

2027 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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PREFACE

This publication summarizes the fiscal year (FY) 2027 Budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Throughout this publication any reference to the “Budget” is in regard to the 2027 Budget, unless otherwise noted. All references to years refer to fiscal year, except where specifically noted. The budgetary tables throughout this document show actual amounts for 2024 and 2025; Working Families Tax Cut Act; Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agency Appropriations Act, 2026; and the President’s Budget request for 2027. Amounts for 2026 estimated levels include: non-enacted amounts such as Full-Time Equivalent levels, fleet levels, information technology investment levels, recovery levels, transfers in and out, balances available end of year, and obligation levels.

Throughout this publication, the Working Families Tax Cut Act is used to refer to the Public Law 119-21.

Pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, sequestration is included in the numbers for mandatory programs in 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027.

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

AGENCY-WIDE**PURPOSE STATEMENT**

Section 7511(f)(2) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA) amended the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 ([7 U.S.C. 6971](#)) by establishing the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). On October 1, 2009, all authorities administered by the Administrator of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service were transferred to the NIFA Director. The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) provides leadership and funding for programs that advance agriculture-related sciences. NIFA invests in and supports initiatives that ensure the long-term viability of agriculture. NIFA applies an integrated approach with partnership with Land-grant Universities, the Cooperative Extension Service, and State Agricultural Experiment Stations to ensure that groundbreaking discoveries in agriculture-related sciences and technologies reach the people who can put them into practice.

Research and Education Activities

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

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

- 9) Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 ([7 U.S.C. 301 note](#)) (the 1994 Act);
- 10) Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-185), as amended (AREERA);
- 11) Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-624) (FACT Act);
- 12) Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-171) (FSRIA);
- 13) Food Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246), as amended (FCEA);
- 14) Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill, Pub. L. 113-79);
- 15) Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill, Pub. L. 115-334);
- 16) Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117-58);
- 17) American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Pub. L. 117-2);
- 18) Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (Pub. L. 117-169);
- 19) Research Facilities Act, as amended ([7 U.S.C 390 et seq.](#));
- 20) And the Working Families Tax Cut Act (Pub. L. 119-21).

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

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

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

Hatch Act

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

Eligible State institutions are required to submit a Plan of Work to NIFA for approval before Hatch Act funds are distributed. The Hatch Act provides that the distribution of Federal payments to States for fiscal year 1955 shall become a fixed base, and that any sums appropriated in excess of the 1955 level shall be distributed in the following manner:

- 3 percent for the administration of the Act;
- 20 percent equally to each State;

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

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

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

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

McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act

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

The Act also provides that payments must be matched by funds made available and budgeted from non-Federal sources by the certified institutions for expenditure on forestry research. Section 7604 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334) amended the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act to include 1994 Institutions (as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Pub. L. 103-382) that offer an associate degree or a baccalaureate degree in forestry. Section 7101 of the 2014 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 113-79) allowed eligible State institutions to declare their intention not to be considered a cooperating forestry school, and to alternatively be considered as a Non-Land-Grant College of Agriculture. Such a declaration remained

in effect until September 30, 2018. In accordance with Section 7102 of the 2018 Farm Bill, cooperating forestry schools will no longer have to opt out of that status to be considered as Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture (NLGCAs) because the definition of a NLGCA no longer excludes the cooperating forestry schools.

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

Research at 1890 Institutions (Evans-Allen Program)

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

Eligible State institutions are required to submit a Plan of Work to NIFA for approval before these formula funds are distributed. The agricultural research programs at the 1890 Land-Grant Colleges and Universities are designed to generate new knowledge that will assist people in rural areas and small farmers to obtain a higher standard of living.

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

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

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

Payments to 1994 Institutions (Tribal Colleges Education)

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

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

Education Grants for 1890 Institutions (Capacity Building Grants)

Pursuant to 1417(b)(4) of NARETPA, this program stimulates the development of high-quality teaching, research, and extension programs at the 1890 Land-Grant Institutions and Tuskegee University, West Virginia State College, and Central State University (per Section 7129 of the 2014 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 113-79)). Section 7107 of FCEA amended section 1417(b)(4) of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3152(b)(4)) to expand extension capacity building, as well as teaching and research. This competitive program is designed to strengthen institutional teaching, research, and extension capacities through cooperative programs with Federal and non-Federal entities and achieve three major goals: 1) Advance the food and agricultural sciences scientific and professional workforce by attracting and educating more students; 2) Strengthen linkages among the 1890 Institutions, other colleges and universities, USDA, or other Federal agencies, and private industry; 3) Enhance and strengthen the quality of teaching, education, research, and extension programs at the 1890 Institutions to establish them as full partners in the U.S. food and agricultural sciences higher education system. Projects or grants support development activities that include, but are not limited to: curricular design and materials development, faculty preparation and enhancement for education, development and use of alternative methods like mobile classrooms/laboratories, student recruitment and retention services, acquisition and instructional laboratory and classroom equipment, student experimental learning, studies and experimentation, centralized research support systems, extension support systems, and technology delivery systems.

The program responds to identified State, regional, national, or international educational needs in the food and agricultural sciences, or rural economic, community, and business development. In 2023 the program has emphasized the addition of building artificial intelligence (AI), Machine Learning Capacity

opportunities in cooperation with the USDA-NIFA funded AI Institutes: AI Institute for Future Agricultural Resilience, Management, and Sustainability and AI Institute for Next Generation Food Systems. In 2024 the program added a special emphasis area for proposals that lead to improved management strategies for both conventional and organic production systems that enhance production efficiency, improve animal health and welfare, and develop high quality animal products for human use.

Scholarships at 1890 Institutions

As amended by Section 7117 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334) which added Section 1446 to NARETPA ([7 U.S.C. 3222a](#)), the 1890 Scholarships Program has both Mandatory and Discretionary funding, to support recruiting, engaging, retaining, mentoring, and training of undergraduate students in 1890 land-grant institutions. The scholarships are intended to encourage eligible students at 1890 institutions to pursue and complete baccalaureate degrees in food and agricultural sciences, including a career in: (i) agribusiness, (ii) energy and renewable fuels, or (iii) financial management.

Section 10604(c) of the Working Families Tax Cut Act provided an additional \$60M to remain available until expended.

Centers of Excellence at 1890 Institutions

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

Education Grants for Hispanic-Serving Institutions

Pursuant to section 1455 of NARETPA ([7 U.S.C. 3241](#)), this program is the foundation for USDA efforts to better serve Hispanic Americans and to prepare them for careers in agricultural science and agribusiness. This competitive program expands and strengthens academic programs in the agricultural sciences, natural resources, forestry, veterinary medicine, home economics, and disciplines allied closely to the food and agriculture production and delivery systems at Hispanic-serving colleges and universities, including two-year community colleges that have at least 25 percent Hispanic enrollment. Section 7128 of FCEA amended section 1455 of NARETPA to require that all grants made under this program be awarded on a fully competitive basis and removed the requirement for consortia in subsection (b)(1). Funds may support: 1) curricula design, degree programs, materials development, and library resources; 2) faculty preparation and enhancement for teaching; 3) instruction delivery systems; 4) scientific instrumentation for teaching; 5) student experiential learning; and 6) student recruitment and retention.

Education Grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions

The program, originally authorized by section 759 of Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000, Pub. L. 106-78, and re-designated as section 1419B of NARETPA ([7 U.S.C. 3156](#)), is aimed at recruiting, supporting, and educating scientists and professionals, and advancing the educational capacity of Native-serving institutions. As written in the statute, funds may be used to support projects in the targeted areas of: 1) enhancing

educational equity for under-represented students; 2) strengthening educational capacities, including libraries, curriculum, faculty, scientific instrumentation, instruction delivery systems, and student recruitment and retention; 3) attraction and retention of undergraduate and graduate students; and 4) cooperative initiatives to maximize the development of resources such as faculty, facilities and equipment to improve teaching programs. Additionally, to support the activities of consortia of Native Hawaiian serving Institutions, section 7112 of FCEA permits consortia to designate fiscal agents for the members of the consortia and to allocate among the members funds made available under this program. Funds are awarded on a competitive basis under the program.

Research Grants for 1994 Institutions

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

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

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

Capacity Building Grants for Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture Program (NLGCA) Institutions may use the funds: (a) to successfully compete for funds from Federal grants and other sources to carry out educational, research, and outreach activities that address priority concerns of national, regional, State, and local interest; (b) to disseminate information relating to priority concerns to interested members of the agriculture, renewable resources, and other relevant communities, the public, and any other interested entity; (c) to encourage members of the agriculture, renewable resources, and other relevant communities to participate in priority education, research, and outreach activities by providing matching funds to leverage grant resources; and (d) through: (1) the purchase or other acquisition of equipment and other infrastructure (not including alteration, repair, renovation, or construction of buildings); (2) the professional growth and development of the faculty of the NLGCA Institution; (3) the development of graduate assistantships; and (4) building linkages with other institutions (including other colleges and universities), units of State governments, international partners) as well as private and community-based entities.

New Beginning for Tribal Students

Section 1450 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 ([7 U.S.C. 3222e](#)), as added by section 7120 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334) established this program to make competitive grants to land-grant colleges and universities to provide identifiable support specifically targeted for Tribal students, through recruiting, tuition and related fees, experiential learning, and student services (including tutoring, counseling, academic advising, and

other student services that would increase the retention and graduation rate of Tribal students enrolled at the land-grant college or university, as determined by the Secretary). All grantees are required to provide a 100 percent match in the form of cash or kind contributions. The program includes an annual limitation of \$500,000 that may be awarded to Institutions located in the same State.

Grants for Insular Areas

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

Resident Instruction and Agriculture and Food Science Facilities and Equipment Grants

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

Distance Education Grants

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

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

Subsection (b) of the 1965 Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(b)) as amended by section 7406 of FCEA (Pub. L. 110-246), section 7404 of the 2014 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 113-79), and section 7504 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334) establishes an Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) to make competitive grants for fundamental and applied research, extension, and education to address food and agricultural sciences (as defined under section 1404 of NARETPA). The Secretary is authorized to award competitive grants to State agricultural experiment stations, colleges and universities, university research foundations, other research institutions and organizations, Federal agencies, national laboratories, private organizations or corporations, individuals, and any group consisting of two or more of these entities. Grants will be awarded to address critical issues in United States agriculture in areas like farm and ranch production efficiency, profitability, and sustainability; bioenergy and bio-based products; forestry; aquaculture; rural communities and entrepreneurship; human nutrition; mitigating impacts of biotic and abiotic constraints on food production; food safety; and genetic improvement of plants and animals. Addressing these critical issues will engage scientists and educators with expertise in:

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

Of the funds made available for research, no less than 60 percent shall be used for fundamental research and no less than 40 percent shall be used for applied research. No less than 30 percent of

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

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

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment (VMLRP)

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

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

Veterinary Services Grant Program

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

The program, authorized by section 1415B of NARETPA as amended, provides for a competitive grants program to develop, implement, and sustain veterinary services. Program activities will

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

Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Program

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

These funds shall be distributed as follows:

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

Eligible institutions must provide non-Federal matching funds in States receiving annual amounts in excess of \$100,000 under this authorization ([7 U.S.C. 3200](#)). Should annual appropriation for this program exceed \$5 million in a fiscal year, Section 7111 of the 2014 Farm Bill authorizes a competitive grant program under this authority which would be implemented to address the critical needs of animal agriculture by funding eligible entities to conduct research to promote food security, and on the relationship between animal and human health, and to develop and disseminate to the public tools and information based on the research conducted above and sound science.

Supplemental and Alternative Crops

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

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

Multicultural Scholars, Graduate Fellowship, and Institution Challenge Grants

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

Higher Education Multicultural Scholars Program

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

Higher Education National Needs Graduate Fellowship Grants

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

Institution Challenge Grants

Pursuant to section 1417(b)(1) of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3152(b)(1)), the program supports competitive grants to strengthen institutional capacities, including curriculum, faculty, scientific instrumentation, instruction delivery systems, and student recruitment and retention, to respond to identified State, regional, national, or international educational needs in the food and agricultural sciences, or in rural economic, community, and business development Projects supported by the Higher Education Challenge Grants Program will: (1) address a state, regional, national, or international educational need; (2) involve a creative or non-traditional approach toward addressing that need that can serve as a model to others; (3) encourage and facilitate better working relationships in the university science and education community, as well as between universities and the private sector, to enhance program quality and supplement available resources; and (4) result in benefits that will likely transcend the project duration and USDA support.

Secondary and 2-year Post-Secondary Education

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

year post-secondary, and institutions of higher learning; or education activities in agribusiness and agriscience.

Aquaculture Centers

Pursuant to section 1475(d) of NARETPA ([7 U.S.C. 3322\(d\)](#) and [7 U.S.C. 3324](#)), funding supports aquaculture research, development, demonstration, and extension education to enhance viable and profitable U.S. aquaculture production to benefit consumers, producers, service industries, and the American economy. Funds are awarded on a competitive basis through a regional system.

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

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

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)

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

Sections 1621 and 1622 of the FACT Act ([7 U.S.C. 5811](#) and [7 U.S.C. 5812](#) respectively) work to increase knowledge and help farmers and ranchers adopt practices that are productive, profitable, environmentally sound, and good for people and communities. Grants are awarded by four regional host institutions working with their administrative councils for projects that address crop and livestock production and marketing, stewardship of natural resources, economics, and quality of life.

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

Farm Business Management

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

NIFA seeks to provide funds that improve the farm management knowledge and skills of agricultural producers by maintaining and expanding a national, publicly available farm financial management database. Priorities within the program include maintaining and expanding the already established

national, publicly available farm financial management database to support improved farm management knowledge and skills, for producers of a variety of crops and livestock throughout multiple regions of the United States, as well as establishing or expanding collaborative farm management educational programs with farm organizations or associations. Educational programs will contribute data to the existing national farm financial management and benchmarking database to improve the farm management knowledge and skills of all agricultural producers.

Sun Grant Program

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

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

Research Equipment Grants (EGP)

Section 1462A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 ([7 U.S.C. 3310a](#)), as added by section 7126 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334) established this program for competitive grants to eligible institutions for the acquisition of special purpose scientific research equipment for use in the food and agricultural sciences programs of eligible institutions. Grants may not exceed \$500,000.

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

Alfalfa Seed and Alfalfa Forage Systems Research Program (AFRP)

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

seek to enhance the effectiveness of limited state, federal, and industry resources and to produce greater long-lasting impacts.

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

Minor Crop Pest Management (IR-4)

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

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

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

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

Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative

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

AG2PI promotes the use of common data architectures, and augmentation of benchmark datasets across crop and animal systems to add value, enable reanalysis, and improve data accessibility with the goal of improving and democratizing acquisition, interpretation, and analysis of large datasets.

These datasets include genomics, phenomics, high-periodicity imagery and spectral data. Engineering approaches to develop novel sensing devices and measurement techniques are also encouraged. Success of AG2PI is dependent on effective collaborations across academic disciplines that will be supported through transdisciplinary science.

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

Laying Hen and Turkey Research Program

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

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

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

Open Data Standards for Neutral Data Repositories

Pub. L. 119-4 Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, as referenced in the 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act Sec. 575 of Division A of P.L. 117-103, provides funding for Open Data Standards for Neutral Data Repository which is to develop a public-private cooperative open framework based on open data standards for neutral data repository solutions to preserve and share the big data generated by technological advancements in the agriculture industry and for the preservation and curation of data in collaboration with land-grant universities. The data framework supports the development of advanced technologies and practices to meet the increasingly complex agricultural challenges of farmers and ranchers.

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

Research Facilities Act

Pursuant to Section 4 of the Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C. 390 et seq.) and as amended by the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334) provided discretionary appropriation authority, to support competitive grants for college, university, or nonprofit institution that have a facility supportive of research in food and agricultural sciences to assist with costs related to construction, purchasing,

updating, renovating, or modifying agricultural research buildings. The proposed agricultural research facility must expand the institution's capacity for long-term impactful research and must be the result of thorough strategic planning. Awards may be used to fund the construction of buildings or sites for agricultural research facilities or other facilities that store agricultural research experimental samples or specimens, as well as the purchase of real estate or durable equipment

Activities may include but are not limited to:

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

Section 10604(f) of An Act to Provide for Working Families Tax Cut Act provides \$125 million per year in mandatory funding authority to carry out the competitive grant program.

Special Grants

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

Global Change UV-B Monitoring

The purpose of the Global Change, Ultraviolet Radiation Monitoring and Research Program (UVMRP) is to support research and research infrastructure that generates an uninterrupted stream of UV-B/broadband solar radiation and weather data; determines mechanisms and symptoms of plant and animal response; and applies tightly integrated models to assess regional impacts (both biological and economic) of multiple plant stressors.

Beginning with 2016 NIFA has amplified user-focused applied research, increased emphasis on effects research factoring in other factors than UV-B (Mississippi State University) and economics modeling to be conducted at the University of Maryland which seeks to judge the practical feasibility of various crop management scenarios (included in the third bullet below). Projects do not include infeasible attempts to model climate.

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

- A network of 38 weather stations: to collect an uninterrupted stream of ultraviolet and visible radiation measurements across the entire USA: a) to establish long term records of solar irradiance necessary to assess trends; and b) to provide this data in near real time via a web-based portal to the agricultural community and researchers working on the impacts of ultraviolet irradiance on agriculture and forests.

- The Effects Research: to support research that assesses the potential crop and forest impacts from changing levels of ultraviolet radiation in combination with other stress factors; and
- Data for crop modeling with practical user interfaces (i.e. Gossym cotton; Daycent): provides data to support development of crop models with user-oriented front ends to assess regional and national impacts (both biological and economic) of multiple plant stressors.

Potato Research

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

Aquaculture Research

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

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

Necessary Expenses of Research and Education Activities

Grants Management System

The legacy grants system Cooperative Research, Education and Extension Management System (CREEMS) serves as NIFA's primary grant administrative management application for research, education, and extension grant application receipt, review, award, and processing for non-capacity grant programs. For capacity/formula grant programs NIFA uses the USDA ezFedGrants (eFG) Grants and Agreements System. Various additional applications facilitate connectivity to the U.S. Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payment (ASAP), USDA Financial Management Modernization Initiative (FMMI), and Grants.gov. Research, Extension and Education Project Online Reporting Tool (REEport) collect technical and financial data on NIFA-funded non-capacity grants through project-based reporting that allows grantees to report significant accomplishments and impacts of their research, extension, and education work. NIFA Reporting System (NRS) primarily supports capacity grant program planning and post-award management through its integration of Plan of Work reporting with research project and extension program reporting for those capacity programs subject to AREERA. NRS also supports capacity research and extension project initiation and post award management reporting for additional capacity programs not subject to AREERA. Supporting transparency, in addition to various web sites hosted by NIFA, the NIFA's Data Gateway (DG)

provides access to information intended to be made publicly available as well as access to several reporting tools to enable users to find funding data, metrics, and information about research, education, and extension projects that have received grant awards from NIFA.

The Grants Management System used by NIFA, to administer, reconcile, and report on federal assistance applications and awards is made up of no less than eighteen tools. Since 2018, NIFA has received over 63,047 proposals requesting on average \$3.5 billion per year. The average number of proposals received in an individual year is 7,881 with 3,732 awards made on average. The eleven capacity programs also require management of 523 financial assistance awards on average. To provide internal and external customers with easy-to-navigate online tools and increase access to our critical programs and services NIFA has selected the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Quality Service Management Offices grants solution Electronic Records Administration (eRA), which provides an end-to-end grants management solution intended to simplify and streamline operations and ensure singular customer experience. The efficiencies gained will support implementation of the Administration priorities for improving oversight of federal grantmaking, restoring gold standard for science, and ensuring cost-effective solutions in federal contracts.

Federal Administration—Other Necessary Expenses for Research and Education Activities

Authority for direct appropriations is provided in the annual Agriculture appropriations act. These funds are used to fund services that support the planning and coordination of programs administered by NIFA. Including Presidential E-Government Initiatives and Lines of Business (LoB), baseline and agency specific services received through the Departmental Shared Costs program (DSCP) and centralized services reimbursed through the Working Capital Fund (WCF), as well as General Services Administration rent, grants management and reporting services, and Department of Homeland Security facility security services.

Native American Institutions Endowment Fund

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

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

The Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1982 (Pub. L. 97-219, as amended) ([15 U.S.C. 638](#)), authorizes a competitive program for SBIR. The purpose of the Small Business Innovation Development Act is to support scientific excellence and technological innovation through the investment of Federal research funds to build a strong national economy by stimulating technological innovation in the private sector; strengthening the role of small business in meeting Federal research and development needs; and increasing the commercial application of Federally supported research results; and fostering and encouraging participation in innovation and entrepreneurship by emerging small businesses. The SBIR and STTR Extension Act of 2022 (Pub. L. 117-183) reauthorized SBIR and STTR programs and pilot programs through 2025 with a set aside of not less than 3.2 percent of the agency's research expenditures in fiscal year 2017 and each fiscal year thereafter for the SBIR program and a set aside of not less than 0.45 percent for fiscal year 2016 and each fiscal year

thereafter for the STTR program for extramural research and development for awards to eligible small businesses.

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

Biotechnology Risk Assessment Research Grants Program (BRAG)

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

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

Food and Agricultural Education Information System

The Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105–185, Sec. 223) amended Section 1417 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977. This amendment added authority for the Secretary to maintain a national Food and Agricultural Education Information System (FAEIS), that contains: (1) information on enrollment, degrees awarded, faculty, and employment placement in the food and agricultural sciences, and (2) such other similar information as the Secretary considers appropriate ([7 U.S.C. 3152\(e\)](#)).

National Food and Agricultural Sciences Technology Extension and Research Awards

The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101–624, Sec. 1608) amended Section 1417 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977. This amendment required the Secretary to establish a National Food and Agricultural Sciences Teaching Awards program. Further amended by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110–234, Sec. 7108) the authority was revised to state the Secretary shall establish a National Food and Agricultural Sciences Teaching, Extension, and Research Awards program. This program recognizes and promotes excellence in teaching, extension, and research in the food and agricultural sciences at a college or university, with at least one cash award in each fiscal year made to a nominee selected for excellence in each of the areas ([7 U.S.C. 3152\(i\)](#)).

Extension Activities

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

- USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).
- Cooperative Extension Services at Land-grant Universities throughout the United States and its territories as funded by state governments; and
- Cooperative Extension Services in or near most of the nation's approximately 3,000 counties or county equivalents in the United States with supporting local government funding.

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

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

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

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

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

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

In addition to the funds allocated using the formula distribution, the Smith-Lever Special Needs Competitive Grants Program supports innovative, education-based approaches to address disaster preparedness and specific responses related to disasters or disaster threats caused by natural,

human-made, or technological hazards, or by other factors that contribute to the exposure or vulnerability of a community. This program supports funding Extension Standard Projects and Planning Projects, which must focus on disasters and address at least one of the listed Topical Areas: Agriculture; Natural Resources; Community and Economic Development; Family and Consumer Sciences; or 4-H and Youth Development. Projects must also use one of the listed Strategies: Program and Resource Development; Exercise and Training; Communications; Disaster Planning; or Professional Development and Capacity Building.

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

Extension Services at 1890 Institutions

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

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

In accordance with section 1449(c) of NARETPA ([7 U.S.C. 3222d](#)), Federal funds provided under section 1444 must be matched by the State from non-Federal sources. Section 1449(c) provides that the Secretary of Agriculture may waive the matching funds requirement above the 50 percent level for any fiscal year for an eligible institution of a State if the Secretary determines that the State will be unlikely to satisfy the matching requirement. Section 7114 of the 2018 Farm Bill amends section 1444(a) of NARETPA to allow 1890 colleges to carry forward to the succeeding fiscal year 100 percent of the funds they receive under this program in a given fiscal year. Allotments to Tuskegee University

and Alabama A&M University shall be determined as if each institution were in a separate State. Four percent of the funds appropriated under this program are set-aside for Federal Administration.

Extension Services at 1994 Institutions

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

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

Facility Improvements at 1890 Institutions

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

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

Renewable Resources Extension Act

Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978, 16 U.S.C. 1671 et seq., was established to provide the basis for federal funding for an expanded and comprehensive extension program on forest and rangeland renewable resources. Extension activities of each State provide useful and productive educational programs for private forest and range landowners and processors and users of forest and rangeland renewable resources. Forests and rangelands provide the nation with invaluable ecosystem and economic services including food, water, wood and agricultural products, wildlife habitat, and recreational benefits. Funds are distributed primarily by formula to 1862 and 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, the University of Hawaii, the University of Guam, the University of Puerto Rico and the University of the Virgin Islands. Determination of apportionments follows consideration of pertinent

factors including acres of private (non-corporate) forest and woodland areas, and the net growth and removal of timber in each State, territory and insular areas. Funds deliver programs to achieve RREA's mandates by maximizing the capacity, reach, and impacts of the Cooperative Extension System to ensure appropriate management and conservation of natural resources and to ensure resilience of these ecosystems against threats from invasive species and diseases, and wildfire.

Rural Health and Safety Education Programs

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

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

Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program (FARAD)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Food Safety Outreach Program

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

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

Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program (FASLP)

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

Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN)

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

Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Military Veterans Competitive Grants Program

The Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Military Veterans Competitive Grants Program (AgVets) is authorized by the Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026 (P.L. 119-37), as incorporated through the Senate Explanatory Notes. The competitive grant program seeks to increase the number of military veterans gaining knowledge and skills through comprehensive, hands-on and immersive model farm and ranch programs offered regionally that lead to successful careers in the food and agricultural sector. The Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Military Veterans (AgVets) program specifically targets military veterans interested in pursuing careers across the food and agricultural sectors. Equipping veterans with the necessary skills, training, and experience that lead to meaningful employment opportunities in turn strengthen personal finances and rural economies. The projects will offer onsite, hands-on training and classroom education leading to a comprehensive understanding of successful farm and ranch operations and management practices.

Smith-Lever, Section 3(d)

These funds are allocated to the States to address special programs or concerns of regional and national importance. Section 7403 of FCEA amended section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343(d)) to expand eligibility to the 1890 Land-Grant Institutions and required that funds be awarded on a competitive basis with the exception of the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program

(EFNEP) in which funds are distributed on a formula basis. Section 7417 of FCEA provided eligibility for these programs to the University of the District of Columbia. Section 7609 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334) provided 1994 Institutions as eligible for certain competitively awarded Smith-Lever 3(d) programs (see below). The following extension programs are supported under the Smith-Lever 3(d) funding mechanism and other specific authorizations:

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program

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

Farm Safety and Youth Farm Safety Education

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

The AgrAbility program ([7 U.S.C. 5933](#)) provides competitively awarded projects to State Cooperative Extension Service agencies working with non-profit disability organizations. Assistive Technology projects are designed to help farmers and ranchers with disabilities stay in agricultural production. Section 7214 of the 2018 Farm Bill reauthorizes appropriations through fiscal year 2023 for demonstration grants to provide agricultural education and assistance to individuals with disabilities engaged in farming or farm-related occupations. Section 7214 added language to clarify that this provision applies to veterans engaged in farming or farm-related occupations, or who are pursuing new farming opportunities. Section 10604 of Working Families Tax Cut Act established mandatory appropriation authority for fiscal year 2026 totaling \$8 million.

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

New Technologies for Agricultural Extension

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

Children, Youth, and Families at Risk

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

Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program

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

The main priorities of the FRTEP include but are not limited to: 1. Positive youth development programs, including 4-H for tribal youth; 2. Native Farmer and Rancher Productivity and Management; 3. Native Community Development: a. Economic and Workforce Development, b. Food Systems, Farm and Community Markets, and Food Sovereignty, c. Natural Resource Conservation, d. Human Nutrition and Reduction of Childhood and Adolescent Obesity.

Necessary Expenses of Extension Activities

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

Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom

Funds are appropriated under the administration line to support the Agriculture in the Classroom (AIRC) program administered under 7 U.S.C 3152(j). AIRC advances agricultural literacy through a grassroots network of State coordinators, schoolteachers, agribusiness leaders, and other educators by supporting initiatives that include expanding outreach; regional demonstration projects; integration of information technology to reduce program delivery costs; and outstanding teacher recognition initiatives. The competitively awarded program serves nearly 5 million students and 60,000 teachers annually through workshops, conferences, field trips, farm tours, and other educational activities. AIRC programs include working with state AIRC activities engaged in a variety of issues relating to

agricultural literacy. Other programs emphasized by the NIFA AITC office include science literacy, agricultural careers, nutrition, pre-service and professional development opportunities for teachers.

Federal Administration—Other Necessary Expenses for Extension Activities

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

Agriculture Risk Management Education Program

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

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

Section 4205 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334), which amended section 4405 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7517), authorizes the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP), a collection of three competitive grant programs. The Nutrition Incentive Program (NI) supports projects that aim to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables among low-income consumers participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Nutrition Assistance Program block grants (NAP) by providing incentives at the point of purchase. Priority is given to projects that maximize direct incentives, provide locally and regionally produced fruits and vegetables, and include coordination with multiple stakeholders (such as farmers and food retailers). Projects that serve Veterans, rural and remote communities are encouraged. The Produce Prescription Program (PPR) provides competitive grants to projects which partner with healthcare providers to implement and evaluate projects aiming to reduce individual and household food insecurity, improve dietary health, and reduce healthcare use and costs by providing prescriptions for fresh fruits and vegetables. The Nutrition Incentive Program Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation, and Information Centers (NTAE) provide support and resources to applicants and grantees; as well as collect and aggregate standardized outcome data sets from grantees to inform best practices. Mandatory funding was made available in the enacted amount of \$45 million for 2019, \$48 million for 2020 and 2021, \$53 million for 2022, and \$56 million for 2023 and each year thereafter to carry out the program.

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP)

The primary goal of BFRDP is to help beginning farmers and ranchers in the United States and its territories enter and/or improve their successes in farming, ranching, and management of nonindustrial private forest lands, through support for projects that provide education, mentoring, and technical assistance to give beginning farmers and ranchers the knowledge, skills, and tools needed to make informed decisions for their operations and enhance their sustainability. The term “farmer” is used in the broadest sense and may be interpreted to include agricultural farmers, ranchers, and non-

industrial private forest owners and managers. The term "beginning farmer or rancher" means a person that (A)(i) has not operated a farm or ranch; or (ii) has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years; and (B) meets such other criteria as the Secretary may establish.

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

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

Integrated Activities

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

Methyl Bromide Transition Program

Methyl bromide is an odorless, colorless gas that is used as an agricultural soil and structural fumigant to control a wide variety of pests. Methyl bromide depletes the stratospheric ozone layer and is classified as a Class 1 ozone-depleting substance. In accordance with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the Clean Air Act (Overview of the Clean Air Act and Air Pollution), the United States government agreed to reduce methyl bromide production and net imports incrementally from the 1991 baseline until the complete phase-out in 2005. Since 2005, the only allowable exemptions are critical use exemptions (CUE), quarantine and pre-shipment exemptions (QPS).

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

Organic Transition Program

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

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

Crop Protection/Pest Management Program

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

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

Regional Rural Development Centers

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

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

Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative (Homeland Security)

Section 1484 of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3351) provides for the support and enhancement of nationally coordinated plant and animal disease diagnostic networks and activities to reduce the vulnerability of the United States food and agricultural system to chemical or biological attack. Networks protect the integrity, reliability, sustainability, and profitability of the food and agricultural system against biosecurity threats from pests, diseases, contaminants, and disasters. With special emphasis on planning, training, outreach, and research activities that relate to vulnerability analyses, incident response, and detection and prevention technologies through competitive grants and cooperative agreements.

The diagnostic networks currently supported are the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) (7 USC 8914 (c)) and the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) (7 USC 8308a). These networks are State/Federal partnerships that are used to increase the ability to protect the U.S. from plant and animal disease threats by providing surveillance, early detection, mitigation, and recovery functions that serve to minimize these threats.

The Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) is also supported under this program. EDEN is a collaborative national effort led by State Cooperative Extension Services (CES) to provide disaster education resources for CES educators, to help farmers and other public sectors in the event of disasters, including agricultural disasters. EDEN also improves the delivery of services to citizens affected by disasters and reduces the impact of disasters through research-based education.

Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative

The Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI), (7 U.S.C. 5925b) seeks to solve critical organic agricultural issues, priorities, or problems through the integration of research, education, and extension activities. The purpose of this program is to fund high priority integrated projects that will enhance the ability of producers and processors who have already adopted organic standards to grow and market high quality organic agricultural products, mitigate, build resilience of the organic farming system, and protect water and other resources. Mandatory funding was made available in the enacted amount of \$20 million for fiscal years 2014 through 2020, \$25 million for 2021, \$30 million for 2022, and \$50 million for 2023 and each year thereafter to carry out the program.

Priority concerns include biological, physical, and economics.

OREI has eight goals:

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

Specialty Crop Research Initiative

Section 412 of AREERA of 1998 ([7 U.S.C. 7632](#)) reauthorized by Section 7305 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub L. 115-334) and as further amended, established a specialty crop research and extension initiative to address the critical needs of the specialty crop industry by developing and disseminating science-based tools to address the needs of specific crops and their regions. The program authorization was further amended by Section 10604 of Working Families Tax Cut Act, increasing the mandatory appropriation authority to \$175 million for each fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter.

The Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) competitive grants program was established to solve critical industry issues through research and extension activities. Specialty crops are defined as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops including floriculture. SCRI will give priority to projects that are multistate, multi-institutional, or trans-disciplinary; and include explicit mechanisms to communicate results to producers and the public.

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

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

Eligible applicants for grants under this authority include Federal agencies, national laboratories, colleges and universities, research institutions and organizations, private organizations or corporations, State agricultural experiment stations, individuals, and groups consisting of two or more entities defined in this sentence. Section 7306 of the 2014 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 113-79) added a requirement that, in addition to the scientific peer review NIFA regularly conducts, a panel of specialty crop industry representatives' review and rank SCRI applications for merit, relevance, and impact. In addition, Section 7306 requires increased consultation between NIFA and the Specialty Crops Committee of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics Advisory Board.

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

Section 7212 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334) amended section 1672 of the FACT Act (Pub. L. 101-624) as to add [7 U.S.C. 5925g](#), authorizes Urban, Indoor, and Other Emerging Agriculture Production as a competitive grants program, with consultation of the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee, established under section [7 U.S.C. 6923\(b\)](#). UIE supports research, education, and extension activities to facilitate the development of urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production, harvesting, transportation, aggregation, packaging, distribution, and markets. Initially authorized a one-time \$10 million mandatory appropriation for 2019, this program's authority was further amended by Section 10604 of Working Families Tax Cut Act providing \$2 million for each fiscal year 2024 through 2031.

One of the focuses of UIE projects is to strengthen and develop income or employment; enhanced quality of life and access to safe nutritious food; estimated or actual economic return for UIE food production systems; private industry investment; and site selection and reduce barriers to land access.

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

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

Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program

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

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

- 1) Development of commercial citrus varieties (rootstocks and scions) for both fresh and processed markets, with genetic tolerance and resistance to HLB using traditional breeding techniques and/or gene editing.
- 2) Regional management or eradication of the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP), the insect vector of HLB, on commercial citrus groves and residential plantings; management strategies should incorporate appropriate pesticide resistance management measures.
- 3) Optimized detection and surveillance programs for ACP and/or HLB. Detection and surveillance programs should incorporate all effective tools and tactics, including psyllid attractants, predictive models of psyllid movement and dispersal, and early detection of HLB/CLAs (based on an understanding of mechanisms).
- 4) A cure for HLB-infected trees and strategies for maintaining their productivity. Progress in this area can be made through the development of nutritional materials and their delivery, antimicrobials and their delivery, or commercialization of molecules that improve citrus production and along with large scale field trials.
- 5) A delivery system for therapeutics, nutrition and other HLB solutions. Most therapies available are not adequately delivered via foliar application. The citrus industry needs an engineered delivery system for phloem to access the *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLAs) systemic infection.
- 6) Consolidation of screening efforts for intervention targets and reduction of candidate lists to include only those most worthy of advanced testing and commercialization. High priority screening efforts are needed to identify: 1) Host plant defense or resistance; 2) Asian Citrus

- 7) A reliable technique for culturing CLas bacteria.
- 8) A better understanding of the HLB/vector/citrus pathosystem, including phloem biology, the movement of CLas and therapy into and through phloem, and the interaction of host, pathogen, and vector (disease triangle).
- 9) Greater understanding of the ecology and interactions of the citrus production system and the citrus greening disease complex (HLB and ACP). These studies are needed to answer basic questions regarding how weather in different regions impact tree health and the spread of HLB and ACP.

The ECDRE program will address these needs through the promotion of collaboration, open communication, the exchange of information, and the development of resources that accelerate the application of scientific discovery and technology to farm-level solutions for HLB. Section 12605 of the 2018 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 115-334) also established the Citrus Trust Fund and provides \$25 million, available until expended, for each of 2019 through 2023, to carry out the ECDRE Program in section 412 of AREERA (7 U.S.C. 7632(j)). In 2024, \$25 million was provided in mandatory appropriations for the ECDRE program. Section 10607 of Working Families Tax Cut Act further extended mandatory authorization for \$25 million through 2031.

Headquarters of the NIFA is in Washington, D.C. As of September 30, 2025, there were 389 permanent full-time employees, including 69 headquarters employees and 270 field employees. There are 50 other employees.

NIFA activities contribute to the success of USDA’s overall mission to provide leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues based on public policy, the best available science, and effective management. USDA is currently developing the FY 2026 – 2030 Strategic Plan. A detailed FY 2027 performance plan, including Key Performance Indicators, can be found at <https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/about-usda/performance>.

OIG AND GAO REPORTS

Table NIFA-1. Closed, Implemented OIG Reports

ID	Date Opened	Date Closed	Title	Result
13601-02-22	06/26/2023	05/20/2025	Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	The OIG made 5 recommendations to NIFA. NIFA implemented corrective actions that established a process to periodically review all ended grants to ensure they were closed timely, and unused funds are de-obligated. The audit was closed in May 2025.

Table NIFA-2. Closed, Implemented GAO Reports

ID	Date Opened	Date Closed	Title	Result
GAO-24-105470	09/09/2024	09/23/2025	Small Business Research Programs: Opportunities Exist for SBA and Agencies to Reduce Vulnerabilities to Fraud, Waste, and Abuse	GAO made 1 recommendation to USDA. NIFA implemented corrective actions that ensure USDA SBIR/STTR applicants receive fraud, waste, and abuse training. The audit was closed in September 2025.

AVAILABLE FUNDS AND FTEs

Table NIFA-3. Available Funds and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Actual	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	2027 Estimated	FTEs
Research and Education Activities:								
Discretionary Appropriations	\$1,075,950	-	\$1,075,950	-	\$1,075,810	-	\$ 645,104	-
Native American Endowment Interest Earned	6,682	-	7,012	-	9,821	-	9,821	-
Mandatory Appropriations	10,000	-	-	-	185,000	-	117,875	-
Supplemental Appropriations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Offsetting Collections	2,350	-	3,733	-	8,000	-	8,000	-
Extension Activities:								
Discretionary Appropriations	561,700	-	561,700	-	561,100	-	368,900	-
Mandatory Appropriations	85,813	-	85,813	-	93,813	-	85,813	-
General Provisions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Integrated Activities:								
Discretionary Appropriations	41,100	-	41,100	-	40,100	-	8,000	-
Mandatory Appropriations	124,590	-	124,590	-	219,590	-	214,061	-
Emergency Citrus Disease:	26,425	-	25,000	-	25,000	-	23,575	-
Total Discretionary Appropriations	1,685,432	-	1,685,762	-	1,686,831	-	1,031,825	-
Total Mandatory Appropriations	246,828	-	235,403	-	523,403	-	441,324	-
Total Supplemental Appropriations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Offsetting Collections	2,350	-	3,733	-	8,000	-	8,000	-
Total Adjusted Appropriation	1,934,610	-	1,924,898	-	2,218,234	-	1,481,149	-
Balance Available, SOY	458,719	-	371,738	-	806,288	-	484,311	-
Rescinded Balances	-538	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balances Withdrawn	-37,000	-	-37,000	-	-22,000	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other	39,169	-	29,759	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available	2,394,960	440	2,289,395	400	3,002,523	338	1,965,461	338
Lapsing Balances	-	-	-1,457	-	-3,000	-	-	-
Balance Available, EOY	-371,739	-	-806,288	-	-484,311	-	-	-
Total Obligations, NIFA	2,023,221	440	1,481,650	400	2,515,211	338	1,965,461	338
Other USDA:								
Biotechnology Risk Assessment Research Grants (BRAG)	1,751	-	1,835	-	1,770	-	1,860	-
Current Research Information System (CRIS)	283	-	295	-	264	-	275	-
Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR)	9,558	-	1,676	-	-	-	-	-
Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)	1,344	-	235	-	-	-	-	-
National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP)	313	-	245	-	287	-	274	-
APHIS-HPAI Avian Flu Research	10,000	-	1,386	-	-	-	-	-
ERS-Building Security	580	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FPAC-Farm Loans Technical Assistance	5,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NRCS-Urban Agriculture	11,867	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
OPPE-4-H Program	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
OSEC-Tribal Relations Students 4-H Program	80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
OCE-Food Loss and Waste Activities Support	225	-	500	-	611	-	611	-
OPPE-Outreach and Assistance for Farmers and Ranchers Program ("2501 Program")	100	-	22,013	-	20,765	-	-	-

2027 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Actual	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	2027 Estimated	FTEs
RD-Rural Cooperative Development Grant (RCDG) Program	-	-	5,848	-	6,469	-	-	-
USDA - Employee Details	1,009	-	49	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Other USDA	42,115	-	34,081	-	30,166	-	3,020	-
Total, NIFA Available	2,437,075	440	2,323,476	400	3,032,689	338	1,968,481	338
Other Federal Funds:								
Research and Education Activities:								
Bureau of Land Management-NADP	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
U.S. Geological Survey-NADP	496	-	547	-	548	-	565	-
National Park Service-NADP	341	-	343	-	344	-	355	-
NOAA-NADP	55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal, Research and Education Activities:	928	-	891	-	892	-	920	-
Extension Activities:								
Army-4-H Connected Youth Development Extension Educator	225	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Army-4-H Programs	-	-	750	-	705	-	705	-
Army-4-H Military Extension Educator Position	-	-	225	-	225	-	225	-
Army-Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness	1,033	-	3,039	-	2,887	-	2,887	-
Army-Early Learning Matters	882	-	1,091	-	1,036	-	1,036	-
Army-Family Advocacy Program	2,500	-	2,500	-	2,500	-	2,500	-
Army-OneOp	3,138	-	3,138	-	2,981	-	2,981	-
Army-Virtual Lab School	900	-	2,704	-	2,569	-	2,569	-
CDC-E.X.C.I.T.E.	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CDC-Vaccine Messaging	6,000	-	1,473	-	2,000	-	-	-
Defense Human Resources Activity-Youth Internship (YSIP) ...	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Military Community & Family Policy-Military REACH	799	-	799	-	759	-	759	-
Military Community & Family Policy-Teen Adventure Camps ...	1,200	-	1,200	-	1,200	-	1,200	-
U.S. Air Force 4-H Programs	750	-	750	-	775	-	775	-
Subtotal, Extension Activities:	28,427	-	17,669	-	17,637	-	15,637	-
Total, Other Federal	29,355	-	18,559	-	18,529	-	16,557	-
Non-Federal Funds:								
Total, Non-Federal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available, NIFA	2,466,430	440	2,342,035	400	3,051,218	338	1,985,038	338

PERMANENT POSITIONS BY GRADE AND FTEs

Table NIFA-4. Permanent Positions by Grade and FTEs

Item	2024			2025			2026			2027		
	HQ	Field	Actual Total	HQ	Field	Actual Total	HQ	Field	Estimated Total	HQ	Field	Estimated Total
ES	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1
SES	3	3	6	3	3	6	4	2	6	4	2	6
GS-15	26	61	87	31	54	85	24	50	74	24	50	74
GS-14	12	32	45	3	27	30	2	27	29	2	27	29
GS-13	19	68	87	11	55	66	11	48	59	11	48	59
GS-12	17	122	139	13	122	135	11	109	120	11	109	120
GS-11	4	36	40	4	25	29	3	20	23	3	20	23
GS-10	1	1	2	1	1	2	-	1	1	-	1	1
GS-9	2	23	25	3	6	9	2	4	6	2	4	6
GS-8	3	5	8	2	4	6	2	2	4	2	2	4
GS-7	2	19	21	3	16	19	4	10	14	4	10	14
GS-6	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
GS-5	0	1	1	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	-	0
GS-4	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1
GS-3	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Permanent	91	374	465	77	313	390	66	273	339	66	273	339
Unfilled, EOY	-	-	-40	-	-1	-1	-1	-	-1	-1	-	-1
Total Perm. FT EOY	91	374	425	77	312	389	65	273	338	65	273	338
FTE	-	-	440	-	-	400	-	-	338	-	-	338

Note: Total FTEs are all inclusive of workforce categories including temporary positions.

SHARED FUNDING PROJECTS

Table NIFA-5. Shared Funding Projects (thousands of dollars)

Item	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Estimated	2027 Estimated
Working Capital Fund:				
Administrative Services:				
AskUSDA Contact Center	\$40	\$39	-	-
General Counsel Legal Compliance	-	32	399	399
Human Resources Enterprise System Management	11	14	37	38
Integrated Procurement Systems	17	15	12	12
Mail and Reproduction Management Division	80	75	147	148
Material Management Service Center	32	18	54	54
Subtotal	180	194	649	651
Communications:				
Creative Media & Broadcast Center	30	34	33	33
Finance and Management:				
Financial Shared Services	1,329	1,594	1,186	1,231
Internal Control Support Services	97	75	136	137
Personnel and Document Security Program	19	23	24	-
National Finance Center	132	135	122	122
Subtotal	1,558	1,826	1,468	1,490
Information Technology:				
Client Experience Center	1,840	1,890	1,556	1,402
Department Admin Information Technology Office	463	471	102	-
Digital Infrastructure Services Center	761	733	701	804
Enterprise Cybersecurity Services	227	265	260	260
Enterprise Data and Analytics Services	195	204	125	130
Enterprise Network Services	401	374	277	277
Subtotal	3,887	3,937	3,021	2,873
Correspondence Management Services:				
Office of the Executive Secretariat	52	48	38	38
Total, Working Capital Fund	5,726	6,039	5,209	5,085
Department-Wide Shared Cost Programs:				
Agency Partnership Outreach	27	30	15	16
America’s Agricultural Heritage	-	-	2	2
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility	10	2	-	-
Employee Experience	14	12	1	-
Intertribal Technical Assistance Network	13	-	-	-
Medical Services	3	-	-	-
NCR Interpreting Services	1	2	41	41
OCFO Shared Services Branch	-	-	3	5
Office of Customer Experience	11	6	-	-
Physical Security	17	24	11	11
Security Detail	20	33	66	67
Security Operations	28	28	30	30
Talent Group	12	14	2	-
TARGET Center	6	7	5	5
Total, Department-Wide Reimbursable Programs	162	158	176	177
Agency Total	5,888	6,197	5,385	5,262

ACCOUNT 1: NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

For payments to agricultural experiment stations, for cooperative forestry and other research, for facilities, for payments to States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, Micronesia, the Northern Marianas, and American Samoa for cooperative extension activities for research, education, and extension grant programs, including necessary administrative expenses, and for other expenses, \$1,022,004,000: Provided, That \$546,877,350, to remain available until expended, shall be for research grants for 1994 institutions, education grants for 1890 institutions, the agriculture and food research initiative, veterinary medicine loan repayment, grants management systems, Hispanic serving institutions education grants, tribal colleges education equity grants, scholarships at 1890 institutions, extension services at 1994 institutions, facility improvements at 1890 institutions, the new beginning for Tribal students program, and centers of excellence 1890 institutions: Provided further, That each institution eligible to receive funds under the Evans-Allen program shall receive not less than \$1,000,000: Provided further, That \$5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028, shall be for providing grants for food and agricultural sciences for Alaska Native- and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions, or consortia of eligible institutions regardless of geographic locations: Provided further, That \$2,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028, shall be for providing grants for food and agricultural sciences for Insular Areas: Provided further, That funds for education grants for 1890 institutions shall be made available to institutions eligible to receive funds under 7 U.S.C. 3221 and 3222: Provided further, That institutions eligible to receive funds under 7 U.S.C. 3221 for cooperative extension shall each receive not less than \$1,000,000: Provided further, That funds for cooperative extension under sections 3(b) and (c) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343(b) and (c)) and section 208(c) of Public Law 93-471 shall be available for retirement and employees' compensation costs for extension agents: Provided further, That \$8,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2028, is available for the Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative: Provided further, That \$3,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028 is available for Enhancing Agriculture Opportunities for Military Veterans.

Native American Institutions Endowment Fund

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

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table NIFA-6. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (in dollars)

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2026	\$1,686,831,467
Change in Appropriation.....	- 654,982,000
Budget Estimate, 2027	<u>1,031,825,467</u>

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table NIFA-7. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars, FTEs) ¹

Item	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Actual	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	2027 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Discretionary Appropriation:											
Research and Education Activities											
Hatch Act	\$265,000	-	\$265,000	-	\$265,000	-	\$ -	-	-\$265,000	-	(1)
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act.....	38,000	-	38,000	-	38,000	-	20,000	-	-18,000	-	(2)
Research at 1890 Institutions (Evans-Allen Program) ..	89,000	-	89,000	-	89,000	-	50,000	-	-39,000	-	(3)
Payments to 1994 Institutions (Tribal Colleges Ed. Equity).....	7,000	-	7,000	-	8,000	-	7,000	-	-1,000	-	(4)
Education Grants for 1890 Institutions (Capacity Building Grants).....	30,000	-	30,000	-	30,000	-	30,000	-	-	-	
Scholarships at 1890 Institutions.....	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-	
Centers of Excellence at 1890 Institutions	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-	
Education Grants for Hispanic-Serving Institutions.....	16,000	-	16,000	-	16,000	-	12,500	-	-3,500	-	(5)
Education Grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions.....	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-	
Research Grants for 1994 Institutions	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,500	-	5,000	-	-500	-	(6)
Capacity Building Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture.....	6,000	-	6,000	-	6,000	-	-	-	-6,000	-	(7)
New Beginning for Tribal Students	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-	
Grants for Insular Areas (Combined program).....	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-	
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	445,200	-	445,200	-	435,000	-	419,378	-	-15,622	-	(8)
Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment (Medical Services Act Program).....	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-	
Veterinary Services Grant Program	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	-	-	
Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Program.....	4,000	-	4,000	-	3,000	-	4,000	-	+1,000	-	(9)
Supplemental and Alternative Crops.....	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	1,000	-	-1,000	-	(10)
Multicultural Scholars, Graduate Fellowship and Institution Challenge Grants.....	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-	-10,000	-	(11)
Secondary and 2-year Post-Secondary Education	750	-	750	-	750	-	750	-	-	-	
Aquaculture Centers.....	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-	
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education.....	48,000	-	48,000	-	48,000	-	-	-	-48,000	-	(12)
Farm Business Management	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-	
Sun Grant Program	3,000	-	3,000	-	3,000	-	-	-	-3,000	-	(13)
Research Equipment Grants.....	5,000	-	5,000	-	3,000	-	5,000	-	+2,000	-	(14)
Alfalfa Seed and Alfalfa Forage Systems Research Program	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	-	-	-4,000	-	(15)

¹ Discrepancy between project statement and MAX schedule X is reimbursable budget authority.

2027 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item	2024		2025		2026		2027		Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs			
Minor Crop Pest Management (IR-4)	15,000	-	15,000	-	15,000	-	15,000	-	-	-	-
Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-	-
Laying Hen and Turkey Research Program	500	-	500	-	500	-	1,000	-	+500	-	(16)
Open Data Standards for Neutral Data Repository	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Research Facilities Act	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congressionally Directed Spending	-	-	-	-	13,560	-	-	-	-13,560	-	(17)
Special Research Grants:											
Global Change/UV Monitoring	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-	-1,000	-	(18)
Potato Research	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	-	-	-4,000	-	(19)
Aquaculture Research	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-	-2,000	-	(20)
Subtotal, Special Research Grants	7,000	-	7,000	-	7,000	-	-	-	-7,000	-	
Federal Administration (Direct Appropriations):											
Grants Management Systems	7,000	-	7,000	-	7,000	-	7,000	-	-	-	-
General Administration / Other	11,500	-	11,500	-	10,500	-	11,476	-	+976	-	(21)
Subtotal, Federal Administration	18,500	-	18,500	-	17,500	-	18,476	-	+976	-	
Total, Research and Education	1,075,950	-	1,075,950	-	1,075,810	-	645,104	-	-430,706	-	
Extension Activities											
Smith-Lever 3(b&c) Programs and Cooperative											
Extension	325,000	-	325,000	-	325,000	-	175,000	-	-150,000	-	(22)
Extension Services at 1890 Institutions	72,000	-	72,000	-	72,000	-	62,000	-	-10,000	-	(23)
Extension Services at 1994 Institutions	11,000	-	11,000	-	12,000	-	11,000	-	-1,000	-	(24)
Facility Improvements at 1890 Institutions	21,500	-	21,500	-	21,500	-	20,000	-	-1,500	-	(25)
Renewable Resources Extension Act	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	-	-	-4,000	-	(26)
Rural Health and Safety Education Programs	4,000	-	4,000	-	3,000	-	4,000	-	+1,000	-	(27)
Food Animal Residue Avoid. Database Program	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-	-
Women and Minorities in STEM Fields	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-	-2,000	-	(28)
Food Safety Outreach Program	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	7,000	-	-3,000	-	(29)
Food and Ag Service Learning	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-	-
Enhancing Ag Opportunities Military Veterans	3,000	-	3,000	-	3,000	-	3,000	-	-	-	-
Smith-Lever Act, Section 3(d):											
Expanded Food and Nutrition Program	70,000	-	70,000	-	70,000	-	48,000	-	-22,000	-	(30)
Farm Safety and Youth Farm Safety Education Programs	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-	-
New Technologies for Ag Extension	1,600	-	1,600	-	1,600	-	1,600	-	-	-	-
Children, Youth, and Families at Risk	8,000	-	8,000	-	8,000	-	8,000	-	-	-	-
Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	-	-	-
Subtotal, Smith-Lever Act Section 3(d)	88,600	-	88,600	-	88,600	-	66,600	-	-22,000	-	
Federal Administration (Direct Appropriations):											
Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom	500	-	500	-	500	-	500	-	-	-	-
Federal Administration - Other Necessary Expenses	7,100	-	7,100	-	6,500	-	6,800	-	+300	-	(31)
Subtotal, Federal Administration	7,600	-	7,600	-	7,000	-	7,300	-	+300	-	
Total, Extension Activities	561,700	-	561,700	-	561,100	-	368,900	-	-192,200	-	

2027 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item	2024		2025		2026		2027		Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs			
Integrated Activities											
Methyl Bromide Transition	2,000	-	2,000	-	1,000	-	-	-	-1,000	-	(32)
Organic Transition Program	7,500	-	7,500	-	7,500	-	-	-	-7,500	-	(33)
Regional Rural Development Centers.....	2,600	-	2,600	-	2,600	-	-	-	-2,600	-	(34)
Food & Agriculture Defense Initiative (Homeland Security)	8,000	-	8,000	-	8,000	-	8,000	-	-	-	-
Crop Protection/Pest Management	21,000	-	21,000	-	21,000	-	-	-	-21,000	-	(35)
Total, Integrated Activities.....	41,100	-	41,100	-	40,100	-	8,000	-	-32,100	-	
Endowment Funding:											
Tribal Colleges Endowment Fund (Native American Endowment Fund)	-11,880	-	-11,880	-	-11,880	-	-11,880	-	-	-	-
Interest on Tribal College Endowment Fund (Endowment- Interest Earned)	6,682	-	7,012	-	9,821	-	9,821	-	-	-	-
Subtotal, Endowment Funding	6,682	-	7,012	-	9,821	-	9,821	-	-	-	-
Subtotal, Discretionary Appropriations.....	1,685,432	-	1,685,762	-	1,686,831	-	1,031,825	-	-655,006	-	
Mandatory Approp:											
Agriculture Risk Management Education.....	9,430	-	9,430	-	9,430	-	9,430	-	-	-	-
Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP).....	52,808	-	52,808	-	52,808	-	52,808	-	-	-	-
Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development Program....	23,575	-	23,575	-	23,575	-	23,575	-	-	-	-
Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative .	47,150	-	47,150	-	47,150	-	47,150	-	-	-	-
Specialty Crop Research Initiative.....	75,440	-	75,440	-	170,440	-	165,025	-	-5,415	-	-
Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Trust Fund	26,425	-	25,000	-	25,000	-	23,575	-	-1,425	-	-
Urban, Indoor & Other Emerging Ag Production.....	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	1,886	-	-114	-	-
Scholarships for Students at 1890 Institutions	10,000	-	-	-	60,000	-	-	-	-60,000	-	-
Assistive Technology Program for Farmers with Disabilities	-	-	-	-	8,000	-	-	-	-8,000	-	-
Research Facilities Act	-	-	-	-	125,000	-	117,875	-	-7,125	-	-
Subtotal, Mandatory Appropriations.....	246,828	-	235,403	-	523,403	-	441,324	-	-82,079	-	
Subtotal, Supplemental Appropriations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Offsetting Collections:											
Commodity Board	2,350	-	3,733	-	8,000	-	8,000	-	-	-	-
Subtotal, Offsetting Collections:	2,350	-	3,733	-	8,000	-	8,000	-	-	-	-
Total Adjusted Appropriations:.....	1,934,610	-	1,924,898	-	2,218,234	-	1,481,149	-	-737,085	-	
Add back:											
Transfers In and Out, Rescissions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sequestration	12,597	-	12,597	-	12,597	-	26,676	-	+14,079	-	-
Total Appropriation	1,947,207	440	1,937,495	400	2,230,831	338	1,507,825	338	-723,006	-	
Total Transfers In	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Transfers Out	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rescission	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sequestration	-12,597	-	-12,597	-	-12,597	-	-26,676	-	-14,079	-	-

2027 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item	2024		2025		2026		2027		Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs			
Recoveries, Other	39,169	-	29,759	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balances Withdrawn	-538	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rescinded Balances	-37,000	-	-37,000	-	-22,000	-	-	-	+22,000	-	-
Bal. Available, SOY	458,719	-	371,738	-	806,288	-	484,311	-	-321,977	-	-
Total Available	2,394,960	440	2,289,395	400	3,002,523	338	1,965,461	338	-1,037,062		
Lapsing Balances	-	-	-1,457	-	-3,000	-	-	-	+3,000	-	-
Bal. Available, EOY	-371,739	-	-806,288	-	-484,311	-	-	-	+484,311	-	-
Total Obligations	2,023,221	440	1,481,650	400	2,515,211	338	1,965,461	338	-549,750		

Table NIFA-8. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTEs) ²

Item	2024		2025		2026		2027		Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs		
Discretionary Appropriation:										
Research and Education Activities										
Hatch Act	\$265,000	-	\$265,000	-	\$265,000	-	\$-	-	-\$265,000	-
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act	38,000	-	38,000	-	38,000	-	20,000	-	-18,000	-
Research at 1890 Institutions (Evans-Allen Program)	89,000	-	89,000	-	89,000	-	50,000	-	-39,000	-
Payments to 1994 Institutions (Tribal Colleges Ed. Equity) ...	7,200	-	5,200	-	9,800	-	7,000	-	-2,800	-
Education Grants for 1890 Institutions (Capacity Building Grants)	8,035	-	113	-	57,524	-	62,344	-	+4,820	-
Scholarships at 1890 Institutions	9,600	-	9,744	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-
Centers of Excellence at 1890 Institutions	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-
Education Grants for Hispanic-Serving Institutions	15,406	-	56	-	30,000	-	13,782	-	-16,218	-
Education Grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions	6,210	-	1,404	-	9,055	-	5,725	-	-3,330	-
Research Grants for 1994 Institutions	3,801	-	2,308	-	9,633	-	9,819	-	+186	-
Capacity Building Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture	5,787	-	1	-	11,339	-	515	-	-10,824	-
New Beginning for Tribal Students	5,000	-	4,441	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-
Grants for Insular Areas (Combined program)	2,053	-	93	-	3,867	-	2,040	-	-1,827	-
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	573,639	-	213,403	-	516,662	-	815,318	-	+298,656	-
Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment (Medical Services Act Program)	5,359	-	11,321	-	8,223	-	25,591	-	+17,368	-
Veterinary Services Grant Program	4,000	-	3,911	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	-	-
Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Program (Sec. 1433)	4,000	-	4,000	-	3,000	-	4,000	-	+1,000	-
Supplemental and Alternative Crops (Sec. 1437D)	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	1,000	-	-1,000	-

² Discrepancy between Project Statement and MAX schedule X is reimbursable budget authority

2027 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item	2024		2025		2026		2027		Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs		
Multicultural Scholars, Graduate Fellowship and Institution										
Challenge Grants	10,068	-	3,285	-	3,159	-	16,464	-	+13,305	-
Secondary and 2-year Post-Secondary Education	750	-	750	-	750	-	750	-	-	-
Aquaculture Centers (Sec. 1475)	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education	48,000	-	48,000	-	48,000	-	-	-	-48,000	-
Farm Business Management	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-
Sun Grant Program	3,000	-	3,000	-	3,000	-	-	-	-3,000	-
Research Equipment Grants	5,000	-	5,000	-	3,000	-	5,000	-	+2,000	-
Alfalfa Seed and Alfalfa Forage Systems Research Program ..	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	-	-	-4,000	-
Minor Crop Pest Management (IR-4)	15,000	-	15,000	-	15,000	-	15,000	-	-	-
Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-
Laying Hen and Turkey Research Program	500	-	487	-	500	-	1,000	-	+500	-
Open Data Standards for Neutral Data Repository	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-
Research Facilities Act	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congressionally Directed Spending	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,560	-	+13,560	-
Global Change/UV Monitoring	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Potato Research	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	-	-	-4,000	-
Aquaculture Research	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-	-2,000	-
Subtotal, Special Research Grants	7,000	-	7,000	-	6,000	-	-	-	-6,000	-
Federal Administration (Direct Appropriations):										
Grants Management Systems	15,970	-	7,000	-	7,000	-	7,000	-	-	-
General Administration / Other	11,500	-	11,500	-	10,500	-	11,476	-	+976	-
Subtotal, Federal Administration	27,470	-	18,500	-	17,500	-	18,476	-	+976	-
Total, Research and Education	1,185,878	-	776,016	-	1,193,011	-	1,126,384	-	-66,627	-
Extension Activities										
Smith-Lever 3(b&c) Programs and Cooperative Extension	325,000	-	324,965	-	325,000	-	175,000	-	-150,000	-
Extension Services at 1890 Institutions	72,000	-	72,000	-	72,000	-	62,000	-	-10,000	-
Extension Services at 1994 Institutions	9,695	-	4,316	-	17,253	-	13,298	-	-3,955	-
Facility Improvements at 1890 Institutions	22,302	-	21,762	-	21,938	-	20,000	-	-1,938	-
Renewable Resources Extension Act	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	-	-	-4,000	-
Rural Health and Safety Education Programs	4,000	-	3,987	-	3,000	-	4,000	-	+1,000	-
Food Animal Residue Avoid. Database Program	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-
Women and Minorities in STEM Fields	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Safety Outreach Program	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	7,000	-	-3,000	-
Food and Ag Service Learning	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-
Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network	10,000	-	9,984	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-
Enhancing Ag Opportunities Military Veterans (Ag Vets)	5,103	-	2,884	-	3,000	-	3,000	-	-	-
Smith-Lever Act, Section 3(d):										
Expanded Food and Nutrition Program	70,000	-	70,000	-	70,000	-	48,000	-	-22,000	-
Farm Safety and Youth Farm Safety Education Programs	5,000	-	4,994	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-
New Technologies for Ag Extension	1,600	-	1,600	-	1,600	-	1,600	-	-	-
Children, Youth, and Families at Risk	8,000	-	7,860	-	8,000	-	8,000	-	-	-
Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	-	-

2027 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Actual	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	2027 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Subtotal, Smith-Lever Act Section 3(d)	88,600	-	88,454	-	88,600	-	66,600	-	-22,000	-
Federal Administration (Direct Appropriations):										
Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom.....	500	-	500	-	500	-	500	-	-	-
Federal Administration - Other Necessary Expenses.....	7,100	-	7,100	-	6,500	-	6,800	-	+300	-
Subtotal, Federal Administration	7,600	-	7,600	-	7,000	-	7,300	-	+300	-
Total, Extension Activities	563,300	-	554,951	-	564,791	-	371,198	-	-193,593	-
Integrated Activities										
Methyl Bromide Transition.....	2,000	-	2,000	-	1,000	-	-	-	-1,000	-
Organic Transition Program	7,500	-	7,500	-	7,500	-	-	-	-7,500	-
Regional Rural Development Centers.....	2,600	-	2,600	-	2,600	-	-	-	-2,600	-
Food & Agriculture Defense Initiative (Homeland Security)...	7,986	-	7,987	-	8,000	-	8,045	-	+45	-
Crop Protection/Pest Management	21,000	-	21,000	-	21,000	-	-	-	-21,000	-
International Science and Education Grants.....	29	-	-	-	-	-	688	-	+688	-
General Provisions:										
GP Institute for Rural Partnership - University of Vermont	-	-	-	-	1,484	-	-	-	-1,484	-
Subtotal, General Provisions	-	-	-	-	1,484	-	-	-	-1,484	-
Total, Integrated Activities	41,115	-	41,087	-	41,584	-	8,733	-	-32,851	-
Endowment Funding:										
Tribal Colleges Endowment Fund (Native American Endowment Fund)	-12,975	-	-11,880	-	-11,880	-	-11,880	-	-	-
Interest on Tribal College Endowment Fund (Endowment- Interest Earned).....	5,690	-	7,893	-	10,025	-	9,821	-	-204	-
Subtotal, Endowment Funding.....	5,690	-	7,893	-	10,025	-	9,821	-	-204	-
Subtotal, Discretionary Obligations	1,795,983	-	1,379,946	-	1,809,411	-	1,516,137	-	-293,274	-
Mandatory Obligations:										
Agriculture Risk Management Education.....	9,430	-	9,430	-	9,430	-	9,430	-	-	-
Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP)	52,808	-	52,808	-	52,808	-	52,808	-	-	-
Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development Program	25,147	-	1,520	-	46,020	-	23,575	-	-22,445	-
Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative	46,870	-	2,399	-	94,189	-	47,150	-	-47,039	-
Specialty Crop Research Initiative.....	75,458	-	3,867	-	241,205	-	165,025	-	-76,180	-
Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Trust Fund	884	-	25,840	-	51,858	-	23,575	-	-28,283	-
Urban, Indoor & Other Emerging Ag Production.....	2,947	-	2,000	-	2,042	-	1,886	-	-156	-
Emergency Citrus Research and Extension Program	1,344	-	106	-	109	-	-	-	-109	-
Scholarships for Students at 1890 Institutions	10,000	-	-	-	60,001	-	-	-	-60,001	-
Biomass Research and Development	-	-	114	-	3,544	-	-	-	-3,544	-
Assistive Technology Program for Farmers with Disabilities ..	-	-	-	-	8,000	-	-	-	-8,000	-
Research Facilities Act	-	-	-	-	125,000	-	117,875	-	-7,125	-
Subtotal, Mandatory Obligations	224,888	-	98,121	-	694,207	-	441,324	-	-252,883	-
Supplemental Obligations:										
Emergency Supp-COVID, Farming Opportunities & Outreach ..	-	-	-	-	783	-	-	-	-783	-
Emergency Supp-COVID, GusNIP	-	-	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emergency Supp-COVID, Farm Stress	-	-	-	-	2,660	-	-	-	-2,660	-

2027 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Actual	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	2027 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
IIJA Supp, Bioproduct Pilot Program.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal, Supplemental Obligations	-	-	-	-	3,443	-	-	-	-3,443	-
Offsetting Collections:										
Commodity Board	2,350	-	3,583	-	8,149	-	8,000	-	-149	-
Subtotal, Offsetting Collections.....	2,350	-	3,583	-	8,149	-	8,000	-	-149	-
Total Obligations	2,023,221	440	1,481,650	400	2,515,211	338	1,965,461	338	-549,750	-
Add Back:										
Lapsing Balances	-	-	1,457	-	3,000	-	-	-	-3,000	-
Balances Available, EOY:										
Payments to 1994 Institutions (Tribal Colleges Ed. Equity)	157	-	1,800	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Education Grants for Hispanic-Serving Institutions.....	-	-	15,282	-	1,282	-	-	-	-1,282	-
Education Grants for 1890 Institutions (Capacity Building Grants).....	29,713	-	61,344	-	32,344	-	-	-	-32,344	-
Research Grants for 1994 Institutions	7,797	-	9,063	-	4,819	-	-	-	-4,819	-
Capacity Building Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture	489	-	6,026	-	515	-	-	-	-515	-
Grants for Insular Areas (Combined program).....	-	-	1,907	-	40	-	-	-	-40	-
Education Grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian- Serving Institutions.....	691	-	4,780	-	725	-	-	-	-725	-
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	275,016	-	497,394	-	395,940	-	-	-	-395,940	-
Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment (Medical Services Act Program)	14,895	-	13,814	-	15,591	-	-	-	-15,591	-
Multicultural Scholars, Graduate Fellowship and Institution Challenge Grants	3,952	-	10,071	-	16,464	-	-	-	-16,464	-
Interest on Tribal College Endowment Fund (Endowment- Interest Earned).....	1,082	-	204	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scholarships for Students at 1890 Institutions	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commodity Board	-	-	149	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congressionally Directed Spending	-	-	-	-	13,560	-	-	-	-13,560	-
Biomass Research and Development	3,659	-	3,544	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Facility Improvements at 1890 Institutions.....	262	-	438	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Extension Services at 1994 Institutions	1,305	-	7,551	-	2,298	-	-	-	-2,298	-
Emergency Supp-COVID, Farming Opportunities & Outreach ..	61	-	783	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emergency Supp-COVID, GusNIP	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emergency Supp-COVID, Farm Stress	1,878	-	2,660	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development Program	673	-	22,445	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
International Science and Education Grants.....	688	-	688	-	688	-	-	-	-688	-
Food & Agriculture Defense Initiative.....	32	-	45	-	45	-	-	-	-45	-
GP Institute for Rural Partnership - University of Vermont.....	-	-	1,484	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emergency Citrus Research and Extension Program	180	-	109	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative	402	-	47,039	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Specialty Crop Research Initiative.....	1,078	-	70,765	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Urban, Indoor & Other Emerging Ag Production.....	42	-	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Trust Fund	27,661	-	26,858	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

2027 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item	2024		2025		2026		2027		Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs		
Total Bal. Available, EOY	371,739	-	806,288	-	484,311	-	-	-	-484,311	-
Total Available.....	2,394,960	440	2,289,395	400	3,002,523	338	1,965,461	338	1,037,062	-
Less:										
Rescission	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Transfers In	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Transfers Out	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sequestration	12,597	-	12,597	-	12,597	-	26,676	-	+14,079	-
Balances Interchange	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other	-39,169	-	-29,759	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balances Withdrawn.....	538	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rescinded Balances.....	37,000	-	37,000	-	22,000	-	-	-	-22,000	-
Bal. Available, SOY	-458,719	-	-371,738	-	-806,288	-	-484,311	-	+321,977	-
Total Appropriation.....	1,947,207	440	1,937,495	400	2,230,831	338	1,507,825	338	-723,006	-

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

In accordance with administration policy announced in the Budget, NIFA will follow new government-wide grants guidance prohibiting the use of Federal funds to pay for subscriptions to academic journals, as well as for the publication of research results that are not specifically required by Federal statute or approved in advance by a federal agency. This policy preserves funds to support actual research by ensuring that the American taxpayer does not pay for the research, publication, and access to that research, essentially triple charging the public for the same product.

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

- (1) A decrease of \$265,000,000 for Hatch Act (\$265,000,000 available in 2026).

Funding for this program is not being requested in 2027 to direct funding toward merit-based, competitive grant activities, with greater potential for accountability in support of national priorities and consistent with Administration's oversight policy. Federal investment in agriculture research and development is comparatively small to other investments made through public and private entities, including States, commodity commissions, and other research organizations.

- (2) A decrease of \$18,000,000 for McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act (\$38,000,000 available in 2026).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding toward merit-based, competitive grant activities, with greater potential for accountability in support of national priorities and consistent with Administration's oversight policy. Though reduced, funds appropriated will continue to be used to assist all States in carrying out a program of state forestry research at forestry schools and colleges. This continues support for improved management and full utilization of forestry resources to support the creation of jobs, boost rural economies, and invigorate the forestry products industry. Research will focus on (1) increasing the volume of forest products including timber, lumber, and paper; (2) reducing threats (e.g. wildfires and pests); (3) protecting the Nation's watersheds and water supply; (4) expanding and developing domestic markets (e.g., construction, bioenergy); and (5) training the next generation of forestry experts to ensure continued success.

- (3) A decrease of \$39,000,000 for Research at 1890 Institutions (Evans-Allen) (\$89,000,000 available in 2026).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding toward merit-based, competitive grant activities, with greater potential for accountability in support of national priorities and consistent with Administration's oversight policy. Though reduced, funds appropriated will support the nineteen eligible 1890 Land-grant Universities, whose programs contribute innovative and applied agricultural research that meets the needs of state populations and is shared with the public through distributed publications. Including agricultural research initiatives that promote innovation and seek to address issues impacting small-scale agriculture.

- (4) A decrease of \$1,000,000 for Payments to 1994 Institutions (\$8,000,000 available in 2026).

Consistent with funds appropriated in 2024 and 2025, funding will be used to strengthen capacity at 1994 Land-grant Institutions. Supporting experiential learning, access to new technology, and development of curriculum that teaches science and math to students in remote reservation communities.

- (5) A decrease of \$3,500,000 for Education Grants for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (\$16,000,000 available in 2026).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to other high priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities. Appropriated funding will continue to be competitively awarded in support of the nearly 600 eligible institutions that carry out higher education programs that attract, retain, and graduate students capable of enhancing the Nation's food, agriculture, natural resources, and human sciences workforce.

- (6) A decrease of \$500,000 for Education Grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions (\$5,500,000 available in 2026).

Consistent with funds appropriated in 2024 and 2025, funding will be used to competitively promote and strengthen education, applied research, and related community development programs at eligible institutions. Priority will be given to those projects that enhance education for students; strengthen institutional educational capacities; prepare students for careers related to the food, agricultural, and natural resource systems of the United States; and maximize the development and use of resources to improve food and agricultural sciences teaching programs.

- (7) A decrease of \$6,000,000 for Capacity Building Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture (\$6,000,000 available in 2026).

Funding for this program is not being requested in 2027 to direct funding to other high priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities as the research goals of this program can be more effectively addressed through application to higher priority programs as described in the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Foundational and Applied Science and Strengthening Agricultural Systems programs. The education and extension portions of the NLGCA grants program may similarly be supported by applying to other funding sources such as the AFRI Education and Workforce Development program area priorities, Higher Education Challenge Grant Program, and when applicable, the Hispanic-Serving Education Grants Program. The Equipment Grants Program may support to the acquisition of equipment for shared research, but would not support the independent research, nor instrumentation for primary educational activities.

- (8) A decrease of \$15,622,000 for Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (\$435,000,000 available in 2026).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to other high priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities. To support transformative innovations that advance food and nutrition security, enhance profitability in U.S. agriculture and boost rural prosperity, NIFA will continue to allocate appropriated funding as outlined in the Farm Bill priority areas and in support of Administration priorities outlined in the AFRI Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) exhibit.

- (9) An increase of \$1,000,000 for Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Program (\$3,000,000 available in 2026).

Sustaining 2025 enacted funding levels, which are then allocated to State Agricultural Experiment Stations (SAES) and American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) accredited U.S. Colleges or Schools of Veterinary Medicine provides support for research projects targeted to addressing the health and disease of agricultural animals. Animal Health Research comprises basic and applied studies on infectious and noninfectious agents which impair the normal state of the animal body and/or that affect the performance of vital functions. This includes research to improve the health of domestic livestock, poultry, aquatic animals and other income-producing animals and to facilitate the effective prevention of diseases in both domesticated and wild animals which, if not controlled, would endanger the livestock and poultry industries. Also included is research to minimize transportation and handling losses; monitor the suitability of animals and animal products for human use; protect public health through control of animal diseases transmissible to humans and improve methods of controlling the reproduction of predators.

- (10) A decrease of \$1,000,000 for Supplemental and Alternative Crops (\$2,000,000 available in 2026).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to other high priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities. The broad research goals of this relatively small program can be better addressed with funding reallocated to larger programs such as AFRI, where historical award trends show similar projects have been supported through the Plant Health and Production and Plant Products (PHPPP); Bioenergy, Natural Resources and Environment (BNRE); and Agriculture, Economics, and Rural Communities (AERC) program areas.

- (11) A decrease of \$10,000,000 for Multicultural Scholars, Graduate Fellowship, and Institution Challenge Grants (\$10,000,000 available in 2026).

Funding for this program is not being requested in 2027 to direct funding to higher priority activities, that competitively allow for greater focus on national priorities and are consistent with Administration's policy. Support for food and agricultural science higher education and workforce development will continue to be supported through other USDA higher education programs, including AFRI's Education and Workforce Development.

- (12) A decrease of \$48,000,000 for Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (\$48,000,000 available in 2026).

Funding for this program is not being requested in 2027 to direct funding to higher priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities, avoids duplication across multiple USDA programs, and are consistent with Administration's policy. This program provides funding for four regional offices hosted by Land-grant Institutions, who then competitively award projects. The decentralized program has focused on building support for supply chain topics that cover food production, food processing, and food distribution and aggregation. The same topics are supported through directly managed programs like AFRI, in addition to other USDA competitive programs that additionally focus on quality and productivity of the soil, quality of surface and ground water, protection of the health and safety of people involved in the food and farm system, promoting the well-being of animals, and increasing employment opportunities in agriculture.

- (13) A decrease of \$3,000,000 for Sun Grant Program (\$3,000,000 available in 2026).

Funding for this program is not being requested in 2027 to direct funding to other high priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities. The research goals of this relatively small program can be better addressed with funding reallocated to larger programs such as AFRI, where historical award trends show similar scope projects have been awarded, allowing for greater project information accountability as awardees will use the NIFA Reporting Portal to provide status and closeout accomplishments.

- (14) An increase of \$2,000,000 for Research Equipment Grants (\$3,000,000 available in 2026).

Sustainment of this program at the 2025 enacted level supports expanding eligible educational institutions capacity as the program supports acquisition of special purpose scientific equipment that can be too costly for individual labs, which limits fundamental and applied research capacity and capabilities that attract students. Competitively awarded projects must involve acquisition of only a single, well-integrated piece of equipment/instrument. An instrument acquired with support from the program is expected to be fully operational by the end of the award period. Additionally, this programs competitively awarded projects are not typically eligible for support through other NIFA grant programs like AFRI, Hatch, Evans-Allen, or 1890 Facilities Grant programs.

- (15) A decrease of \$4,000,000 for Alfalfa Seed and Alfalfa Forage Systems Research Program (\$4,000,000 available in 2026).

Funding for this program is not being requested in 2027 to direct funding to other high priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities. Research on seed production systems, increasing field yield and nutritional value, drought and pest management, and support for harvesters can continue to be supported through other USDA programs. This includes proven success within AFRI program areas including Plant Health and Production and Plant Products (PHPPP), and Animal Health and Production and Animal Products (AHPAP). In addition to ARS programs that seek to understand and improve alfalfa production, and improve nutrient utilization, efficiency and sustainability amongst many other topics.

- (16) An increase of \$500,000 for Laying Hen and Turkey Research Program (\$500,000 available in 2026).

With only \$500 thousand the program is limited to making one award per year, reducing the effectiveness of the competitive program which seeks to support safe and increased production of poultry livestock through collaborative research related to animal diseases. Returning the program to the 2023 enacted appropriation level will enable the program to make two awards during the 2027 award cycle.

- (17) A decrease of \$13,560,000 for Congressional Directed Spending (\$13,560,000 available in 2026).

Funding for the congressionally directed research facility grant program projects in 2027 is not requested. Funding for these projects was provided in the Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026 (Pub. L. 119-37) table titled "Community Project Funding/ Congressionally Directed Spending" in the explanatory statement.

- (18) A decrease of \$1,000,000 for Global Change UV-B Monitoring (\$1,000,000 available in 2026).

Funding for this program is not being requested in 2027, the program objectives do not align with EO 14154, Unleashing American Energy. Research into factors that affect crop and timber production, that align with current policies will continue to be supported through other USDA competitive programs like AFRI.

- (19) A decrease of \$4,000,000 for Potato Research (\$4,000,000 available in 2026).

Funding for this program is not being requested in 2027 to direct funding to other high priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities. Support for potato research and industry-specific challenges can be continued by USDA through the partnerships of ARS, State Agricultural Experiment Stations, and the National Potato Council with funding from other NIFA competitive programs including AFRI, the ARS Small Grains and Potato Germplasm Research and Potato Unit in Idaho and the Pulse, and Small Grains Quality Research Unit in North Dakota.

- (20) A decrease of \$2,000,000 for Aquaculture Research (\$2,000,000 available in 2026).

Funding for this program is not being requested in 2027 to direct funding to other high priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities. USDA leadership and funding in support of an economically sustainable aquaculture industry in the U.S. can be sustained through other NIFA competitive grant programs including the five Regional Aquaculture Centers, the Small Business Innovation and Technology Research programs, and AFRI's Foundational and Applied Science programs, in addition to the ARS National Program 106 Aquaculture, state, and other industry partners.

- (21) An increase of \$976,000 for Federal Administration R&E General Administration / Other (\$10,500,000 available in 2026).

Requesting funding at a level similar 2025 enacted appropriation level. Reduction to base funding for administration costs will limit the agency's ability to retain or develop new staff, participate in scientific meetings to represent the agency, and provide mission support. There is no cost of living pay increase associated with this proposal.

- (22) A decrease of \$150,000,000 for Smith-Lever 3(b) and (c) Programs and Cooperative Extension (\$325,000,000 available in 2026).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to other high priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with Administration's policy to prioritize competitive grant programs that are merit-based and allow for better oversight.

- (23) A decrease of \$10,000,000 for Extension Services at 1890 Institutions (\$72,000,000 available in 2026).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to other high priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with Administration's policy to prioritize competitive grant programs that are merit-based and allow for better oversight. Support for Historically Black Colleges and Universities remains integral to advancing and, fostering better opportunities for higher education, in addition to further encouragement for States to provide the required State matching funds for 1890 Land-Grant Institutions.

- (24) A decrease of \$1,000,000 for Extension Services at 1994 Institutions (\$12,000,000 available in 2026).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to other high priority activities, while also maintaining support for the eligible land-grant universities at the 2025 enacted appropriation levels. Consistent funding provides for the extension offices within the geographically dispersed reservation communities, who build targeted outreach programs, literature and information sharing that seek to improve Native

American Farmers and ranchers' adoption of effective agricultural practices and provides for focused youth and community education.

- (25) A decrease of \$1,500,000 for Facility Improvements at 1890 Institutions (\$21,500,000 available in 2026).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to other high priority activities, while also maintaining the targeted support of facility improvements at 1890 Institutions. Institutions may also competitively submit facility improvement proposals through the Research Facilities Act program.

- (26) A decrease of \$4,000,000 for Renewable Resources Extension Act (\$4,000,000 available in 2026).

Funding for this program is not being requested in 2027 to direct funding to other high priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities. Forestry and rangeland management and production support Executive Order (EO) Unleashing American Energy and are eligible for other USDA programs including the Forest Stewardship Program, various Natural Resources Conservation Service Financial Assistance Programs, and the ARS Rangeland Resources & Systems Research Unit in Wyoming, in addition to successful competitive applications awarded through the NIFA AFRI program.

- (27) An increase of \$1,000,000 for Rural Health and Safety Education Programs (\$3,000,000 available in 2026).

Requesting sustainment of funding at the 2025 enacted appropriation level. This program funds farm safety education information and training for farm workers, timer harvesters, and farm families. Grantees must use the Cooperative Extension system as the method for all outreach and delivery of information, ensuring there is duplication of effort and targeted rural community development of health care services and facilities. Priority of applications received continues to emphasize substance use disorder education and treatment and the prevention of substance use disorder in accordance with the statutory requirement included in the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115–334).

- (28) A decrease of \$2,000,000 for Women and Minorities in STEM Fields (\$2,000,000 available in 2026).

Funding for this program is not being requested in 2027, the program objectives do not align with EO Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing, based on legislation which states:(7) Research and extension grants may be made under this section to increase participation by women and underrepresented minorities from rural areas in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, with priority given to eligible institutions that carry out continuing programs funded by the Secretary.

- (29) A decrease of \$3,000,000 for Food Safety Outreach Program (\$10,000,000 available in 2026).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to other high priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities while continuing to invest in food safety training and education for small and mid-sized producers and processors affected by the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). This program will continue to competitively award community outreach projects, collaborative education and training, while working through the four Regional Centers, extension offices, various community groups to deliver region-specific support and build upon state and private investments into food safety.

- (30) A decrease of \$22,000,000 for Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (\$70,000,000 available in 2026).

A decrease is proposed to direct funding to other high priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities and is consistent with Administration's policy to prioritize competitive grant programs that are merit-based and allow for better oversight.

- (31) An increase of \$300,000 for Federal Administration Extension General Administration / Other (\$6,800,000 available in 2026).

Requesting sustainment of funding at the 2025 enacted appropriation level. Reduction to base funding for administration costs will limit the agency's ability to retain or develop new staff, participate in scientific meetings to represent the agency, and provide mission support. There is no cost of living pay increase associated with this proposal.

- (32) A decrease of \$1,000,000 for Methyl Bromide Transition (\$1,000,000 available in 2026).

Funding for this program is not being requested in 2027 to direct funding to other high priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities. Under the Clean Air Act and Montreal Protocol, production and importation of methyl bromide was predominantly phased out as of January 1, 2005, with exemptions based upon technically or economically feasible alternative criteria. The scope of Methyl Bromide Transition is narrow and has had undependable participation levels, with submission rates over the years declining from a high of thirteen to a low of four meritorious awardable proposals received in a year. Other NIFA competitive programs that address pest management have a much higher and dependable participation rate.

- (33) A decrease of \$7,500,000 for Organic Transition Program (\$7,500,000 available in 2026).

Funding for this program is not being requested in 2027 to direct funding to other high priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities.

- (34) A decrease of \$2,600,000 for Regional Rural Development Centers (\$2,600,000 available in 2026).

Funding for this program is not being requested in 2027 to direct funding to other high priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities.

- (35) A decrease of \$21,000,000 for Crop Protection and Pest Management (\$21,000,000 available in 2026).

Funding for this program is not being requested in 2027 to direct funding to other high priority activities, that allow for greater focus on national priorities. Similar projects awarded under Crop Protection and Pest Management have successfully been awarded through AFRI.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Summary of Proposed Legislation Package 1

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Current legislative authority to be amended: Section 1469 of the National Agricultural, Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977(7 U.S.C. 3315), as amended by Section 230(b) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-185)

This legislation proposal is to amend the set-aside of enacted appropriations to sufficiently sustain operations and life cycle replacement of legacy technology. The amount authorized for administrative overhead to run the programs of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture are obtained in two ways: from a percentage set-aside of the programs' appropriation, which is stipulated in the authorizing legislation, or from funds appropriated for Federal Administration. The 4 percent currently authorized is inadequate to sustain operations and continue the life cycle replacement of legacy technology used to track and manage agency funding through the grants management lifecycle. Current operating expenses average at or above 5 percent, based upon actual expenses incurred during 2022-2024.

NIFA seeks to modify 7 U.S.C. 3315(a)(3), the legislative authority language for set-aside of enacted appropriations, when not otherwise specified, for administration of programs that support agricultural research, extension, and teaching assistance. As follows:

“the Secretary may retain up to 5 percent of amounts made available for agricultural research, extension, and teaching assistance programs for the administration of those programs authorized under this Act or any other Act; and”

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS

Table NIFA-9. Geographic Breakdown of 2025 Actual Obligations, Distributions of Federal Payments for Research at State Agriculture Experiment Stations & Other State Institutions (thousands of dollars) ³

State/Territory/Country	Hatch Formula	Regional Research Multi-State	TOTAL	Coop Forestry (MS)	1890 Colleges & TUSK (EA)	Animal Health & Disease Rsch	Special Rsch & Other Grants	Comp Rsch Grants	Higher Ed Grants	VMLRP	Veterinary Services Grants	Capacity Building for NLGCA	Total Federal Funds
Alabama	\$4,067	\$1,235	\$5,302	\$1,222	\$8,223	\$67	\$500	\$991	\$2,952	\$209	-	-	\$19,465
Alaska	1,121	209	1,330	646	-	-	-	-	1,742	104	\$250	-	4,072
American Samoa	2,121	-	2,121	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,121
Arizona	1,584	1,105	2,688	416	-	43	1,150	300	1,686	111	375	-	6,769
Arkansas	3,459	1,083	4,542	1,037	3,524	109	425	680	1,360	107	-	-	11,784
California	4,903	2,230	7,133	945	-	270	500	10,630	246	209	125	-	20,057
Colorado	2,241	1,456	3,697	416	-	175	1,882	975	280	494	250	-	8,169
Connecticut	1,656	733	2,389	462	-	16	-	2,703	-	-	-	-	5,570
Delaware	1,186	548	1,734	185	1,663	20	350	756	2,425	104	-	-	7,237
District of Columbia	795	158	953	-	-	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	1,003
Florida	3,153	982	4,135	1,037	3,525	60	307	14,852	744	417	-	-	25,078
Georgia	4,622	1,970	6,593	1,268	4,763	97	12,308	2,510	587	111	250	-	28,487
Guam	2,161	179	2,340	47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,387
Hawaii	1,170	560	1,730	231	-	4	934	1,725	259	-	-	-	4,884
Idaho	2,025	871	2,896	876	-	54	751	252	10	607	-	-	5,446
Illinois	5,683	1,623	7,306	577	-	53	-	4,532	-	395	-	-	12,863
Indiana	5,480	1,308	6,789	623	-	104	1,192	1,258	-	313	-	-	10,278
Iowa	5,656	2,227	7,883	554	-	265	934	1,892	-	5	625	-	12,159
Kansas	3,467	1,180	4,647	369	-	165	-	14,399	873	512	250	-	21,216
Kentucky	5,413	1,237	6,650	784	5,608	51	731	1,319	810	310	375	-	16,639
Louisiana	3,109	1,022	4,131	1,176	3,026	41	-	411	2,185	-	250	-	11,220
Maine	1,788	764	2,552	968	-	15	780	998	259	192	-	-	5,764
Maryland	2,322	961	3,283	485	2,424	27	2,990	935	1,805	-	-	-	11,949
Massachusetts	1,933	938	2,871	439	-	28	400	2,828	-	-	-	-	6,565
Michigan	5,501	1,351	6,853	1,129	-	67	2,067	2,575	992	227	-	-	13,911
Minnesota	5,372	1,347	6,719	922	-	180	11,608	3,189	1,195	-0	-	-	23,813
Mississippi	3,926	1,249	5,175	1,199	3,684	90	1,484	2,444	655	236	250	-	15,217
Missouri	5,357	1,203	6,560	761	6,021	94	480	4,079	505	280	-	-	18,780
Montana	1,964	975	2,939	692	-	38	11,133	225	3,144	227	-	-	18,397
N. Mariana Islands	2,113	-	2,113	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,113
Nebraska	3,196	1,494	4,691	393	-	122	480	1,812	1,217	202	-	-	8,915
Nevada	1,116	938	2,054	139	-	12	-	-	250	-	-	-	2,455
New Hampshire	1,439	549	1,989	577	-	5	-	-	-	5	-	-	2,575
New Jersey	1,931	1,110	3,041	508	-	16	876	225	-	-	-	-	4,666
New Mexico	1,613	588	2,200	346	-	26	240	12,992	1,471	104	-	-	17,380

³ Obligation data includes first time obligations processed during the reported year, it does not include prior year award adjustments nor administrative changes to an award like Principal Investigator transfers.

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State/Territory/Country	Hatch Formula	Regional Research Multi-State	TOTAL	Coop Forestry (MS)	1890 Colleges & TUSK (EA)	Animal Health & Disease Rsch	Special Rsch & Other Grants	Comp Rsch Grants	Higher Ed Grants	VMLRP	Veterinary Services Grants	Capacity Building for NLGCA	Total Federal Funds
New York	5,083	2,344	7,427	807	-	100	307	1,533	-	371	-	-	10,545
North Carolina	6,643	2,295	8,938	1,129	6,337	150	14,374	7,198	1,605	417	-	-	40,149
North Dakota	2,259	907	3,166	208	-	18	688	2,691	2,103	179	-	-	9,053
Ohio	6,635	1,460	8,095	669	5,638	97	-	20,305	507	521	-	-	35,832
Oklahoma	3,468	888	4,356	692	3,981	80	-	307	900	827	250	-	11,393
Oregon	2,652	1,381	4,033	1,269	-	69	307	13,427	250	209	-	-	19,564
Pennsylvania	6,252	1,906	8,158	830	-	141	669	4,192	239	116	-	-	14,345
Puerto Rico	4,659	1,100	5,759	116	-	10	-	-	150	-	-	-	6,036
Rhode Island	1,073	569	1,642	162	-	29	-	303	239	-	-	-	2,375
South Carolina	3,464	1,170	4,634	1,014	3,409	16	-	1,942	537	209	-	-	11,761
South Dakota	2,435	914	3,350	300	-	51	2,801	650	957	417	125	-	8,651
Tennessee	5,146	1,265	6,411	876	5,377	50	-	3,199	2,469	0	-	-	18,382
Texas	7,472	1,859	9,331	1,060	8,920	272	2,869	20,949	523	313	250	-	44,487
Utah	1,405	1,007	2,412	254	-	28	-	2,797	263	436	-	-	6,189
Vermont	1,491	482	1,972	531	-	14	11,053	452	-	220	125	-	14,366
Virgin Islands	2,136	177	2,313	47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,360
Virginia	4,371	1,157	5,528	1,106	4,492	69	307	2,849	869	272	-	-	15,493
Washington	2,884	1,783	4,667	1,083	-	53	2,177	2,535	758	104	-	-	11,378
West Virginia	2,675	800	3,476	738	2,441	8	200	-	549	176	-	-	7,588
Wisconsin	5,446	1,332	6,778	853	-	92	1,397	419	772	480	-	-	10,790
Wyoming	1,354	778	2,132	300	-	16	-	-	250	575	-	-	3,273
Micronesia	2,206	-	2,206	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,206
SBIR	6,058	1,992	8,051	1,121	2,624	117	2,004	8,741	-	-	-	-	22,657
STTR	872	286	1,158	166	388	17	281	1,202	-	-	-	-	3,213
BRAG	823	260	1,082	40	125	24	46	123	-	-	-	-	1,441
Fed Admin Direct	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18,500
Fed Admin	6,005	1,892	7,897	1,199	2,808	166	3,916	28,634	1,278	-	161	\$1	46,060
Obligations	199,612	65,388	265,000	38,000	89,000	4,000	97,901	216,986	42,871	11,321	3,911	1	787,492

Table NIFA-10. Geographic Breakdown of 2025 Actual Obligations, Distribution of Federal Payments for Extension at State Agriculture Experiment Stations & Other State Institutions (thousands of dollars) ⁴

State/Territory/Country	Smith-Lever Form.	1890s and TUSK	EFNEP	Children, Youth, Families at Risk	New Tech at Ag Ext	Fed Recog Tribes Ext	Farm Safety & Youth Ed & Cert	Food Safety Outreach	Renewable Resources Ext Act	Other	Rural Health Safety Ed	1890 Facilities	Indian Tribal 1994 Colleges	Mandatory	Total Federal Funds
Alabama	\$7,552	\$6,578	\$2,250	-	-	-	-	-	\$117	-	-	\$2,091	-	\$2,622	\$21,211
Alaska	1,337	-	267	\$140	-	\$306	\$184	-	94	-	-	-	-	-	2,328
American Samoa	2,237	-	104	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,341
Arizona	2,320	-	758	420	-	722	-	\$549	63	\$233	-	-	\$546	1,675	7,286

⁴ Obligation data includes first time obligations processed during the reported year, it does not include prior year award adjustments nor administrative changes to an award like Principal Investigator transfers.

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State/Territory/Country	Smith-Lever Form.	1890s and TUSK	Children, Youth, Families at Risk	New Tech at Ag Ext	Fed Recog Tribes Ext	Farm Safety & Youth Ed & Cert	Food Safety Outreach	Renewable Resources Ext Act	Other	Rural Health Safety Ed	1890 Facilities	Indian Tribal 1994 Colleges	Mandatory	Total Federal Funds
Arkansas	6,347	2,852	1,440	-	-	-	-	243	613	-	963	-	2,122	14,580
California	8,748	-	3,780	280	-	246	398	93	1,808	-	-	-	5,932	21,284
Colorado	3,583	-	683	280	-	184	-	57	-	\$186	-	-	-	4,972
Connecticut	2,370	-	556	-	-	-	-	46	-	-	-	-	-	3,075
Delaware	1,446	1,510	421	-	-	-	-	60	-	350	783	-	2,122	6,692
District of Columbia	1,267	-	115	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	157	1,553
Florida	5,197	2,949	2,608	140	-	184	1,375	95	600	186	1,089	-	-	14,528
Georgia	8,651	3,910	2,455	-	-	184	-	105	-	93	1,149	-	-	16,548
Guam	2,300	-	105	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	2,418
Hawaii	1,492	-	352	-	-	-	-	46	240	93	-	-	-	2,223
Idaho	3,149	-	396	280	-	309	-	52	-	-	-	-	-	4,187
Illinois	10,466	-	2,239	-	-	184	400	55	2,353	93	-	-	483	16,272
Indiana	9,935	-	1,319	140	-	715	550	53	116	-	-	-	1,205	14,034
Iowa	10,220	-	975	140	-	-	1,038	46	174	-	-	-	1,339	13,933
Kansas	6,055	-	777	-	-	-	-	46	120	-	-	-	-	6,998
Kentucky	10,080	4,746	1,851	280	-	-	-	82	-	-	1,155	-	174	18,366
Louisiana	5,536	2,469	2,052	140	-	-	-	83	151	-	939	-	2,000	13,370
Maine	2,604	-	504	140	-	184	400	59	151	-	-	-	-	4,041
Maryland	3,676	2,037	1,062	140	-	-	-	60	116	-	914	-	583	8,589
Massachusetts	2,907	-	1,066	-	-	-	-	46	-	-	-	-	483	4,503
Michigan	9,910	-	1,913	-	-	184	-	78	-	-	-	273	-	12,460
Minnesota	9,659	-	1,080	1,287	-	103	-	64	-	93	-	473	816	14,125
Mississippi	7,393	2,922	1,866	-	-	103	-	100	-	349	967	-	810	14,509
Missouri	9,809	5,134	1,762	140	-	184	-	87	-	443	1,244	-	5,034	23,837
Montana	3,015	-	388	-	-	419	-	60	116	93	-	671	1,139	5,902
N. Mariana Islands	2,224	-	103	-	-	-	-	-	116	-	-	-	-	2,443
Nebraska	5,483	-	619	140	-	327	400	46	116	-	-	273	10,374	17,778
Nevada	1,391	-	315	140	-	318	-	49	-	-	-	-	-	2,213
New Hampshire	1,925	-	329	-	\$1,536	-	-	46	-	-	-	-	-	3,836
New Jersey	2,913	-	1,182	140	-	-	-	46	-	-	-	-	569	4,850
New Mexico	2,398	-	614	-	-	104	184	67	-	-	-	273	1,398	5,037
New York	9,083	-	3,512	-	-	-	-	85	2,353	-	-	-	3,031	18,063
North Carolina	12,551	5,318	2,794	930	-	102	-	528	102	3,079	1,228	-	288	26,921
North Dakota	3,710	-	424	-	-	209	-	46	-	443	-	1,019	-	5,851
Ohio	12,134	5,060	2,484	420	-	304	-	75	-	-	1,409	-	483	22,368
Oklahoma	6,214	3,267	1,267	280	-	206	-	79	200	-	1,063	-	2,921	15,498
Oregon	4,278	-	619	-	-	108	-	87	240	-	-	-	-	6,371
Pennsylvania	11,363	-	2,755	-	-	-	-	76	-	443	-	-	483	15,120
Puerto Rico	7,607	-	1,475	-	-	-	546	14	-	-	-	-	1,062	10,703
Rhode Island	1,221	-	390	140	-	-	-	46	-	-	-	-	1,139	2,937
South Carolina	6,186	2,740	1,739	-	-	184	-	84	116	-	981	-	17	12,047
South Dakota	3,877	-	469	280	-	103	184	46	151	349	-	-	878	6,336
Tennessee	9,380	4,460	2,192	-	-	184	-	86	116	-	1,191	-	1,990	19,598
Texas	14,523	7,362	4,814	280	-	184	391	259	502	-	1,728	-	-	30,043
Utah	1,991	-	422	-	-	388	-	50	-	93	-	-	309	3,254
Vermont	2,059	-	322	-	-	-	1,038	46	-	-	-	-	-	3,466
Virgin Islands	2,263	-	103	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	2,379
Virginia	7,912	3,706	1,901	-	-	246	399	97	881	93	1,111	-	-	16,345
Washington	4,751	-	823	-	-	210	-	81	2,353	-	-	-	4,286	12,503
West Virginia	4,512	2,100	1,146	-	-	-	-	69	372	426	897	-	-	9,523
Wisconsin	9,808	-	1,058	840	-	103	184	75	240	-	-	473	-	12,781
Wyoming	1,836	-	279	-	-	100	-	48	-	-	-	-	-	2,263

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State/Territory/Country	Smith-Lever Form.	1890s and TUSK	EFNEP	Children, Youth, Families at Risk	New Tech at Ag Ext	Fed Recog Tribes Ext	Farm Safety & Youth Ed & Cert	Food Safety Outreach	Renewable Resources Ext Act	Other	Rural Health Safety Ed	1890 Facilities	Indian Tribal 1994 Colleges	Mandatory	Total Federal Funds
Micronesia	2,386	-	109	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,495
SBIR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
STTR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BRAG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fed Admin Direct	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,100
Fed Admin	9,727	2,880	599	322	64	160	200	400	160	740	160	860	315	5,872	22,460
Obligations	324,965	72,000	70,000	7,860	1,600	4,000	4,994	10,000	4,000	18,368	3,987	21,762	4,316	63,795	618,746

Table NIFA-11. Geographic Breakdown of 2025 Actual Obligations, Distribution of Federal Payments for Integrated at State Agriculture Experiment Stations & Other State Institutions (thousands of dollars) ⁵

State/Territory/Country	Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative (Formerly Homeland Security)	Methyl Bromide	Organic Transition - Risk Assessment	Crop Protection / Pest Management	Regional Rural Development Centers	Specialty Crop Research Initiative	Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program	Organic Agricultural Research and Ext Initiative	Urban, Indoor & Other Emerging Ag. Production (Urban Ag)	Total Federal Funds
Alabama	-	-	-	\$205	-	-	-	-	-	\$205
Alaska	-	-	-	110	-	-	-	-	-	110
American Samoa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arizona	-	-	-	284	-	-	-	-	-	284
Arkansas	-	-	\$997	224	-	-	-	-	-	1,221
California	\$575	\$1,245	-	1,285	-	-	-	-	-	3,105
Colorado	-	-	-	255	-	-	-	-	-	255
Connecticut	-	-	520	217	-	-	-	-	\$960	1,697
Delaware	-	-	-	454	-	-	-	-	-	454
District of Columbia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Florida	647	-	-	742	-	-	-	-	925	2,314
Georgia	-	623	-	240	-	-	-	-	-	863
Guam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hawaii	-	-	-	103	-	-	-	-	-	103
Idaho	-	-	-	561	\$614	-	-	-	-	1,175
Illinois	-	-	-	210	-	-	-	-	-	210
Indiana	336	-	-	273	614	-	-	-	-	1,223
Iowa	-	-	-	1,285	-	-	-	-	-	1,285
Kansas	561	-	-	206	-	-	-	-	-	767
Kentucky	-	-	-	238	-	-	-	-	-	238
Louisiana	-	-	-	281	-	-	-	-	-	281
Maine	583	-	-	236	-	-	-	-	-	819
Maryland	4,253	-	935	627	-	-	\$106	-	-	5,921

⁵ Obligation data includes first time obligations processed during the reported year, it does not include prior year award adjustments nor administrative changes to an award like Principal Investigator transfers.

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State/Territory/Country	Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative (Formerly Homeland Security)	Methyl Bromide	Organic Transition - Risk Assessment	Crop Protection / Pest Management	Regional Rural Development Centers	Specialty Crop Research Initiative	Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program	Organic Agricultural Research and Ext Initiative	Urban, Indoor & Other Emerging Ag. Production (Urban Ag)	Total Federal Funds
Massachusetts	-	-	-	239	-	-	-	-	-	239
Michigan	330	-	-	251	-	-	-	-	-	581
Minnesota	-	-	935	240	-	-	-	-	-	1,175
Mississippi	-	-	-	255	614	-	-	-	-	869
Missouri	382	-	960	176	-	-	-	-	-	1,518
Montana	-	-	-	225	-	-	-	-	-	225
N. Mariana Islands.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nebraska	-	-	-	607	-	-	-	-	-	607
Nevada	-	-	-	221	-	-	-	-	-	221
New Hampshire	-	-	-	125	-	-	-	-	-	125
New Jersey	-	-	-	188	-	-	-	-	-	188
New Mexico.....	-	-	-	180	-	-	-	-	-	180
New York	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	2,900	-	-	-	-	-	2,900
North Dakota.....	-	-	-	546	-	-	-	-	-	546
Ohio	-	-	-	230	-	-	-	-	4	235
Oklahoma	-	-	-	166	-	-	-	-	-	166
Oregon.....	-	-	960	473	-	-	-	-	-	1,433
Pennsylvania	-	-	935	621	614	-	-	-	-	2,170
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	143	-	-	-	-	-	143
Rhode Island	-	-	-	129	-	-	-	-	-	129
South Carolina.....	-	-	-	227	-	-	-	-	-	227
South Dakota	-	-	-	210	-	-	-	-	-	210
Tennessee	-	-	-	210	-	-	-	-	-	210
Texas.....	-	-	-	1,111	-	-	-	-	-	1,111
Utah	-	-	-	241	-	-	-	-	-	241
Vermont	-	-	-	210	-	-	-	-	-	210
Virgin Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia	-	-	-	598	-	-	-	-	-	598
Washington.....	-	-	-	247	-	\$1,811	-	-	29	2,087
West Virginia.....	-	-	-	55	-	-	-	-	-	55
Wisconsin	-	-	750	798	-	-	-	-	-	1,548
Wyoming	-	-	-	126	-	-	-	-	-	126
Micronesia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SBIR.....	-	41	158	141	33	1,063	-	\$402	29	1,867
STTR.....	-	6	23	21	5	-	-	-	4	59
BRAG	-	3	18	5	-	-	-	111	-	137
Fed Admin	320	81	310	884	105	785	-	1,886	81	4,452
Obligations.....	7,987	1,999	7,500	21,037	2,599	3,659	106	2,399	2,033	49,317

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table NIFA-12. Classification by Objects – Discretionary Funding (thousands of dollars) ⁶

Item No.	Item	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Estimate	2027 Estimate
Personnel Compensation:					
	Washington D.C.....	\$3,417	\$3,338	\$3,821	\$3,826
	Personnel Compensation, Field	42,753	41,776	33,955	33,998
11	Total personnel compensation	46,170	45,115	37,777	37,824
12	Personal benefits	16,932	16,559	13,864	13,881
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	5	6	-	-
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	63,107	61,680	51,641	51,705
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	1,404	392	623	580
22.0	Transportation of things	5	13	14	15
23.1	Rental payments to GSA.....	1,754	1,733	2,165	910
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges.....	494	471	483	483
24.0	Printing and reproduction.....	3	16	36	37
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	6,364	1,743	1,723	4,054
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	31,947	35,880	38,990	27,101
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	2,661	2,621	2,721	2,707
25.5	Research and development contracts	1,712	1,747	1,727	1,765
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	234	8	-	-
26.0	Supplies and materials	183	52	68	67
31.0	Equipment	-	-	17	12
		1,913,35	1,375,29		
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions.....	3	4	2,902,315	1,391,714
		1,960,11	1,419,97		
	Total, Other Objects	4	0	2,950,882	1,429,445
		2,023,22	1,481,65		
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	1	0	3,002,523	1,481,149
Position Data:					
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position.....	\$248,387	\$267,139	\$202,323	\$217,329
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position	\$126,113	\$132,141	\$125,722	\$129,494
	Average Grade, GS Position	12.4	12.6	12.7	12.7

⁶ Position Data for 2024-2027 is inclusive of NIFA workforce only and does not include Agricultural Research Service Administrative and Financial Management support.

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

National Institute of Food and Agriculture Activities

Current Activities

In 2025 NIFA began the third and final phase of onboarding to the electronic Research Administration (eRA) grants management system. Phase three includes configuring eRA for NIFA's use, enhancing eRA's functionality to meet NIFA's needs, launching pilot programs to validate system configurations and train internal and external stakeholders, and establishing a direct system-to-system financial interface between eRA and the USDA financial system Financial Management Modernization Initiative (FMMI). The phased transition approach is migrating competitive programs in 2026-2027 and formula programs in 2027-2028 (pending system enhancements). Progress in 2025 has kept NIFA on track to complete system enhancements, expand pilot programs, and finish the financial interface leading up to full eRA implementation by the end of 2027.

The adoption of the eRA system is allowing a more streamlined Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) approval process providing benefits for other stakeholders such as the Research, Education, and Economics Mission Area, the USDA Office of the Chief Financial Officer, and the Office of Budget and Program Analysis. Previously, this was a manual process of emailing the NOFO document from approver to approver, but now this can be easily done within the eRA system, increasing efficiency and improving tracking. Automated, in-system revisions and approvals are recorded from start to finish, allowing unprecedented transparency and oversight of NOFO approvals and publication.

Another significant milestone is NIFA's coordination with National Institutes of Health-eRA, USDA-OCFO, and the Treasury-Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) system, which has led to development of a financial interface between eRA and the USDA financial system, FMMI. This one-time project will increase the efficiency and accuracy of NIFA's financial processes and allow other USDA agencies to more easily transition to eRA because the financial integration will already be completed.

The Grants Quality Service Management Office (Grants QSMO) leads the effort for government-wide adoption of federal shared services for grants management. The Grants QSMO recognized NIFA as "the gold standard" in grants system adoption and invited NIFA to present January 27th, 2026, at their government-wide Customer Migration Workshop in Washington, D.C. planned for 2026. NIFA will share experiences, best practices, lessons learned, and be used as a case study of successful shared service implementation

Selected Examples of Recent Progress***Federally Funded Research Generating Economic Value in the U.S. Marketplace***

In accordance with the Bayh-Dole Act (P.L.96-517), its revision in 2018 ([37 CFR 401.1](#), [37 CFR 401.16](#)), and the Utilization report under [EO 14104 Sec 4\(h\)](#) NIFA incentivizes innovation, collaboration and further technology transfer and commercialization encouraging protection of all intellectual property (IP) generated with USDA NIFA funding. NIFA awardees are encouraged to seek and elect Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) for their inventions generated with NIFA funding. All recipients of NIFA funding agreements are required to report all subject inventions, patents, Plant Variety Protection Certificates, and unpatented biological material or research tools using iEdison, the interagency reporting platform. In 2024, NIFA awardees reported their annual utilization derived from USDA NIFA funding on iEdison. In the first year of reporting, NIFA received over 2,468 Utilization reports, a higher-than-average completion rate of 89.91 percent. Grantees reported 221 new inventions, filed 257 new patent applications, and 44 patents were issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, with 44 Plant Variety Protection certificates also reported.

The utilization reports listed 658 inventions that were either commercialized (253) or licensed (409) and 1,557 listed inventions not yet commercialized or licensed. Out of the inventions not commercialized or licensed, 992 listed a commercialization plan. These reports identify that 69 percent

are actively marketing or furthering development to attract commercial partners, 24 percent do not have a commercialization plan yet, and 1.41 percent are seeking additional funding. NIFA grantees reported that during 2024 they received \$15.6 million derived from 4,099 licenses, with 44 percent going to small businesses, 42 percent non-exclusive, and 13 percent exclusive. They reported 99 products being manufactured or cultivated across 35 states (93.7 percent), Canada, and Chile.

In 2024 NIFA awardees reported multiple commercialized products including crop species: flax, navy bean, pinto bean, dark red kidney bean, black bean, yellow pea, two-row barley, forage winter wheat, spring wheat, hard red winter wheat, soft white winter wheat, oats, hazelnut, potato, peanut, sweet basil, poplar and ornamentals as well as animal health related products and diagnostics.

Examples of awarded projects and derived commercialized products reported in 2024:

Genetic Development, Evaluation, and Outreach for Establishing Hybrid Poplar Biomass Feedstock Plantations in the Midwestern United States awarded to the University of Minnesota – Duluth sought to leverage the extensive collection of Populus genetic material developed over several decades at the University of Minnesota Duluth - Natural Resources Research Institute to produce the next generation of genotypes for the Midwest. The university reported their distinct variety of male Populus tree named Poplar NextGen –Innovatree™ grows 64 percent faster than leading commercial varieties, with commercial uses including, phytoremediation, biomass, pulp, and lumber products. The variety also provides good windbreaks, firewood, wildlife habitats, and privacy screening for landowners. Patent No: US PP36,135 P2

Development of Multipurpose Potato Cultivars with Enhanced Quality, Disease, and Pest Resistance and Potato Breeding and Variety Development in the North Central US: Enhancing Yield, Quality, and Resilience with New Technologies, both awarded to Michigan State University, and is a joint effort of the potato breeding and genetics programs at four North Central Land-grant Universities. This effort derived Polaris Gold, the yellow-fleshed tablestock cultivar is late-maturing, with round tubers and an established reputation for culinary versatility and excellent flavor. Seed growers and commercial producers have been planting Polaris Gold and describe the variety as being excellent for chips, home fries, lefse, kugelis, pan roasting, salads, and even mashing. Manistee, was also developed for chip processing and long-term storage.

Dissection and Exploitation of Gene Networks to Improve Peanut Yield under Drought funded in part by AFRI, Auburn University in collaboration with the USDA ARS National Peanut Research Lab in Dawson, GA developed a high yield, drought tolerant and disease resistant peanut variety AU-NPL-17. This is the first runner-type cultivar released by the College of Agriculture's Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences and is well-adapted for growing conditions throughout the Southeast. Runner peanuts account for 80 percent of the peanuts grown in the United States, with AU-NPL-17 containing higher amounts of oleic acid, which is typically produced in peanuts grown in Argentina and Australia. This project provides economic value to U.S. growers.

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

The AFRI portfolio is broad and includes projects on farm efficiency and profitability, agricultural production sustainability, ranching, bioenergy, forestry, aquaculture, rural communities and entrepreneurship, human nutrition, biotic and abiotic constraints on food production, food safety, physical sciences, family and consumer sciences, rural human ecology, biotechnology, and plant and animal breeding, as well as training the next generation of professionals within the food and agricultural sciences. AFRI receives roughly 4,000 proposals for the competitive grants program and awarded over 600 grants with 2024 appropriations.

Examples of funded projects include:

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) Institute for Next Generation Food Systems, awarded to the University of California – Davis, has four AI Application Research Areas spanning the entire food supply chain: Crop Molecular Breeding, Agricultural Production, Food Processing and Distribution, and Human Nutrition. This project connects deep characterization of more than 1,000 foods, ingredients, chemicals, and predicted impact on human health by automatically querying information from millions of papers and dozens of databases. As a result, scientists, food innovation teams, and developers in both industry and academia now have a single source of truth for what is in the food supply chain and how it relates to human health.

Partnership: Nanoparticle Vaccines Against Emerging Poultry Infections, awarded to the University of Wisconsin – Madison, is combating the spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) affecting the \$76.5 billion U.S. poultry and egg industries. This project aims to develop effective, safe, and practical poultry vaccines against HPAI. Last year, using nanovaccine technology, the project team demonstrated two new poultry vaccines have improved immune response over traditional poultry vaccines. Next the team will determine if these two new poultry vaccines protect against HPAI in meat and egg-producing poultry.

Labor and Process Efficiency Through Autonomous Machine Vision Guided Robotic Loading on Food Manufacturing Lines, awarded to the University of Maryland - College Park, developed a smart agricultural food processing robot that reduces labor intensity, increases reliability, and increases productivity of seafood processing plants. The investigators combined artificial intelligence with a robotic arm to create their system. The new technology picks and places raw crabs for de-backing and cleaned crabs for processing with efficiency and reliability comparable to human workers. Now seafood processors that sort oysters and pick crab meat can increase output in workforce-limited small-to-medium scale facilities.

Higher Education Programs

To address the complex challenges of the 21st century, resources are needed to improve scientific and agricultural literacy; and to recruit and train a skilled workforce to implement the scientific practices and advance technologies needed to remain competitive in global markets. Therefore, NIFA's education grant portfolio seeks to accomplish the following three goals: improving workforce development through grants for scholarships and fellowships; enhancing the research, teaching, and Extension capacity; and fostering learning and engagement in the food and agricultural sciences through programs and opportunities at secondary and post-secondary institutions. Many of these programs fund projects that develop curriculum and instructional materials and support teacher training that will ultimately strengthen students' critical thinking, communication, and leadership skills. NIFA also offers professional development opportunities to secondary school teachers so they may incorporate agricultural STEM education into their classrooms. The Scholarships for Students at 1890 Institutions (1890 Scholarships) program supported 1,569 undergraduate students in the academic year 2024-2025. Through new and active awards, the National Needs and AFRI Predoctoral fellowships, supported 300 graduate students, which included permanent residents. NIFA anticipates 50 new predoctoral Fellowships during 2026 awards.

Examples of funded projects include:

Empowering the Future of Sustainable Tropical Livestock and Meat Industries through Education and Experiential Learning, funded by the Alaska Native-Serving and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions Competitive Education Grants (ANNH) program, and awarded to the University of Hawai'i at Manoa promotes the sustainability of livestock and meat industries in Hawai'i by providing educational, hands-on opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and livestock producers within the state. Coursework will cover typical beef cattle management and production requirements, and for students, be paired with a month-long immersive experience focusing on meat processing, quality and safety. Additionally, students and livestock producers can participate in on-farm processing workshops as well as provide training on ultrasound technology,

artificial insemination for cattle, and beef quality assurance. Over the lifetime of the award, at least 24 producers and 18 students are expected to benefit.

Alliance for Success: Remapping Tribal Higher Education, funded through the New Beginning for Tribal Students program, as a partnership between Oklahoma State University (OSU) and Pawnee Nation College (PNC), work to prepare food industry leaders is taking root. Designed to increase tribal student enrollment in two-year, four-year, and graduate programs, the initiative combines hands-on training in agriculture, food safety, and entrepreneurship. The project engages 15 students annually from 10 tribes in north-central and eastern Oklahoma. Students participate in an intensive summer session focused on greenhouse management, multi-species meat harvesting, and food production. PNC's enrollment has grown by 27.58 percent, and many participants now pursue four-year degrees after completing their associate programs, with graduates finding jobs in food production or launching businesses.

Artificial Intelligence and Automation

Building on a long history of artificial intelligence (AI) activities that span a realm of disciplines and program areas, NIFA supports efforts that harness the power of AI in applications throughout agriculture and the food supply chain. AI activities supported through a variety of NIFA programs advance tasks that have traditionally required human intelligence, including machine learning, data visualization, natural language processing and interpretation, intelligent decision support systems, and autonomous or novel systems. NIFA currently funds AI research, education, and Extension activities in agricultural systems and engineering, natural resources support tools and models, economics and rural community modeling and decision-making.

Examples of funded projects include:

Plant Pathology PhD Graduate Education: Innovative Data Science and AI Training, recently awarded to University of Florida as a National Needs Fellowship Grant, provides doctoral level training in data analytics and artificial intelligence (AI) within the Agricultural Biosecurity discipline. This project leverages new investments made by the university in data analytics and AI. Fellows will have access to newly developed data analytics and AI courses, including use of the University of Florida's supercomputer. Department faculty will offer experiential learning in systems analysis, pathogen population genetics, and hands-on data analysis. This proposal aligns with the strategic goal of accelerating innovative technologies & practices.

Internship in Data Analytics in Agriculture, Community, and Rural Economics (DATA-ACRE), funded through AFRI's-EWD Research and Extension Experiences for Undergraduates (REEU) Program and awarded to Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) is an immersive, ten-week summer program that takes place on Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus. This project fully integrates training in data science methods with policy issues relevant to agriculture and rural communities. Advanced topics that students are trained in include geographic information system data, web scraping, supervised and unsupervised machine learning applied to structured and unstructured data sets, and other advanced statistical methods. A student-stakeholder project provides professional mentoring and career insights to the agricultural sector and agricultural science policy leadership for student interns. Undergraduate participants are recruited from Virginia Tech, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, community colleges, and universities with no established graduate programs. As of January 2025, 31 undergraduate students completed the summer internship program, and presented their research in symposia and in websites that have been developed.

Youth, Family, and Community

NIFA promotes research-based youth development by building the capacity of partner organizations to develop, implement, and evaluate high-quality youth programs. NIFA collaborates with other federal agencies to coordinate youth-based policies and programs and supports state and national

projects, initiatives, and partnerships to strengthen the science-based approaches in neighborhoods and communities. Some of NIFA's grant programs that support youth development include AFRI, 4-H program contributions from Smith-Lever 3(b) and (c), Children, Youth, and Families at Risk, Military Youth Programs, Agriculture in the Classroom, and the Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education program.

Examples of funded projects include:

Ag from Above X Ag for All was funded by AFRI through the-Education and Workforce Development (EWD) Food & Ag Non-formal Education program (FANE) in August 2024. The University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR) is cultivating agricultural STEM interest in youth through experiential education. UCANR is developing new curriculum to promote agricultural technologies, "SkyMappers" and "Dronovation." This program will develop 200 teen "Ag Champions" who will educate another 1,000 youth. Upon program conclusion, curriculum will be shared across the LGU system, ultimately providing thousands more teenage youth with an introduction to new agricultural technologies and artificial intelligence. The FANE Projects develop content and activities to enhance youth's understanding of artificial intelligence, gene editing, biotechnology, data science, robotics, automation, and other technologies which enhance the food and agricultural enterprise, preparing youth to meet the needs of the future agricultural workforce.

1890 Youth Innovators Empowering Agriculture Across America (YEA) has supported five projects since 2013 that align with AFRI and USDA priorities promoting workforce development and increasing a focus on future careers in agriculture. One of the projects through North Carolina A&T State University will leverage the strengths of the 1890 Land-grant Universities (LGU) system to prepare youth in middle and high school with leadership skills necessary for agricultural-related careers. Objectives of this project are to: (1) to expand youth participation in mentoring and college/career preparation through the national 4-H program; (2) to strengthen training for 4- H/Extension faculty and staff on positive youth development concepts essential to developing and mentoring youth from difficult to reach audiences; and (3) develop a sustainable national model for college and career readiness. The project has five components: Youth Voice; Mentoring; Leadership Institutes and Internships; 4-H STEM Engagement; and Professional Development.

Talents: Technology and Leadership Education Network for Texas Students was awarded through the Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, and Agriculture In the K-12 Classroom Challenge Grants (SPECA) programs to Texas Tech University. The "TALENTS: Technology and Leadership Education Network for Texas Students" project demonstrates the relevance of advanced technologies (artificial intelligence, virtual reality, 3D design, and data visualization) in the food and fiber industries through curricula and career building models. The TALENTS program provides immersive technology experiences and hands-on training to 100 high school students and 10 educators in the Texas region. Through education network events and training workshops, participants enhance their technology, teaching, and learning confidence. Student/teacher workshops establish a model that can be adopted by other teacher education programs in the region and directly support selected high schools to integrate advanced technologies into their agricultural education leading to higher student enrollment in agriculture-based careers or directly joining the workforce out of high school.

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

NIFA administers the USDA's Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR-STTR) programs, which focus on projects that enhance American agriculture and rural economic development. The program is designed to support small businesses in development of early-stage, commercially viable technologies that address key agricultural challenges.

Examples of funded projects include:

Deriving a New Biobased Product from Wastewater: Production of a Slow Release Algal-Based Fertilizer, was awarded to Gross-Wen Technologies (GWT), a leading algae-based wastewater treatment company using unique technology and a patented algae biofilm system (the revolving Algae Biofilm) that grows algae on their surface. As the algae grows, it consumes nitrogen and phosphorus from wastewater, while it uses sunlight and carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to rapidly grow algae biomass. Algae are harvested by being scrapped off the belts and can be used as a slow-release fertilizer or feedstock for bioplastics. Algae are considered the most sustainable way to treat wastewater because during the treatment process algae consumes CO₂ from the atmosphere.

Based in Utah, IsoTruss Inc. has engineered a high-performance composite lattice technology designed to maximize structural integrity while minimizing weight. This innovation was deployed to address a critical infrastructure failure at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) communication site on Elk Mountain, Wyoming. Situated at an elevation exceeding 11,000 feet, the facility serves as a vital telecommunications hub for wildfire mitigation, biological research, and regional remote operations. The site's extreme environmental profile—characterized by 120 mph wind loads and severe alpine snow accumulation—previously caused recurring structural failures in conventional steel towers, resulting in costly operational downtime and safety risks. Through a strategic partnership with the BLM, IsoTruss implemented its carbon-fiber composite tower, which successfully maintained structural stability through an unprecedented winter season. This deployment demonstrates the commercial viability and mechanical resilience of composite materials in replacing legacy infrastructure in high-risk, high-altitude environments.

Biotechnology Risk Assessment Research Grants (BRAG) Program

Co-administered by NIFA and ARS, the USDA Biotechnology Risk Assessment Grants (BRAG) program supports the generation of new information that will help Federal regulatory agencies make science-based decisions about the effects of introducing genetically engineered organisms into the environment. During 2025, six highly ranked research proposals were awarded, with an average award of \$602,000.

Examples of funded projects include:

Assessing the Influence of Genetic Background on the Efficacy of Drosophila Suzukii Male-Only and Gene Drive Strain. North Carolina State University completed a project in 2025 that developed a homing gene drive system based on CRISPR/Cas9 that could be used to suppress populations of spotted-wing Drosophila that devastate soft-skinned fruit production in the U.S. This is the first case of a homing gene drive in an agricultural pest that could potentially be used for suppression. This system is more efficient and thus potentially more cost-effective than other sterile insect techniques and could be applied to other agricultural pests such as the New World screwworm.

Evaluating Efficacy and Specificity of Multiplex Genome Editing for Broad and Durable Disease Resistance in Tomato. The University of Maryland is leading a project awarded in 2025 that is looking at the efficacy and safety of multiplex genome editing in tomato for durable disease resistance. They will make at least four genome edits and look at efficacy of these edits with regard to disease resistance. They will also look at the safety of these edits by assessing any unintended off-target and pleiotropic effects that could affect agronomic performance. This information is helpful to USDA and other federal regulatory agencies as they evaluate an increasing number of crops for commercial production with multiple genome edits. This technology has the potential to accelerate traditional breeding methods and get improved germplasm to producers faster.

Food and Agricultural Education Information System (FAEIS)

The Food and Agricultural Education Information System (FAEIS) compiles nationwide higher education data that began 40 years ago for life, food, veterinary, human, natural resources, and agricultural sciences through an annual online survey contributed by about 140 institutions of higher education. These data include student enrollment, graduation, and

job placement as well as faculty data including salaries. Data collected is disaggregated by degree program and level, sex, and ethnicity. This program, currently administered by Virginia Tech, collects and verifies the data, provides an online portal, and analyzes data for sharing through newsletters, conferences and special projects with collaborators including the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities and National Resources Conservation Service. This data is used by the general public, academic deans, faculty grant writers and recipients, from the [FAEIS website](#) where users can download data to conduct analyses or request custom data searches.

Capacity Grant Programs

Roughly half of NIFA funding is distributed to programs at Land-grant universities (LGU), including state chartered 1862 LGUs, 1890 LGUs which are Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and 1994 Land-grant Tribal Colleges and Universities, based on eight legislated formulas, generally referred to as capacity funding. Capacity Grant programs directly contribute to research and extension activities in partnership with the Cooperative Extension System and Land-grant universities. Of the 2025 Capacity program \$825.8 million or 99.6 percent went to an LGU (97.3 percent) or the State Agricultural Experiment Stations (2.3 percent). NIFA manages on average 523 financial assistance awards across eleven formula grant programs.

Examples of funded projects include:

Harnessing Drone Technology for Early Disease Detection in Corn Fields, supported by McIntire-Stennis capacity funds, University of New Hampshire researchers and Extension specialists are assessing the use of drones with multispectral imaging to detect corn diseases earlier, making this technology accessible and practical for small and medium-sized farms. By leveraging drone technology, this research supports New England farmers in managing crop diseases more effectively and affordably. The ability to detect infections early can help farmers optimize treatment timing, reduce losses, and sustain milk production, contributing to the economic resilience of regional agriculture.

UAPB Beginning Farmers Class Prepares Arkansas Producers for Success, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) Small Farm Program, supported by 1890 Extension Capacity funds, provides production and conservation recommendations to more than 350 small farmers. These farmers benefit from one-on-one assistance and site visits by Small Farm Program personnel. The program also offers the UAPB Beginning Farmers Class helping new farmers gain the necessary skills to be successful. During the seven-month program, participants learn basic farming practices and how to access USDA programs.

Seeing Yourself in the Future Program Drives Key Workforce Development Outcomes, to address growing gaps in workforce readiness among youth, West Virginia University Extension launched the "Seeing Yourself in the Future" career readiness program for middle school students in 2021. This hands-on curriculum covers essential skills such as resume writing, interviewing, digital citizenship, and professional communication. As of 2024, the program, supported by Smith-Lever funds, has reached over 1,000 students in five states and trained more than 360 professionals nationwide. Evaluation data from both traditional and retrospective pre-post assessments show statistically significant improvements in key outcome areas. By equipping the youth with practical skills and helping them envision future career paths, the program supports long-term workforce development and addresses child and family poverty in West Virginia.

Cattle in the Green, diversified livestock operations need to understand the financial performance of each of their individual enterprises to make better informed decisions long term. In many cases, the

profits from one enterprise are simply being used to offset the losses in another. Iowa State University Extension’s Cattle in the Green program pushes producers to think beyond tradition, focus on developing short- and long-term goals, and evaluate profits by enterprise. While it uses beef cattle as the focal enterprise, the principles taught apply across all grain and livestock operations. The program is supported with Smith-Lever capacity funds.

Program Evaluations

NIFA established an Evaluation Officer position in December 2024. The Evaluation Officer will plan and oversee evaluations of NIFA’s grant programs to ensure that the programs are efficiently and effectively delivered and that they produce results for the American taxpayers. In July 2025, NIFA also implemented a new Program Evaluation Policy that ensures evaluations are conducted in accordance with the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 and departmental regulations. In addition, it standardizes how evaluations are planned, conducted and used across the Agency in accordance with current Department and Mission Area policies. Formalizing how the Agency plans and uses evaluations ensures results will have actionable findings and recommendations that improve program delivery, identify and leverage efficiencies, and strengthen data driven decision-making.

SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROGRAMS

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

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

Table NIFA-13. Funding for SBIR by Agency (thousands of dollars) ⁷

Agency	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Estimated	2027 Estimated
Agricultural Research Service	\$8,012	\$489	-	-
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	65	65	-	-
National Institute of Food and Agriculture.....	34,608	34,560	-	-
Economic Research Service	138	27	-	-
Forest Service.....	1,367	1,073	-	-
National Agriculture Statistics Service	26	21	-	-
Total	44,216	36,235	-	-

Table NIFA-14. Funding for STTR by Agency (thousands of dollars) ⁸

Agency	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Estimated	2027 Estimated
Agricultural Research Service	\$1,127	\$68	-	-
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	9	9	-	-
National Institute of Food and Agriculture.....	4,867	4,860	-	-
Economic Research Service	19	4	-	-

⁷ The statutory authority for the SBIR/STTR programs expired on September 30, 2025.

⁸ The statutory authority for the SBIR/STTR programs expired on September 30, 2025.

Forest Service.....	192	151	-	-
National Agriculture Statistics Service	21	3	-	-
Total	6,235	5,095	-	-

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rural and Community Development – Topic Area 8.6: The Rural and Community Development topic area aims to fund the development of new technologies, or for the utilization of existing technologies, that address important economic and social development issues or challenges in rural America. The applications need not be centered on agriculture but may be focused on any area that has the potential to provide significant benefit to rural Americans.

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

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

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

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

AFRI NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO)

Foundational and Applied Science NOFO | The AFRI Foundational and Applied Science NOFO is organized by, and directly aligns with, the six priority areas as of the 2018 Farm Bill. In 2027, NIFA will invest \$297,233,000 of appropriated AFRI funds to support *new* grants in the Foundational and Applied Science Program, as well as interagency programs. These investments will allow sustained foundational efforts on supply chain efficiency and profitability of agricultural systems, as well as enhanced focus in promising new areas of agricultural science such as robotics, sensors, and application of artificial intelligence.

NIFA proposes to continue investments in plant and animal breeding and genetics that support classical breeding efforts for stable crop and animal productivity, decrease input costs, optimize cultivars and breeds to local growing conditions, and development of cultivars through public breeding programs. New investments will be made in emerging technologies such as gene editing for agricultural applications, autonomous systems and machine learning for agricultural applications, and discovery of new agriculture-based products. Investments will foster research on agricultural biosecurity; precision livestock farming; the microbiome of foods, human gut microbiome, food animals, plants, and soils; and on strategies to mitigate antimicrobial resistance. Investments will also be made in automation technology and data-driven solutions in agriculture such as the application of artificial intelligence to agriculture, forestry, and food system supply chains.

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

The AFRI Foundation and Applied Science NOFO will include the following additional goals:

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

- Opportunity for strategic interagency collaborations to address challenging agricultural issues by leveraging greater investment and attracting new communities of scientists.

Strengthening Agricultural Systems NOFO | In 2027, NIFA will invest \$80,245,000 of appropriated funds in the AFRI Strengthening Agricultural Systems NOFO. The integrated transdisciplinary approach taken in the Strengthening Agricultural Systems NOFO will enable NIFA’s goal of advancing the convergence of agricultural and food sciences with engineering, technology, computational sciences, and advanced manufacturing to generate new scientific discoveries, new products, new markets, new lifelong education opportunities, and, consequently, new high-skill jobs for the artificial intelligence savvy workforce. These system-level projects address interrelated challenges of optimizing agricultural productivity, financial, and human capital gains.

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

- Enhance market opportunities in the food, agriculture, and forestry sectors, especially for farmers, ranchers, producers, and communities. These opportunities include high-value primary products, byproducts, local and regional food systems, agricultural economies, as well as use of scale-appropriate technologies and management practices;
- Drive innovations that protect the food, fuel, and fiber supply by developing and disseminating solutions to combat pests, diseases or weeds negatively impacting agricultural systems and rural agricultural economies;
- Expand the contribution of food and agriculture to the health of the nation through development, dissemination, adoption, and application of new or existing technologies, decision-support tools, education, and other resources that support an abundant, affordable, nutritious, and safe food supply; and
- Research, education, and extension to support food and agricultural systems to solve key problems of local, regional, and national importance.

Education and Workforce Development NOFO | In 2027, NIFA will invest \$41,900,000 of appropriated AFRI funding in *new* grants for Education and Workforce Development that focus on further enhancing three distinct components of the pipeline for developing the food and agricultural sciences workforce. The first component is institutional grants to help K-14 teachers and administrators develop improved curricula to train the food and agricultural workforce of the future. This will also include training and retraining agricultural workers to create a technology, data, and artificial intelligence savvy workforce. The second component is to provide pathways for undergraduates to develop applied technical and leadership skills required for careers in agricultural sectors, farming enterprises, or graduate programs. Finally, the third component will support graduate and post-graduate education in food, agriculture, and related disciplines by awarding predoctoral fellowships and postdoctoral fellowships. These investments will address the projected shortfalls in the availability of a qualified scientific workforce in food and agriculture in the United States

The AFRI Workforce Development NOFO will maintain emphasis on:

- Investments to enhance support for innovation, translation and entrepreneurship training, especially in rural communities solidifying U.S. global leadership in bioeconomy development;
- Workforce development at educational institutions and community supports;

- Continued support for predoctoral fellowships, postdoctoral fellowships, and experiential learning for undergraduate students at the baccalaureate and community college level; and
- Support for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education.

Table NIFA-15. Proposed 2027 President’s Budget Funding Allocations (in dollars)

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Title	Funding Allocation
Foundational and Applied Science Program ⁹	\$297,233,000
Strengthening Agricultural Systems Program	\$80,245,000
Education and Workforce Development Program	\$41,900,000

Table NIFA-16. Actual Allocation from 2020 to 2025 (thousands of dollars)

AFRI Program Areas	2020 Enacted	2021 Enacted	2022 Enacted	2023 Enacted	2024 Enacted	2025 Enacted
Foundational and Applied Science Program	\$279,242	\$304,330	\$326,584	\$317,901	\$327,000	\$323,480
Strengthening Agricultural Systems Program .	87,210	74,215	77,159	82,873	77,200	77,200
Education and Workforce Development Program	43,344	58,548	56,455	41,257	54,226	41,000
Total	415,000	425,000	435,000	445,000	455,000	445,200

⁹ Funding for interagency programs is included within the Foundational and Applied Science NOFO, as appropriate.

Table NIFA-17. Estimated Funding Allocations by Farm Bill Priority Area (in percent)

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

OTHER COMPETITIVE PROGRAM NOFOS

Non-AFRI competitive programs NOFOS are listed below. 2026 estimates for discretionary funding are based on the 2026 enacted appropriation. Programs funded by mandatory funding are included based on the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill). 2026 and 2027 mandatory funding reflects the impact of a 5.7 percent sequestration reduction.

Table NIFA-18. Other Competitive Program NOFOS (thousands of dollars)

Program	Authority	Scope of NOFO and Budget Justification	2026 Estimated Budget	2027 Estimated Budget	NOFO Dates (Estimated)
Minor Crop Pest Management Program – Interregional Research Project #4 (IR-4)	7 U.S.C. 3157(e)	<p>The purpose of the IR-4 program under Assistance Listing 10.200, is to ensure the availability of safe, effective and economical pest management products for growers of specialty crops and for minor agricultural uses. This is essential to solving the most pressing challenges these growers face and keeping American agriculture competitive and reducing hunger by improving the availability and accessibility of safe and nutritious food. The crop protection industry cannot justify the costs associated with the research, development and registration of crop protection products for these uses due to small market size and limited sales potential. The IR-4 program provides the assistance needed to ensure that new and effective crop protection products are tested and registered for these uses. This requires effective collaboration between federal science agencies, federal regulatory agencies, crop producers, the crop protection industry, and land-grant colleges and universities.</p> <p>Per statute, the overarching goals and objectives of the IR-4 program are to assist in the collection of residue and efficacy data in support of the registration or reregistration of pesticides for minor agricultural use and for use on specialty crops (as defined in section 3 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note)), under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136 et seq.); and tolerances for residues of minor use chemicals in or on raw agricultural commodities under sections 346a and 348 of title 21. The IR-4 program will also provide support for efforts to develop reduced-risk products and bio-pesticides. In addition, the program concentrates on internal processes that reduce the time needed to complete successful regulatory packages.</p>	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000	2026: 3 rd QTR 2026 2027: February 15, 2027

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Program	Authority	Scope of NOFO and Budget Justification	2026 Estimated Budget	2027 Estimated Budget	NOFO Dates (Estimated)
		<p>The 2026 program will be funded through a continuation application of the 2025 award. NIFA will provide funding for the IR-4 project headquarters. The IR-4 project headquarters will make sub-awards to four geographically based regional IR-4 Centers, which correspond to NIFA’s four administrative regions, and projects will continue to focus on the following regionally oriented goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Obtain and maintain regulatory clearances of effective crop protection agents for high value specialty food crops and for minor agricultural uses on major food crops that are compatible with integrated pest management (IPM) programs. 2. Support research on crop protection products that will expand their uses to allow management of invasive/exotic pests. 3. Conduct efficacy research to identify new, more effective minor agricultural use and specialty crop pest management products, and expedite the registration of newer, reduced-risk pest management products for minor agricultural uses and specialty crops. <p>The 2027 NOFO will be similar to the 2025 NOFO.</p>			
Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI)	7 U.S.C. 7632	<p>The 2026 NOFOs will focus on projects that support research and extension that address key challenges of national, regional, and multi-state importance in sustaining all components of food and agriculture, including conventional and organic food production systems; and include explicit mechanisms to communicate results to producers and the public. Except for Research and Extension Planning Projects, the SCRI program only considers projects that integrate research and extension activities. Applications are required to address one of the five legislatively mandated focus areas.</p> <p>The 2027 NOFOs will focus on addressing the critical needs of the specialty crop industry by developing and disseminating science-based tools to address needs of specific crops and their regions, as specified by statutory requirements by Section 7305 of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018. Specifically, the NOFO will</p>	\$170,440,000	\$165,025,000	<p>2026: Pre-Application NOFO publication date: 3rd QTR 2026</p> <p>Full Application NOFO publication date: 4th QTR 2026</p> <p>2027: Pre-Application NOFO publication date: November 10, 2026</p>

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Program	Authority	Scope of NOFO and Budget Justification	2026 Estimated Budget	2027 Estimated Budget	NOFO Dates (Estimated)
		focus on research and extension that address key challenges of national, regional, and multi-state importance in sustaining all components of food and agriculture.			Full Application NOFO publication date: January 09, 2027
Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) (Mandatory Funds)	7 U.S.C. 2279	The 2026 and 2027 NOFOs will support the delivery of education, outreach, and technical assistance for beginning farmers and ranchers in the United States and its territories that are entering, establishing, building, and managing successful farm and ranch enterprises. In 2026, NIFA is soliciting applications under the following program categories: 1) Standard Grants (Small, Medium, Large and Simplified Standard), 2) Education Team Grants and 3) Curriculum and Training Clearinghouse Grant.	\$23,575,000	\$23,575,000	2026: February 5, 2026 2027: February 3, 2027
Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI)	7 U.S.C. 5925(b)	The 2026 NOFO will focus on solving critical organic agricultural issues, priorities, or problems through the integration of research, education and extension activities in order to enhance the ability of producers and processors who have already adopted organic standards to grow and market high quality organic agricultural products. Priority concerns include biological, physical, and economics. The focus will be on the eight legislatively defined goals: (1) Facilitating the development and improvement of organic agriculture production, breeding, and processing methods; (2) Evaluating the potential economic benefits of organic agricultural production and methods to producers, processors, and rural communities; (3) Exploring international trade opportunities for organically grown and processed agricultural commodities; (4) Determining desirable traits for organic commodities; (5) Identifying marketing and policy constraints on the expansion of organic agriculture; (6) Conducting advanced on-farm research and development that emphasizes observation of experimentation with, and innovation for working organic farms, including research relating to production, marketing, food safety, socioeconomic conditions, and farm business management; (7) Examining optimal conservation and soil health relating to organically produced agricultural product; and (8) Developing new and improved seed varieties that are particularly suited for organic agriculture.	\$47,150,000	\$47,150,000	2026: 3 rd QTR 2026 2027: January 15, 2027

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Program	Authority	Scope of NOFO and Budget Justification	2026 Estimated Budget	2027 Estimated Budget	NOFO Dates (Estimated)
		The 2027 NOFO focus will be similar to 2026 and will include any emerging and high priority organic agriculture issues.			
Scholarships for Students at 1890 Institutions (Discretionary Funds)	7 U.S.C. 3222(a)	Through the 2026 and 2027 NOFOs, the program provides scholarships to outstanding students at 1890 institutions to pursue and complete baccalaureate degrees in the food and agricultural sciences and related fields that would lead to a highly skilled agricultural workforce.	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	2026: 3 rd QTR 2026 2027: March 1, 2027
Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP)	7 U.S.C. 7517	<p>The GusNIP portfolio is made up of three competitive grant programs (1) Nutrition Incentive Program, (2) Produce Prescription Program, and (3) National Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation, and Information Centers (NTAE).</p> <p>The 2026 and 2027 GusNIP - Nutrition Incentive Program NOFOs will invite proposals that aim to develop and evaluate projects to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables by providing incentives at the point of purchase among income eligible consumers participating in the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the USDA Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP).</p> <p>The 2026 and 2027 GusNIP - Produce Prescription Program NOFOs will invite proposals to conduct projects to demonstrate and evaluate the impact of fresh fruit and vegetable prescriptions to increase procurement and consumption of fruits and vegetables, reduce individual and household food insecurity, and reduce healthcare usage and associated costs.</p> <p>The GusNIP - National Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation, and Information Centers (NTAE) Cooperative Agreements offer training, technical assistance, evaluation, and informational support services to potential applicants, nutrition incentive projects, produce prescription projects, and to GusNIP as a whole. Cooperative agreement applications will be invited again in 2027, when the current cooperative agreement ends.</p>	\$52,808,000	\$52,808,000	<p><u>Nutrition Incentive</u> 2026: 3rd QTR 2026 2027: November 15, 2026</p> <p><u>Produce Prescription</u> 2026: 3rd QTR 2026 2027: December 15, 2026</p> <p><u>NTAE</u> 2026: Final year of continuation funds 2027: October 2026</p>

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Program	Authority	Scope of NOFO and Budget Justification	2026 Estimated Budget	2027 Estimated Budget	NOFO Dates (Estimated)
Agriculture Risk Management Education Partnerships Competitive Grants Program (ARME)	7 U.S.C. 1524(a)	The 2026 directed NOFO will continue the work of the 2024 competitive awards. The program will fund four regional centers and one electronic support (digital) center. Through competitive grants programs, the centers will emphasize risk management education programs that support pre- and post-farm management activities that include but are not limited to production, processing, storage, and logistics. Applicants to the regional competitive grants programs include public and private sector agricultural professionals. Grants awarded by the four regional centers will support applied outreach projects that promote risk management education that targets risk associated with production, price/marketing, human, legal and finance. Projects will directly serve farmers, ranchers, producers, and their families from 2026 to 2029.	\$9,430,000	\$9,430,000	2026: 3 rd QTR 2026 2027: December 10, 2026 <i>Competitive</i>