funds to OCIO	Mission Area Response	GP 706: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be transferred to the Office of the Chief Information Officer without written notification to and the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress:	Prior to transfer of funds to OCIO
OPPE	Fleet Levels	Formal Secretary Response	GP 701 - The Secretary may not increase the Department of Agriculture’s fleet above the 2018 level unless the Secretary notifies in writing, and receives approval from, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 30 days of the notification.	within 30 days of the notification
OBPA	Reprogramming and Realignment	Formal Secretary Response	GP 716 - The Secretary of Agriculture, must notify in writing and receive approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of the reprogramming of such funds or the use of such authority.	at least 30 days in advance of the reprogramming
OBPA		Formal Secretary Response	Carrying out activities or functions that were not described in the budget request; unless the agencies funded by this Act notify, in writing, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of using the funds for these purposes.	at least 30 days in advance

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OBPA	Reimbursement for Detailees	Formal Secretary Response	No employee of the Department of Agriculture may be detailed or assigned from an agency or office funded by this Act or any other Act to any other agency or office of the Department for more than 60 days in a fiscal year unless the individual’s employing agency or office is fully reimbursed by the receiving agency or office for the salary and expenses of the employee for the period of assignment	As Necessary
OCFO	Working Capital Funds Credit Card Reimbursement	Mission Area Response	GP 725: None of the credit card refunds or rebates transferred to the Working Capital Fund pursuant to section 729 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002 (7 U.S.C. 2235a; Public Law 107–76) shall be available for obligation without written notification to, and the prior approval of, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress:	Before obligation of funds available from credit card rebates
RD/FSA	Program Level for Negative Subsidy Programs	Formal Secretary Response	GP 724 - For loans and loan guarantees that do not require budget authority and the program level has been established in this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may increase the program level for such loans and loan guarantees by not more than 25 percent: Provided, That prior to the Secretary implementing such an increase, the Secretary notifies, in writing, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 15 days in advance.	at least 15 days in advance
OCR	OCR Allocations	Formal Secretary Response	<p>No funds made available under this heading for the Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations may be obligated after 30 days from the date of enactment of this Act, unless the Secretary has notified the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the allocation of these funds by USDA agency.</p> <p>That during any 30 day notification period referenced in 24 section 716 of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall 25 take no action to begin implementation of the action that is subject to section 716 of this Act or make any public 2 announcement of such action in any form.</p>	within 30 days of the notification