



CONSORTIUM *of* SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

Analysis of the Senate FY 2020 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill |

October 1, 2019

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved its fiscal year (FY) 2020 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill on September 19. This bill contains funding for the two U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) statistical agencies, the Economic Research Service (ERS) and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), as well as the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), which funds competitive research projects. The bill was marked up in subcommittee on September 17.

Overall the Senate rejects the Administration's proposed cuts to USDA research and statistics, opting to provide flat or nearly flat funding to these agencies, in contrast to the more aggressive increases passed by the House.

At a Glance...

- **The bill would not stop the Administration from moving forward it with its plans to move ERS and NIFA to the Kansas City region** and includes \$25 million for relocation costs. The House bill would prohibit the move.
- **The House bill would provide ERS with \$86.8 million**, flat with FY 2019 and below the amount proposed by the House, but well above the steep cuts proposed by the Administration.
- **The bill would provide NASS with \$175.5 million**, a slight increase above FY 2019 and above the Administration's request, but \$5.5 million below the House proposal.
- **The House mark would provide NIFA with a total of \$1.458 billion in discretionary funds**, a \$13.4 million increase for the agency compared to FY 2019 and \$12.8 million above the Administration's request, but \$129.4 million below the House bill.

The next step for the bill is consideration by the full Senate. The Senate passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) on September 26 that will keep the government open until November 21, which, assuming it is signed by the President, would give the chamber additional time to pass the bill and reconcile it with the House.

Summarized below are the Senate Appropriations Committee's proposals for the Economic Research Service, National Agricultural Statistics Service, and National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

The bill, Committee's full report, and recording of the markup can be found [here](#).

Check COSSA's [funding updates](#) page for analysis of other FY 2020 appropriations bills important to social and behavioral science and the President's FY 2020 budget request.

Economic Research Service

The Senate bill would provide \$86.8 million to the Economic Research Service (ERS), flat with FY 2019 and \$1 million below the House's proposal, rejecting the significant cut proposed in the President's budget. The bill does not comment on the Administration's actions to move ERS to Kansas City along with NIFA, which has led to massive attrition at both agencies. However, the bill does include \$25 million for relocation expenses in addition to the amounts allocated to individual agencies. The House bill included language prohibiting the move altogether.

The bill also directs ERS to produce additional data on the international agricultural commodity trade, the organic industry, and better identifying rural tracts with difficult or mountainous terrain, but no additional funding is provided for any of these activities.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

The bill would provide the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) with \$175.3 million, a 0.4 percent increase over FY 2019 and 3.1 percent below the House's proposal but still above the Administration's request. The Census of Agriculture would receive flat funding at \$45.3 million under the bill, so the small increase would go to NASS's Agricultural Estimates. Like the House bill, the Senate committee report stipulates that the committee "does not accept any proposed eliminations or reductions of ongoing activities" proposed in the President's budget request. The committee requests that NASS continue or enhance its data collection related to barley production, chemical use, floriculture, and organic agriculture.

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

The Senate bill would provide the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) with a total of \$1.5 billion in discretionary funds, which is an increase of 0.9 percent or \$13.4 million above FY 2019, and 3.1 percent below the House bill. The amount includes flat funding for Hatch Act State Experiment Stations. The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), NIFA's competitive research grant program, would receive a \$10 million increase from FY 2019, which is short of the Administration's requested \$85 million increase.

The bill does not comment on the Administration's actions to move NIFA to Kansas City along with the ERS, which has led to massive attrition at both agencies. However, the bill does include \$25 million for relocation expenses in addition to the amounts allocated to individual agencies. The House bill included language prohibiting the move altogether.

The committee encourages NIFA to support work to address childhood obesity, food safety, risk management education for farmers, sustainable agriculture research and education, farmer stress, minority outreach, and rural opioid addiction training.

	FY 2019 Enacted	FY 2020 Request	FY 2020 House	FY 2020 Senate	Senate vs. FY 2019	Senate vs. Request	House vs. Senate
Economic Research Service	86.8	60.5	87.8	86.8	0.0%	43.4%	1.2%
National Agricultural Statistics Service	174.5	163.0	180.8	175.3	0.4%	7.5%	3.1%
Agricultural Estimates	129.2	117.7			n/a	n/a	n/a
Census of Agriculture	45.3	45.3	45.3	45.3	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
National Institute of Food and Agriculture	1471.3	1391.7	1614.1	1484.7	0.9%	6.7%	8.7%
Hatch Act	259.0	243.2	265.0	259.0	0.0%	6.5%	2.3%
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	415.0	500.0	460.0	425.0	2.4%	-15.0%	8.2%

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