

January 26, 2015

FY2015 Agriculture and Related Agencies Appropriations

Scope of Agricultural Appropriations

The annual Agriculture appropriations bill funds the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), except for the Forest Service. It funds the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and—in even-numbered fiscal years (tied to jurisdiction)—the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC).

Agriculture appropriations include both mandatory and discretionary spending. Discretionary amounts are the primary focus, since mandatory levels generally are set by laws such as the farm bill. The FY2015 appropriation provides \$20.58 billion of discretionary funding. Mandatory spending carried in the bill totals \$126.49 billion.

Figure 1 shows that the largest discretionary spending items are the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); agricultural research; FDA; rural development; foreign food aid and trade; farm assistance programs; food safety inspection; conservation; and animal and plant health programs (see also **Table 1**).

The main mandatory spending items are the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), child nutrition, crop insurance, and farm commodity and conservation programs paid by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

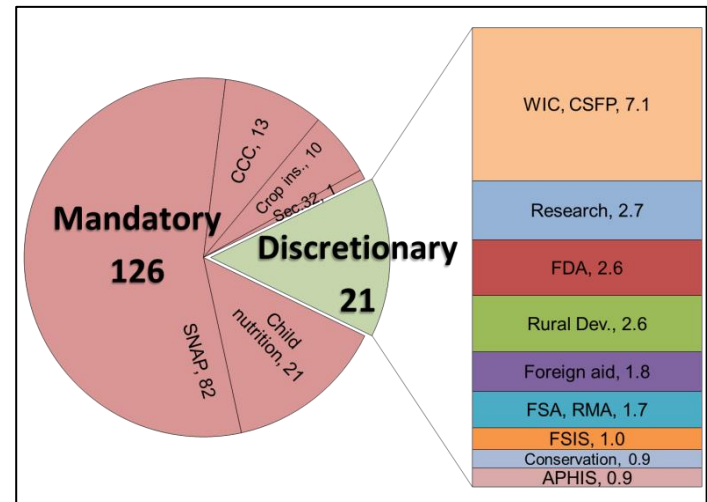
The FY2015 Agriculture appropriation was enacted on December 16, 2014, as part of an omnibus appropriation, P.L. 113-235. The fiscal year had begun under a continuing resolution. The Senate Appropriations committee approved an agriculture bill on May 22, 2014 (S. 2389). The House Appropriations committee approved its version on May 29 (H.R. 4800). Both went to the floor in each chamber in June 2014, but each was left unfinished until the omnibus.

The discretionary total in the Agriculture appropriation is \$90 million less than (-0.4%) the comparable amount for FY2014 that excludes CFTC (a Senate jurisdiction basis). In addition, the act includes another \$116 million of emergency spending for conservation and Ebola.

Notable Policy Issues

Although the WIC program's "food package" regulation bars participants from using WIC benefits to purchase white potatoes (CRS Report IN10060, *Following the Debate on White Potatoes in the WIC Program*), the FY2015 appropriation includes a policy rider to allow white potatoes in the WIC "food package" by preventing USDA from excluding certain types of vegetables. However, the language also requires a review of the WIC food package, which would determine whether white potatoes would remain eligible.

Figure 1. FY2015 Agriculture Appropriations
(budget authority in billions of dollars)



Source: CRS, compiled from P.L. 113-235 for FY2015.

The law also includes policies on the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program nutrition standards, which were updated by a January 2012 regulation. These standards required schools to serve more fruits, vegetables, and whole grains and to design weekly menus meeting upper limits on calories, saturated fat, and sodium. The enacted law requires USDA to allow states to exempt from the current whole grain requirement schools that demonstrate hardship implementing it. Such schools may meet the lower whole grain requirements that were in place during school year 2013-2014. The law also requires certain scientific evidence before sodium reduction targets that are lower than the current target can go into effect.

The appropriations act includes language that prevents the Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration from finalizing proposed rules on livestock and poultry marketing practices that were required in the 2008 farm bill. The rider continues prohibitions in effect since FY2012. The act includes a rider that effectively bans horse slaughter by prohibiting USDA from inspecting horses. In place since FY2006, the ban on horse slaughter lapsed in FY2012 and FY2013, but was reinstated in FY2014. In addition, the act also includes a rider that prohibits processed (cooked) chicken imported from in China from being used in the National School Lunch Program and other USDA child nutrition programs.

For more details, see the longer CRS Report R43669, *Agriculture and Related Agencies: FY2015 Appropriations*.

Table I. Agriculture and Related Agencies Appropriations (budget authority in \$ millions)

	FY2014	FY2015				Change from FY2014 to FY2015 (P.L. 113-235)	
	P.L. 113-76	Request	H.R. 4800	S. 2389	P.L. 113-235		
Dept. Admin. (incl. all Under Secretaries)	532.2	387.0	366.2	385.7	370.6	-161.6	-30.4%
Agricultural Research Service	1,122.5	1,104.4	1,275.3	1,139.7	1,177.6	+55.1	+4.9%
National Institute of Food & Agriculture	1,277.1	1,335.5	1,273.8	1,292.4	1,289.5	+12.4	+1.0%
National Agricultural Statistics Service	161.2	179.0	169.4	178.2	172.4	+11.2	+6.9%
Economic Research Service	78.1	83.4	85.8	85.4	85.4	+7.3	+9.4%
Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service	824.9	837.5	870.7	875.6	874.5	+49.6	+6.0%
Agricultural Marketing Service	81.3	84.2	82.4	83.0	82.4	+1.1	+1.4%
Section 32 (M)	1,107.0	1,122.0	1,122.0	1,122.0	1,284.0	+177.0	+16.0%
Grain Inspection, Packers & Stockyards	40.3	44.0	43.7	44.0	43.0	+2.8	+6.9%
Food Safety & Inspection Service	1,010.7	1,001.4	1,005.2	1,022.8	1,016.5	+5.8	+0.6%
Farm Service Agency (incl. loans, other)	1,592.2	1,539.4	1,605.1	1,589.1	1,603.3	+11.0	+0.7%
Risk Management Agency	71.5	76.8	77.1	76.8	74.8	+3.3	+4.7%
Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (M)	9,502.9	8,668.0	8,666.0	8,668.0	8,666.0	-836.9	-8.8%
Commodity Credit Corporation (M)	12,538.9	9,067.3	9,067.3	9,067.3	13,444.7	+905.8	+7.2%
Conservation Operations	812.9	814.8	843.1	849.3	846.4	+33.5	+4.1%
Watershed Rehabilitation Program	12.0	—	25.0	—	12.0	+0.0	+0.0%
Rural Development (salaries & expenses)	657.4	659.6	678.2	682.9	678.2	+20.8	+3.2%
Rural Housing Service	1,279.6	1,228.6	1,310.4	1,307.0	1,298.4	+18.7	+1.5%
Rural Business-Cooperative Service	130.2	139.2	99.6	111.7	103.2	-27.0	-20.7%
Rural Utilities Service	501.6	357.6	501.8	504.4	501.7	+0.2	+0.0%
Child Nutrition Programs (M)	19,288.0	20,537.0	20,523.8	20,497.0	21,300.2	+2,012.2	+10.4%
WIC Program	6,715.8	6,823.0	6,623.0	6,623.0	6,623.0	-92.8	-1.4%
SNAP, Food & Nutrition Act Programs (M)	82,169.9	84,256.4	82,251.1	82,251.4	81,837.6	-332.4	-0.4%
Commodity Assistance Programs	269.7	275.7	275.7	275.7	278.5	+8.8	+3.3%
Nutrition Programs Administration	141.3	155.0	150.8	155.0	150.8	+9.5	+6.7%
Foreign Agricultural Service	184.6	189.3	189.3	189.5	188.2	+3.6	+1.9%
P.L. 480 and admin. expenses	1,468.7	1,402.5	1,468.5	1,468.5	1,468.5	-0.2	-0.0%
McGovern-Dole Food for Education	185.1	185.1	198.1	185.1	191.6	+6.5	+3.5%
Food and Drug Administration	2,560.7	2,584.2	2,582.9	2,597.3	2,597.3	+36.6	+1.4%
Commodity Futures Trading Commission	215.0	280.0	217.6	[280.0]	[250.0]	+35.0	+16.3%
General Provisions: Limits, disaster, misc.	-880.4	-1,019.0	-792.0	-673.7	-679.4	+201.0	-22.8%
Scorekeeping adjustments (incl. disaster)	-191.0	-398.0	-398.0	-498.0	-514.0	-323.0	+169.1%
Discretionary: Senate basis w/o CFTC	[20,665.0]	20,139.8	[20,662.4]	20,575.4	20,575.0	-90.0	-0.4%
Discretionary: House basis w/ CFTC	20,880.0	20,419.8	20,880.0	[20,855.4]	[20,825.0]	-55.0	-0.3%
Mandatory (M)	124,582.0	123,581.2	121,578.7	121,580.8	126,492.0	+1,910.0	+1.5%
Total: Senate basis, w/o CFTC	145,247.0	143,720.9	142,241.2	142,156.1	147,067.0	+1,820.0	+1.3%

Source: CRS, using appropriations committee and unpublished CBO tables. [Bracketed amounts] are not in official totals due to jurisdiction.

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