110TH CONGRESS 1st Session | HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | REPORT 110–258

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2008

JULY 24, 2007.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Ms. DELAURO, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted the following

R E P O R T

together with

MINORITY VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 3161]

The Committee on Appropriations submits the following report in explanation of the accompanying bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for fiscal year 2008.

INTRODUCTION

INVESTING IN RURAL AMERICA

RURAL HOUSING

The Committee held a special hearing to discuss economic conditions in rural America with USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS). A recent ERS report found that 302 of the America's nonmetro counties are "housing stressed." ERS said:

> In these counties, at least 30 percent of households failed to meet widely used standards for minimum basic amenities in 2000. This categorization of household-level housing stress requires that one or more of the following conditions be met: (1) housing expense/income threshold—expenses exceed 30 percent of income, (2) crowding—more household members than rooms, (3) incomplete plumb-

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ing—home lacked necessary bathroom facilities, and (4) incomplete kitchen—home lacked essential kitchen facilities.

These are shocking findings. To begin addressing these needs, the bill makes significant investments in rural housing. The bill includes $212 million to provide $5.1 billion in affordable direct and guaranteed home loans for low- and moderate-income families in rural areas, with no increase in fees. The President's budget eliminated direct loans and shifted funding to guaranteed loans with a one percent increase in fees, making these loans more expensive and not as accessible for low-income families. The bill restores the multi-family rental housing program and provides four times the level of funding for mutual and self-help housing grants, which allow low-income families in rural areas to build their own houses. The bill substantially increases funding for the farm labor housing programs, supporting $75 million in affordable loans and grants for farmworker housing.

CLEAN WATER IN RURAL AMERICA

According to government estimates, rural communities face tens of billions of dollars in costs for safe drinking water and wastewater treatment systems. USDA water and waste funding is only available to communities that cannot fund the projects themselves or that cannot get financing commercially at reasonable rates. USDA programs also give priority to smaller communities, those with serious health needs and lower incomes. Yet, these programs are already over-subscribed. As of September 30, 2006 there were 985 applications seeking $2.3 billion in assistance that could not be funded.

To begin addressing these needs, the bill provides $500 million for rural water and waste disposal grants and $1 billion for water and waste direct loans. Importantly, the bill reverses the administration's proposed cut to the grant program and provides a 14 percent ($62 million) increase over 2007 levels.

SUPPORTING RURAL COMMUNITIES

Federal investment is critical to facilitate growth in rural areas, and to soften the impact of population loss. The bill provides a 37 percent increase in grants to rural areas for critical community facilities, such as health care, educational, public safety and day care facilities and also provides increases in the community facility loan programs. Rural areas often confront a tremendous gap when it comes to educational and medical resources and this bill helps close that gap, providing $10 million more than the administration requested for distance learning and telemedicine grants. It also restores funding to twice the level provided in 2007 for the broadband grant program that the budget eliminated.

PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

FOOD SAFETY

As many recent recalls have shown—from spinach and seafood to peanut butter and pet-food—our food safety system today is dangerously inadequate. Consumers have reason to worry that the system they count on to protect them is no longer working, and the

food they feed their families is not as safe as it should be. That must change. We must transform the way we meet our obligation to protect the public health.

This bill fully funds the request for the Food Safety and Inspection Service at USDA. To maximize the funds' positive impact on safety, the bill shifts additional funds within the account to address vacancies in federal meat inspector positions. The Committee also provides an increase of $28 million over the budget request for food safety at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for what it hopes will be the first step in a fundamental transformation in the regulation of food safety at FDA. The Committee directs FDA to submit a plan to begin changing its approach to food safety when it submits the fiscal year 2009 budget, giving the Committee time to review the plan before the funds to implement it become available on July 1, 2008. In addition to these funds, the bill provides more than $131 million for food safety research at USDA

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

The Committee fully funds the request for the FDA and provides targeted increases of $55 million. As noted above, the Committee provides an increase for food safety activities following submission of a comprehensive plan by the administration. It also ensures that funding levels for FDA's field operations are not reduced and provides additional funding for key activities, such as speeding up generic drug application reviews, post-market drug safety reviews and review of direct to consumer drug ads.

IMPROVING NUTRITION FOR MORE AMERICANS

NUTRITION

The bill provides critical resources to address our nation's obesity crisis, teaching our children better eating habits and helping them avoid conditions such as diabetes which afflict so many children today. The bill provides a nearly eight percent increase over 2007 funding, including a record level of funding for the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) at $68.5 million.

FEEDING THOSE IN NEED

The bill provides record funding for two fundamental food security programs: the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). These programs serve our country's most vulnerable populations. Nearly 30 percent of the total discretionary funding in this bill goes to the WIC program. To meet increased program costs due to rising food prices, the Committee has provided an increase of $416 million over the 2007 level and $233 million over the request. The bill also provides $150 million for the CSFP program, which the President's budget eliminated. This level will both increase caseloads in current states and allow additional states to participate in the program. The bill also includes language that will ease administrative burdens on states that wish to participate in the summer food program, which the Committee believes will allow many more children to be reached by this program. Working poor households should not have to choose between

securing adequate food for their kids and other basics they need just to get by.

TRANSFORMING OUR ENERGY FUTURE

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Energy independence means investing in our communities and plugging their resources and workforce into vibrant, expanding markets. To promote renewable energy and move us further down the path to energy independence, the bill provides nearly twice as much funding than was provided last year and more than 20 percent more than requested. The bill provides resources for research, assistance to farmers and ranchers, and loans to businesses. It makes investments across the spectrum in order to grow our economy, create new jobs, lower energy prices, and begin to address global warming.

SUPPORTING CONSERVATION

The stewardship of our lands affects us all everyday and will affect our children for years to come. But existing conservation programs are under-funded. This bill restores many of the programs slated for major reductions in the president's request, including the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, Resource Conservation and Development, and the watershed programs which are funded $75 million—more than double last year's levels.

INVESTING IN RESEARCH

As we all know, research is at the core of maintaining U.S. agriculture's place in the forefront of scientific discovery and development. And these efforts are critical to maintaining our edge in areas such as crop development, nutrition research, food safety and immediate responsiveness to incoming threats. For research at our nation's universities and other important activities under CSREES, the mark provides an increase of $179 million over the President's request for CSREES, including $109 million for research and education. For federally funded research, the bill provides an increase of $54.8 million over the President's budget.

ENHANCED OVERSIGHT

The Committee shares concerns about waste, fraud and abuse in key farm programs such as those run by the Farm Service Agency and the Risk Management Agency. The Committee has included language requested by the administration to allow the Risk Management Agency to use up to $11,166,000 in mandatory crop insurance funds to strengthen its ability to oversee the program by maintaining and upgrading IT systems and other methods of detecting dubious claims. Continuing work on an information management system will assist RMA and the Farm Service Agency in spotting potential problems in programs under both agencies. The Committee has also included an increase of $2 million for the Office of Inspector General for high priority work on waste, fraud and abuse, as part of a long term effort to rebuild the office's resources.

Finally, the Committee makes note throughout this report of agencies that are delinquent in responding to OIG or Government

Accountability Office reports and calls for plans from such agencies for how they will respond to such reports promptly.

TITLE I—AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, AND MARKETING

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

2007 appropriation	$5,097,000
2008 budget estimate	18,355,000
Provided in the bill	5,505,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+408,000
2008 budget estimate	−12,850,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the Secretary, the Committee provides an appropriation of $5,505,000, an increase of $408,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $12,850,000 below the budget request.

The Committee recommendation includes a total of $1,611,000 for cross-cutting trade negotiations and biotechnology resources.

The Committee does not include funding for provisional reconstruction team as requested.

Explanatory Notes.—The Committee appreciates receiving the detailed information provided in the Explanatory Notes prepared by the Department and relies heavily on this information when considering budget proposals. These materials have traditionally been prepared for the sole use of the Appropriations Committee in a format consistent with the organization and operation of the programs and the structure of the Appropriations Act. At the direction of the Office of Management and Budget, the Department has changed the format and content of these materials to focus on broader goals and objectives rather than the major program structure followed in the Act and in the actual conduct of the programs. For fiscal year 2009 and future years, the Department is directed to present Explanatory Notes in a format consistent with the presentation used for the fiscal year 2002 Budget. Any deviations from that format are to be approved in advance by the Committee.

State Office Collocation.—The Committee continues to direct that any reallocation of resources related to the collocation of state offices scheduled for 2008 and subsequent years is subject to the Committee's reprogramming procedures.

Administrative Provision.—The Committee directs the Secretary to advise the Committees on Appropriations in writing of the status of all reports requested of the Department in this bill, at the time of submission of the fiscal year 2009 budget and quarterly thereafter.

The Committee reminds the Secretary that all correspondence related to the directives in this bill must be addressed to the Committee on Appropriations.

High-Risk List.—The Committee directs USDA and FDA to work with GAO on a plan whose implementation would result in food safety being removed from GAO's High-Risk List and to submit a report on that plan to the Committee by October 1, 2007.

Minors in Agriculture.—The Committee is concerned with the number of injuries and deaths of minors in agriculture. Current child labor law permits children as young as 12 years of age to work in the fields under very specific limitations, such as non-hazardous work that occurs beyond school hours. However, according to a 1998 U.S. Government Accountability Office report, workplace hazards, including pesticides, heat stress, heavy machinery, and sharp tools, combine to injure more than 100,000 children on farms every year. Between 1992 and 2000, more than 40 percent of all work-related deaths of minors in the U.S. occurred in agriculture. The Committee directs the Secretary of USDA, in collaboration with the Secretary of Labor, to develop a plan to address injuries and deaths of minors in agriculture and to submit the plan to the Committee by March 1, 2008.

The Committee is concerned that the USDA's RUS Broadband Loan Program has not made sufficient corrective actions in response to the critical September 2005 report by the USDA Office of the Inspector General. In particular, the Committee is concerned that instead of focusing on un-served rural areas that have no broadband service, the RUS continues to grant loans to areas where broadband service is already being offered by private providers. Such practices penalize private providers that have already built broadband systems in these areas. Such practices also do nothing to further the goal of bringing broadband to un-served areas with no broadband while also putting at risk taxpayer dollars by funding projects where private sector competition already exists. The Committee directs the USDA's Office of the Inspector General to reexamine the RUS Broadband Loan Program and issue a comprehensive follow-up report, which also details in particular:

- How many un-served households were included in approved RUS Broadband Loan Program applications.
- How many applications were granted to applicants proposing to serve areas where one or more private broadband providers already offered service.
- How many approved loans (and their total amount) have defaulted since the program's inception.
- How many applicants who have been approved for loans have subsequently withdrawn from the program due to the eventually discovered infeasibility of the approved project.

Apple Moth.—The Committee encourages the Secretary to utilize all funds necessary from the Commodity Credit Corporation to carry out the recommendation of the USDA science advisory panel to eradicate in California the light brown apple moth.

With two thirds of the USDA budget devoted to nutrition programs, the Committee urges the Department of Agriculture to thoroughly examine ways of linking local agriculture to nutrition program procurement. To the extent possible, the committee encourages the Department to identify funding sources to link local agriculture directly with nutrition programs serving seniors, school breakfast and lunch programs. The Committee notes growing inter-

est in local procurement among school food service systems across the country. Local procurement can help farmers develop consistent markets for fresh food produced locally. The Committee encourages the Department to work with school lunch administrators, food banks and local food advocates to identify opportunities for growth in local procurement, and directs FNS to study ways to enhance local procurement in school food service and report back to the Committee within 120 days of enactment of this act.

EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS

CHIEF ECONOMIST

2007 appropriation	$10,487,000
2008 budget estimate	11,347,000
Provided in the bill	10,847,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+360,000
2008 budget estimate	−500,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Chief Economist, the Committee provides an appropriation of $10,847,000, an increase of $360,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $500,000 below the budget request.

NATIONAL APPEALS DIVISION

2007 appropriation	$14,466,000
2008 budget estimate	15,056,000
Provided in the bill	15,056,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+590,000
2008 budget estimate	−−−

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the National Appeals Division, the Committee provides an appropriation of $15,056,000, an increase of $590,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and the same amount as the budget request.

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM ANALYSIS

2007 appropriation	$8,270,000
2008 budget estimate	9,035,000
Provided in the bill	8,622,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+352,000
2008 budget estimate	−413,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of Budget and Program Analysis, the Committee provides an appropriation of $8,622,000, an increase of $352,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $413,000 below the budget request.

HOMELAND SECURITY STAFF

2007 appropriation	$931,000
2008 budget estimate	2,412,000
Provided in the bill	2,252,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+1,321,000
2008 budget estimate	−160,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Homeland Security Staff, the Committee provides an appropriation of $2,252,000, an increase of $1,321,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $160,000 below the budget request.

The Committee recommendation includes an increase of $1,274,000 for additional staff years transferred to the Homeland Security Staff from the Office of Inspector General.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

2007 appropriation	$16,361,000
2008 budget estimate	17,024,000
Provided in the bill	16,723,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+362,000
2008 budget estimate	−301,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the Chief Information Officer, the Committee provides an appropriation of $16,723,000, an increase of $362,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $301,000 below the budget request.

E-gov assessments.—The Committee is deeply troubled by the escalating costs of electronic government ("e-gov") initiatives. Between fiscal years 2005 and 2006, the amount USDA agencies paid for e-gov initiatives rose by 45 percent—from $33,837,000 to $49,086,000. Within these totals, the amount for presidential e-gov initiatives increased over two and a half times—from $8,609,000 in 2005 to $22,953,000 in 2006. Since these costs are borne by the agencies and Congress did not provide increases to the agencies for these costs, in most circumstances the agencies must absorb the rising costs of e-gov initiatives by cutting back on program funding.

The Committee supports efforts to make government more efficient and user-friendly, but not at the expense of core programs. The Committee directs the Office of the Chief Information Officer to scrutinize the need for each e-gov initiative, both presidential and departmental; to consider its benefit to the mission of each agency; and to limit 2007 and 2008 spending to the 2005 level wherever possible. A report should be submitted to the Committee by January 15, 2008, outlining the OCIO's findings and the funding levels for both years. In addition, the Department's fiscal year 2009 budget should include a justification for funding each initiative, a description of how increases would be funded, and the impact on agency programs of the funding increases.

Audit recommendations not achieving management decision within 180 days.—The Committee has received from the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the record a list of audit reports where

management decisions have not been achieved within 180 days. Included on the list was one audit report for OCIO, with several open recommendations. The Committee supports OIG in its efforts to reach agreement within 180 days and directs OCIO to send the Committee a report by October 1, 2007 with a plan for reaching management decision on the outstanding issues.

COMMON COMPUTING ENVIRONMENT

2007 appropriation	$107,971,000
2008 budget estimate	0
Provided in the bill	0
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	−107,971,000
2008 budget estimate	−−−

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

The President's budget does not request, and the Committee does not recommend, an appropriation for the Common Computing Environment. The Committee recommendation includes funding for the Common Computing Environment activities in the appropriate agency accounts.

Since fiscal year 2001, Congress has appropriated over $711,134,000 for the modernization and integration of information systems in USDA's county field offices. The Committee has fully supported this effort, but will expect to see reduced or level funding levels for this account in future budget submissions as a result of anticipated efficiencies and economies of scale.

The Committee directs the Department to continue reporting to the Committee on Appropriations on a quarterly basis on the implementation of the Common Computing Environment.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

2007 appropriation	$5,850,000
2008 budget estimate	30,863,000
Provided in the bill	6,076,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+226,000
2008 budget estimate	−24,787,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, the Committee provides an appropriation of $6,076,000, an increase of $226,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $24,787,000 below the budget request.

The Committee includes authority in section 703 of the general provisions that allows for unobligated discretionary balances transferred to the Working Capital Fund to be used for the acquisition of plant and capital equipment for the delivery of the Financial Management Modernization Initiative.

The Committee directs the Department to submit a report concurrent with the Department's annual budget submission for the following fiscal year, updating the Committee on its contracting out policies, including agency budgets for contracting out, for fiscal year 2007. The Committee is continuing bill language requiring the submission of the report on contracting out policies and agency

budgets, prior to use of any funds appropriated to the Office of the Chief Financial Officer for FAIR Act or Circular A–76 activities.

The Committee directs the Secretary to continue providing quarterly reports on the status of continuity of operations of the National Finance Center, remote mirror imaging, the reestablishment of payroll and cross-servicing operations and function in New Orleans, selection for a new alternate worksite, and plans for the new primary computing facility.

Assessments.—As with charges for electronic government initiatives, the assessments that the Department charges its agencies for other government- and department-wide activities have risen steeply. Between fiscal years 2005 and 2006, these assessments increased by almost 30 percent—from $10.8 million to $13.8 million. Since these assessments are borne by the agencies, and Congress did not specifically provide increases to the agencies for these costs, most of the funding for the increase has come at the expense of programs.

The Committee directs the Office of the Chief Financial Officer to scrutinize the need for each activity, excluding electronic government initiatives; to consider its benefit to the mission of each agency; and to limit 2007 and 2008 spending to the 2005 level wherever possible. A report should be submitted to the Committee by January 15, 2008, outlining OCFO's findings and funding levels for both years. In addition, the Department's fiscal year 2009 budget should include a justification for funding each activity, how increases would be funded, and the impact on funding the increases on agency programs. The Department should also include an exhibit showing assessments by agency in addition to the exhibit submitted in the FY 2008 budget.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

2007 appropriation	$818,000
2008 budget estimate	897,000
Provided in the bill	897,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+79,000
2008 budget estimate	– – –

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, the Committee provides an appropriation of $897,000, an increase of $79,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and the same amount as the budget request.

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

2007 appropriation	$20,020,000
2008 budget estimate	23,147,000
Provided in the bill	23,147,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+3,127,000
2008 budget estimate	– – –

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of Civil Rights, the Committee recommends an appropriation of $23,147,000, an increase of $3,127,000 above the

amount available for fiscal year 2007 and the same amount as the budget request.

The Committee recommendation includes $2,441,000, as requested, for the Civil Rights Enterprise System and compliance monitoring activities.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION

2007 appropriation	$673,000
2008 budget estimate	739,000
Provided in the bill	709,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+36,000
2008 budget estimate	−30,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration, the Committee provides an appropriation of $709,000, an increase of $36,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $30,000 below the budget request.

AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES AND RENTAL PAYMENTS

2007 appropriation	$185,919,000
2008 budget estimate	216,837,000
Provided in the bill	196,616,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+10,697,000
2008 budget estimate	−20,221,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments, the Committee provides an appropriation of $196,616,000, an increase of $10,697,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $20,221,000 below the budget request.

Included in this amount is $156,590,000 for payments to GSA for rent and the Department of Homeland Security for building security.

The following table represents the Committee's specific recommendations for this account:

AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES AND RENTAL PAYMENTS

[In thousands of dollars]

	2007 estimate	*2008 budget request*	*Committee recommendation*
Rental Payments	$146,257	$156,590	$156,590
Building Operations	39,662	60,247	40,026
Total	185,919	216,837	196,616

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

2007 appropriation	$11,887,000
2008 budget estimate	12,200,000
Provided in the bill	12,200,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+313,000
2008 budget estimate	– – –

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Hazardous Materials Management, the Committee provides an appropriation of $12,200,000, an increase of $313,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and the same amount as the budget request.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

2007 appropriation	$23,144,000
2008 budget estimate	24,608,000
Provided in the bill	23,913,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+769,000
2008 budget estimate	−695,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Departmental Administration, the Committee provides an appropriation of $23,913,000, an increase of $769,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $695,000 below the budget request.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS

2007 appropriation	$3,795,000
2008 budget estimate	4,099,000
Provided in the bill	3,936,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+141,000
2008 budget estimate	−163,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations, the Committee provides an appropriation of $3,936,000, an increase of $141,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $163,000 below the budget request.

Within 30 days from the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on the allocation of these funds by USDA agency, along with an explanation for the agency-by-agency distribution of the funds.

The Committee notes that when pay costs are requested in the President's budget request, the pay cost estimate includes an increase for all FTE's funded through the Congressional Relations account. The Committee expects that when the pay costs are provided in an appropriations bill, the pay increase be distributed to the agencies to cover pay costs.

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

2007 appropriation	$9,338,000
2008 budget estimate	9,720,000
Provided in the bill	9,720,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+382,000
2008 budget estimate	– – –

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of Communications, the Committee provides an appropriation of $9,720,000, an increase of $382,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and the same amount as the budget request.

The Committee directs the Office of Communications to continue to provide them with copies of open source news material made available to USDA officials through the use of appropriated funds.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

2007 appropriation	$80,052,000
2008 budget estimate	83,998,000
Provided in the bill	85,998,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+5,946,000
2008 budget estimate	+2,000,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of Inspector General, the Committee provides an appropriation of $85,998,000, an increase of $5,946,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007, and an increase of $2,000,000 above the the budget request.

The Committee recommendation includes an increase of $2,000,000 for additional high priority work on waste, fraud and abuse, public health, and program integrity. Of this amount, $1,000,000 is for continued work on waste, fraud and abuse issues related to crop insurance and farm payments. The Committee provides this increase as part of a long-term effort to rebuild the resources of the Office of Inspector General (OIG).

The Committee notes that the transfer of personnel, but not the funds, to the Homeland Security Office provides additional resources for the OIG to carry out its audit and investigative functions.

The Committee greatly values the OIG staff and relies on their work extensively. OIG serves as the eyes and ears of the public. While the exact methodology of the calculation may be subject to dispute, there is no question that OIG's work has saved the taxpayers millions of dollars and improved the integrity and operation of numerous programs within USDA.

Audit recommendations not achieving management decision within 180 days.—The Committee appreciates receiving for the record OIG's list of audit reports where management decisions have not been achieved within 180 days. The Committee supports OIG in its efforts to reach agreement within 180 days and will note its displeasure with those agencies that have failed to meet this deadline elsewhere in this report.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

2007 appropriation	$39,227,000
2008 budget estimate	41,721,000
Provided in the bill	40,964,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+1,737,000
2008 budget estimate	−757,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the General Counsel, the Committee provides an appropriation of $40,964,000, an increase of $1,737,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $757,000 below the budget request.

The recommendation includes an increase of $200,000 for additional staff to support high priority work.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND ECONOMICS

2007 appropriation	$596,000
2008 budget estimate	654,000
Provided in the bill	626,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+30,000
2008 budget estimate	−28,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, the Committee provides an appropriation of $626,000, an increase of $30,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $28,000 below the budget request.

The Committee recognizes the importance of the equine industry to the state of Tennessee and that it is one of the fastest growing sectors of the state's economy. According to a 2004 USDA survey, assets on equine operations in Tennessee totaled approximately $6 billion, an increase of 24 percent since 1999. This growth has been accompanied by unparalleled demand for trained professionals and research scientists to work in the various sectors associated with the equine industry. The Committee urges CSREES to work with public educational institutions in the state to form partnerships that could address the research, educational and outreach needs of the industry in the state.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

2007 appropriation	$75,193,000
2008 budget estimate	82,544,000
Provided in the bill	79,282,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+4,089,000
2008 budget estimate	−3,262,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Economic Research Service, the Committee provides an appropriation of $79,282,000, an increase of $4,089,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $3,262,000 below the budget request.

The Committee recommendation includes an increase of $1,000,000, as requested, to strengthen research and modeling capacity in bio-energy and the market impacts associated with bio-energy development.

In addition the Committee recommends an increase of $1,500,000 to strengthen and enhance the ERS market analysis and outlook

program and analysis of global and differentiated product markets. The impact of agriculture production in this rapidly changing economic environment on rural economic development is of great interest and concern to the Committee.

The Committee recommendation also includes an increase of $250,000 to research deployment of broadband service to households with no or limited broadband access. The Committee held a hearing with the Economic Research Service on the current state of rural development and on the sources of rural community growth. The importance of communities having broadband access was stressed repeatedly during the hearing. The Committee expects ERS to study the economic impact of not having broadband service on rural communities and their growth, community facilities, access to healthcare, and well being.

The Committee provides $500,000, the same as the fiscal year 2007 level, for the continuation of the organic data surveys, the compilation of non-survey data on organic production and marketing, the merger and reconciliation with any new survey information, analysis that reveals patterns, similarities and differences from comparisons among organic, other differentiated markets, and bulk or homogeneous product markets, and the development of policy relevant findings from a full portfolio of data and information.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

2007 appropriation	$147,253,000
2008 budget estimate	167,699,000
Provided in the bill	166,099,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+18,846,000
2008 budget estimate	−1,600,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the Committee provides an appropriation of $166,099,000, an increase of $18,846,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $1,600,000 below the budget request.

Included in this amount is $52,725,000 for the Census of Agriculture, an increase of $16,476,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $1,600,000 below the budget request. The Census of Agriculture collects and provides comprehensive data on all aspects of the agricultural economy. Also included in this amount is $113,374,000 for the Agricultural Estimates, an increase of $2,370,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and the same as the budget request.

The Committee notes the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) has developed additional organic data surveys based on the 2002 Census of Agriculture and is expanding organic data collection in the 2007 Census of Agriculture. The Committee encourages the NASS to conduct in fiscal year 2009 an organic follow-on survey to the 2007 Census of Agriculture in order to collect more in-depth information on acreage, yield/production, inventory, production practices, sales and expenses, marketing channels and demographics.

The Committee directs NASS to provide a report by February 28, 2008, on implementation of Section 7407 of the 2002 Farm Bill and a summary of funds requested in the fiscal year 2009 President's request to implement Section 7407 and to conduct an organic follow-on survey.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

2007 appropriation	$1,128,944,000
2008 budget estimate	1,021,517,000
Provided in the bill	1,076,340,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	−52,604,000
2008 budget estimate	+54,823,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Salaries and Expenses of the Agricultural Research Service, the Committee provides an appropriation of $1,076,340,000, a decrease of $52,604,000 below the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and an increase of $54,823,000 above the budget request.

In addition to pay costs, the Committee provides an increase of $10,000,000 for renewable energy resources research; $1,750,000 for specialty crop genetic resources research; $400,000 for organic production systems research; $3,000,000 for food safety research; $3,000,000 for food allergen research; $2,000,000 for support of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service mission with respect to animal disease; $1,000,000 for support of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service mission with respect to plant disease; $6,500,000 for obesity research; and $5,000,000 for high priority research as determined by the Administrator.

The devastating phenomenon that has affected bees, referred to as colony collapse disorder (CCD), is seriously affecting the ability of U.S. beekeepers to maintain adequate bee supplies that are essential for the production of honey and for pollination. Pollination is responsible for an estimated $15 billion in added crop value, particularly for specialty crops such as almonds and other nuts, berries, fruits, and vegetables. The Committee understands that the ARS is conducting federal research to attempt to identify the cause or causes of CCD. The Committee notes that ARS is spending approximately $7,674,600 on bee research in fiscal year 2007, and strongly encourages the agency to maintain this funding level for this vital program in fiscal year 2008.

Plum Island Animal Disease Center.—The Committee directs that none of the funds appropriated to the Agricultural Research Service for the Advanced Animal Vaccine Project at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center may be directed for any other use by the Department of Homeland Security.

Nutrition research.—The Committee recognizes the importance of plant genetic and nutrition research as it relates to finding solutions for America's obesity concerns. The North Carolina Research Campus in Kannapolis, North Carolina, will co-locate two important groups of scientists from the University of North Carolina (UNC) School System that would combine expertise in agricultural genetics and production with nutrition scientists. The Committee

encourages the USDA/ARS to work with the UNC system to establish a public/private partnership at the Kannapolis research campus and to look for new ways to address current and future health concerns.

Continuing Programs.—The Committee recognizes the importance of ongoing research projects in addressing problems faced by the Nation's food and fiber producers. In this regard, the Committee directs the Agricultural Research Service to continue to fund the following areas of research at the fiscal year 2007 funding levels: Aerial Application Research, College Station, TX, $584,089; Animal Health Consortium, Peoria, IL, $879,430; Animal Vaccines, Greenport, NY, $1,627,698; Appalachian Horticulture Research (U of TN/TN State), Poplarville, MS, $784,244; Aquaculture Fisheries Center, Pine Bluff, AR, $72,552; Aquaculture Initiatives for Mid-Atlantic Highlands, Leetown, WV, $543,639; Aquaculture Initiatives, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, Stuttgart, AR, $1,713,477; Aquaculture Research, Aberdeen, ID; $628,843; Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi (Rodale Inst.), Wyndmoor, PA, $45,176; Arkansas Children's Nutrition Center, Little Rock, AR, $584,911; Avian Pneumovirus/Asian Bird Influenza, Athens, GA, $291,926; Barley Health Food Benefits, Beltsville, MD, $477,009; Bee Research, Weslaco, TX, $244,077; Biomass Crop Production, Brookings, SD, $1,213,174; Biomedical Materials in Plants, Biotech Foundation, Beltsville, MD, $1,821,298; Biomineral Soil Amendments for Control of Nematode, Beltsville, MD, $390,101; Bioremediation Research, Beltsville, MD, $118,800; Biotechnology Research Development Corporation, Peoria, IL, $2,684,737; Bovine Genetics, Beltsville, MD, $1,913,866; Broomweed Biological Controls, Albany, CA, $444,820; Catfish Genome, Auburn, AL, $878,046; Center for Agroforestry, Booneville, AR, $707,706; Central Great Plains Research Station, Akron, CO, $534,073; Cereal Crops Research, Madison, WI, $902,338; Cereal Disease, St. Paul, MN, $310,971; Chronic Diseases of Children, Houston, TX, $496,677; Citrus Waste Utilization, Winter Haven, FL, $392,832; Coffee and Cocoa, Beltsville, MD, $852,966; Corn Germplasm, Ames, IA, $851,946; Corn Rootworm, Ames, IA, $490,354; Cotton Pathology, Shafter, CA, $361,805; Crop Production and Food Processing, Peoria, IL, $843,393; Cropping Systems Research, Stoneville, MS, $848,761; Dairy Genetics, Beltsville, MD, $929,945; Dale Bumpers Small Farms Research Center, Booneville, AR, $1,935,612; Delta Nutrition Initiative, Little Rock, AR, $4,222,502; Diet and Immune Function, Little Rock, AR, $234,910; Diet Nutrition and Obesity Research (Pennington), New Orleans, LA, $668,570; Dryland Production, Akron, CO, $234,910; Endophyte Research, Booneville, AR, $1,066,411; Floriculture and Nursery Crops, Beltsville, MD, $2,476,226; Food Fermentation Research, Raleigh, NC, $361,805; Food Safety for Listeria and E Coli, College Station, TX, $81,356; Food Safety for Listeria, E coli, and other Food Pathogens, Beltsville, MD, $134,339; Food Safety for Meat and Produce, Beltsville, MD, $260,487; Formosan Subterranean Termite, New Orleans, LA, $3,743,014; Foundry Sand By-Products Utilization, Beltsville, MD, $685,412; Grand Forks Human Nutrition Research Laboratory, Grand Forks, ND, $579,739; Grape Genetics, Geneva, NY, $628,843; Grape Rootstock, Geneva, NY,

$573,689; Grassland Soil and Water Research, Temple, TX, $219,665; Greenhouse and Hydroponics Research, Wooster, OH, $1,555,357; Greenhouse Lettuce Germplasm, Salinas, CA, $223,573; Harry K. Dupree National Aquaculture Research Center, Stuttgart, AR, $438,598; Hops Research, Corvallis, OR, $464,258; Human Nutrition (Equipment), Boston, MA, $98,208; Human Nutrition (Obesity), Boston, MA, $730,401; Improved Crop Production Practices, Auburn, AL, $1,387,021; Invasive Aquatic Weeds, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, $526,755; Invasive Ludwigia Research, Davis, CA, $99,000; Johne's Disease, Beltsville, MD, $323,313; Karnal bunt, Manhattan, KS, $545,010; Lyme Disease 4 Poster Project, Beltsville, MD (National Program), $751,205; Medicinal and Bioactive Crops, Washington, DC, $118,800; Mid-West/Mid-South Irrigation, Columbia, MO, $692,377; Minor-Use Pesticides (IR–4), Beltsville, MD, $73,038; Mosquito Trapping Research/West Nile Virus, Gainesville, FL, $1,238,482; National Center for Agricultural Law, MD, $701,034; National Germplasm Resources Program, Beltsville, MD, $145,491; National Germplasm Resources System, Beltsville, MD, $121,242; National Germplasm Resources, College Station, TX, $242,486; National Nutrition Monitoring System, Beltsville, MD, $484,969; National Plant Germplasm Program, Aberdeen, ID, $96,994; National Soil Dynamics Laboratory, Auburn, AL, $1,110,911; Natural Products for Human Health, Beltsville, MD, $237,600; Nematology Research, Tifton, GA, $248,376; Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory, Mandan, ND, $62,076; Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research, Corvallis, OR, $645,962; Oat Virus, West Lafayette, IN, $232,786; Obesity Interventions (Nutricore), Beltsville, MD (National Program), $90,684; Ogallala Aquifer, Bushland, TX, $3,758,197; Olive Fruit Fly, Montpelier, France, $213,386; Olive Fruit Fly, Parlier, CA, $301,252; Organic Minor Crop, Salinas, CA, $159,036; Peanut Production, Dawson, GA, $74,250; Peanut Research, Dawson, GA, $131,799; Peanut Variety, Stillwater, OK, $178,200; Pecan Scab Research, Byron, GA, $603,409; Phytoestrogen Research, New Orleans, LA, $1,529,821; Pierce's Disease/Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter, Parlier and Davis, CA, $3,354,863; Pierce's Disease/Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter, Ft. Pierce, FL, $465,631; Pineapple Nematode Research, Hilo, HI, $283,707; Plant Stress and Water Conservation Lab, Lubbock, TX, $1,560,554; Potato Breeding, Prosser, WA, $135,907; Potato Diseases, Beltsville, MD, $65,490; Potato Research Enhancement, Prosser, WA, $288,057; Poult Enteritis-Mortality Syndrome, Athens, GA, $145,903; Poultry Diseases, Athens, GA, $892,344; Poultry Diseases, Beltsville, MD, $438,066; Precision Agriculture Research, Mandan, ND, $484,969; Quantify basin water budget components in the Southwest, Tucson, AZ, $633,265; Rainbow Trout, Aberdeen, ID, $1,093,728; Red River Valley Agricultural Research Center—Canada Thistle Research, Fargo, ND, $263,597; Red River Valley Agricultural Research Center—Cereal Crops and Sunflower Research, Fargo, ND, $1,725,189; Red River Valley Agricultural Research Center—National Sclerotinia Initiative, Fargo, ND, $1,723,112; Red River Valley Agricultural Research Center—National Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative, Fargo, ND, $96,994; Red River Valley Agricultural Research Center—Regional Molecular Genotyping, Fargo, ND, $175,731; Red River Valley Agricultural

Research Center—Wheat Quality Research, Fargo, ND, $193,989; Regional Grains Genotyping, Raleigh, NC, $692,645; Regional Molecular Genotyping, Pullman, WA, $251,020; Residue Management in Sugarcane (Sugarcane Research), Houma, LA, $1,193,413; Rice research, Stuttgart, AR, $270,790; Seasonal Grazing, Coshocton, OH, $99,000; Seismic and Acoustic—Technologies in Soils Sedimentation Lab, Oxford, MS, $355,546; Shellfish Genetics Research, Newport, OR, $774,966; Sorghum Cold Tolerance, Lubbock, TX, $263,597; Sorghum Ergot Research, College Station, TX, $71,500; Sorghum Research, Bushland, TX, $483,576; Sorghum Research, Little Rock, AR, $145,491; Sorghum Research, Lubbock, TX, $974,190; Sorghum Research, Stillwater, OK, $290,982; Source Water Protection Initiatives, Columbus, OH, $750,121; Southeastern Fruit and Tree Nut Research, Byron, GA, $460,013; Southwest Pecan Research, College Station, TX, $232,786; Soybean and Nitrogen Fixation, Raleigh, NC, $408,589; Sudden Oak Disease, Davis, CA, $317,872; Sugarbeet Research, Kimberly, ID, $702,592; Sugarcane Variety Research, Canal Point, FL, $1,404,773; Sustainable Feeds, Aberdeen, ID, $99,000; Temperate Fruit Flies, Wapato, WA, $36,276; Termite Species in Hawaii, Gainesville, FL, $139,104; Tree Fruit Quality Research, Wenatchee, WA, $435,461; Tropical Aquaculture Feeds, Hilo, HI, $1,541,561; Turfgrass Research, Washington, DC, $476,911; U.S. Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center, Hilo, HI, $2,402,726; USNA Germplasm/Ornamental Horticulture, Washington, DC, $1,655,722; Vaccines and Microbe Control for Fish Health, Auburn, AL, $1,061,777; Vectorborne Diseases, Gainesville, FL, $219,665; Verticillium Wilt, Salinas, CA, $474,223; Viticulture, Corvallis, OR, $349,179; Water Management Research Laboratory, Brawley, CA, $339,789; Water Resources Management, Tifton, GA, $586,215; Water Use Management Technology, Tifton, GA, $340,828; Water Use Reduction, Dawson, GA, $704,635; Weed Management Research, Beltsville, MD, $263,597; Wheat Quality Research, Manhattan, KS, $420,028; Wheat Quality Research, Wooster, OH, $413,654; and Wild Rice, St. Paul, MN, $324,740.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

2007 appropriation	0
2008 budget estimate	$16,000,000
Provided in the bill	64,000,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+64,000,000
2008 budget estimate	+48,000,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Agricultural Research Service, Buildings and Facilities, the Committee provides an appropriation of $64,000,000, an increase of $64,000,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2007, and an increase of $48,000,000 above the budget request.

Of the total provided, the Committee includes funding for the following: Animal Bioscience Facility, Bozeman, MT, $2,690,000; Center for Advanced Viticulture and Tree Crop Research, Davis, CA, $2,690,000; Center for Grape Genetics, Geneva, NY, $2,690,000; Center of Excellence for Vaccine Research, Storrs, CT, $2,690,000; National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research, Peoria, IL,

$2,690,000; Southeastern Poultry Research Laboratory, Athens, GA, $4,000,000; U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, DC, $1,000,000; University of Toledo Greenhouse and Hydroponic Research Complex, Toledo, OH, $2,690,000; US Agricultural Research Facility, Knipling-Bushland Laboratory, Kerrville, TX, $2,000,000; US Agricultural Research Service Laboratory, Canal Point, FL, $750,000; US Agricultural Research Service Laboratory, Pullman, WA, $2,690,000; US Agricultural Research Service Sugarcane Research Laboratory, Houma, LA, $2,690,000; and US Agricultural Research Station, Salinas, CA, $2,690,000.

COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE

The budget request for the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) programs totals more than $1 billion. These programs give support to our universities and to rural communities and help address critical needs. However, the Committee believes that, given the growth in the number of authorized activities funded, there may be programs within CSREES that unnecessarily duplicate the work of other programs in CSREES and that there must be measures of the effectiveness of each program in achieving its goals. While CSREES does have a strategic plan, it does not specify how each program funded contributes to the agency's goals. The Committee requests that the Secretary provide a report by October 1, 2007, describing in clear, concrete terms, what has been achieved in the past and what would be achieved in the future for each activity for which the administration sought funding in the fiscal year 2008 budget.

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

2007 appropriation	$671,419,000
2008 budget estimate	562,518,000
Provided in the bill	671,419,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	– – –
2008 budget estimate	+108,901,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Research and Education Activities, the Committee provides an appropriation of $671,419,000, the same as the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and an increase of $108,901,000 above the budget request.

For payments under the Hatch Act, the Committee provides an appropriation of $195,817,000, a decrease of $126,780,000 below the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and an increase of $31,387,000 above the budget request.

For cooperative forestry research, the Committee provides an appropriation of $23,318,000, a decrease of $6,690,000 below the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and an increase of $2,831,000 above the budget request.

For the Evans-Allen Program, the Committee provides an appropriation of $42,000,000, an increase of $1,320,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and an increase of $3,669,000 above the budget request.

For the National Research Initiative, the Committee provides an appropriation of $190,229,000, the same amount as available in fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $66,271,000 below the budget request. The Committee directs the Secretary to provide the requested increase for bioenergy and biobased fuels research within the funds provided.

For Hispanic Education Partnership Grants, the Committee provides an appropriation of $6,237,000, an increase of $297,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2007 and an increase of $649,000 above the budget request.

For the Veterinary Medical Services Act, the Committee provides an appropriation of $1,000,000, an increase of $505,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and an increase of $1,000,000 above the budget request.

Food safety.—The Committee recognizes the contributions that the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD) has made toward ensuring the security of the nation's food supply. The Committee is concerned that, although USDA is fully aware of the public reliance on the database and its importance in maintaining food safety, it has continued to rely on Congress to earmark funds for the initiative, neither requesting funding in its annual budget submission nor providing another source for this information, which relates directly to the department's core mission. The Committee directs USDA to report to the Committees on Appropriations in the House and Senate within 45 days of enactment on its long-term plans to maintain the critical function that FARAD has provided in protecting the U.S. livestock industry from accidental or deliberate contamination.

The following table reflects the amount provided by the Committee:

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
Research and Education Activities
(Dollars in Thousands)

	2007 enacted	2008 request	2008 Committee recomm.
Hatch Act	$322,597	$164,430	$195,817
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry	30,008	20,487	23,318
Evans-Allen Program (1890 Colleges and Tuskegee University)	40,680	38,331	42,000
National Research Initiative	190,229	256,500	190,229
Special Research Grants:			
Global Change/ Ultraviolet Radiation	0	2,425	2,162
Minor Use Animal Drugs	0	582	0
National Biological Impact Assessment Program (VA)	0	251	0
Other Special Research Grants	0	0	92,080
Improved Pest Control:			
Expert IPM Decision Support System	155	175	155
Integrated Pest Management	2,396	2,698	2,396
Minor Crop Pest Management (IR-4)	10,677	10,380	12,000
Pest Management Alternatives	1,422	1,603	1,422
Total, Improved Pest Control	14,650	14,856	15,973
Total, Special Research Grants	14,650	18,114	110,215
Animal Health and Disease (Sec. 1433)	5,006	0	5,006
1994 Institutions Research Program	1,544	1,067	1,544
Joe Skeen Institute for Rangeland Restoration (NM,TX,MT)	990	0	0
Graduate Fellowship Grants	3,701	4,455	3,701
Institution Challenge Grants	5,423	5,445	5,423
Multicultural Scholars Program	988	988	988
Hispanic Education Partnership Grants	5,940	5,588	6,237
Secondary/2-year Post-secondary	990	990	990
Capacity Building Grants (1890 Institutions)	12,375	12,375	15,000
Payments to the 1994 Institutions (Tribal Colleges)	3,342	2,227	3,342
Alaska Native-serving and Native Hawaiian-serving Education Grants	3,218	2,967	3,218
Resident Instruction Grants for Insular Areas	495	495	1,000
Veterinary Medical Services Act	495	0	1,000
Higher Education Agrosecurity Program	0	5,000	0
Subtotal	642,671	539,459	609,028

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
Research and Education Activities
(Dollars in Thousands)

	2007 enacted	2008 request	2008 Committee recomm.
Federal Administration:			
Data Information System (REEIS)	2,561	2,723	2,723
Electronic Grants Administration System	2,030	2,151	2,151
Office of Extramural Programs (Grants)	419	443	443
Pay Costs and FERS	4,961	4,248	4,248
Peer Panels	307	400	400
Other Federal Administration	0	0	34,470
Total, Federal Administration	10,278	9,965	44,435
Other:			
Alternative Crops	1,175	0	0
Aquaculture Centers (Sec. 1475)	3,928	3,956	3,956
Critical Agricultural Materials Act	1,091	0	0
Sustainable Agriculture	12,276	9,138	14,000
Total, Other	18,470	13,094	17,956
Total, Research and Education Activities	671,419	562,518	671,419

The Committee recommendation includes funding for other Special Research Grants as follows:

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
Research and Education Activities
Other Special Research Grants
(Dollars in Thousands)

Aegilops Cylindrica (Jointed Goatgrass) (WA, ID)	$351
Agricultural Diversification (HI)	219
Agricultural Diversity/Red River Corridor (MN, ND)	500
Agriculture Science (OH)	547
Agroecology (MD)	402
Air Quality (TX, KS)	1,558
Alternative Uses for Tobacco (MD)	400
Animal Disease Research (WY)	347
Animal Science Food Safety Consortium (AR, KS, IA)	1,418
Apple Fire Blight (MI, NY)	495
Aquaculture (FL, CA, TX)	594
Aquaculture (WA, ID)	756
Aquaculture (LA)	326
Aquaculture (NC)	322
Aquaculture (VA)	198
Armilliaria Root Rot (MI)	149
Asparagus Technology and Production (WA)	246
Avian Bioscience (DE)	99
Babcock Institute (WI)	594
Barley for Rural Development (MT, ID)	728
Beef Improvement Research (TX, MO)	990
Biomass-based Energy Research (OK, MS)	1,188
Biotechnology (NC)	284
Biotechnology Test Production (IA)	460
Bovine Tuberculosis (MI)	352
Brucellosis Vaccine (MT)	436
Chesapeake Bay Agroecology (MD)	311
Citrus Canker/Greening (FL)	1,740
Competitiveness of Agricultural Products (WA)	672
Computational Agriculture (NY)	237
Cool Season Legume Research (ID, WA, ND)	558
Cotton Insect Management (GA)	489
Cranberry/Blueberry (MA)	158
Cranberry/Blueberry Disease and Breeding (NJ)	644
Crop Integration and Production (SD)	297
Crop Pathogens (NC)	322
Dairy and Meat Goat Research (TX)	149
Dairy Farm Profitability (PA)	495

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
Research and Education Activities
Other Special Research Grants
(Dollars in Thousands)

Designing Foods for Health (TX)	1,980
Drought Mitigation (NE)	220
Efficient Irrigation (NM, TX)	1,658
Environmental Biotechnology (RI)	637
Environmental Research (NY)	369
Environmental Risk Factors/Cancer (NY)	215
Expanded Wheat Pasture (OK)	320
Feed Efficiency in Cattle (FL)	396
Feedstock Conversion (SD)	668
Fish and Shellfish Technologies (VA)	471
Floriculture (HI)	348
Food and Agriculture Policy Research Institute (IA, MO)	1,596
Food Marketing Policy Center (CT)	573
Food Safety (OK, ME)	546
Food Safety Research Consortium (NY)	990
Food Security (WA)	394
Food Systems Research Group (WI)	545
Forestry Research (AR)	456
Fruit and Vegetable Market Analysis (AZ, MO)	347
Future Foods (IL)	659
Geographic Information System	1,784
Grain Sorghum (KS, TX)	729
Grass Seed Cropping for Sustainable Agriculture (WA, OR, ID)	446
Human Nutrition (IA)	644
Human Nutrition (LA)	699
Human Nutrition (NY)	540
Hydroponic Production (OH)	177
Illinois-Missouri Alliance for Biotechnology	1,158
Improved Dairy Management Practices (PA)	348
Improved Fruit Practices (MI)	210
Increasing Shelf Life of Agricultural Commodities (ID)	854
Infectious Disease Research (CO)	809
Initiative to Improve Blueberry Production and Efficiency (GA)	300
Institute for Food Science and Engineering (AR)	1,108
Institute of Agriculture-Phytosensors for Crop Security (TN)	250
Integrated Fruit and Vegetable Research (GA)	253
Integrated Production Systems (OK)	252
International Arid Lands Consortium (AZ)	573

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
Research and Education Activities
Other Special Research Grants
(Dollars in Thousands)

Livestock and Dairy Policy (NY, TX)	990
Livestock Genome Sequencing (IL)	807
Livestock Waste (IA)	263
Lowbush Blueberry Research (ME)	244
Meadow Foam (OR)	257
Michigan Biotechnology Consortium	549
Midwest Poultry Consortium (IA)	675
Milk Safety (PA)	780
Molluscan Shellfish (OR)	361
Multi-commodity Research (OR)	349
National Beef Cattle Genetic Evaluation Consortium (NY, CO, GA)	871
Organic Cropping (WA)	355
Organic Waste Utilization (NM)	92
Oyster Post Harvest Treatment (FL)	442
Peach Tree Disease (SC)	278
Perennial Wheat (WA)	140
Pest Control Alternatives (SC)	282
Phytophthora Research (GA)	255
Phytophthora Research (MI)	495
Pierce's Disease (CA)	2,189
Potato Research	1,482
Preharvest Food Safety (KS)	200
Preservation and Processing Research (OK)	248
Protein Utilization (IA)	837
Regional Barley Gene Mapping Project (OR)	675
Regionalized Implications of Farm Programs (MO, TX)	851
Rice Agronomy (MO)	248
Ruminant Nutrition Consortium (MT, ND, SD, WY)	489
Rural Development Centers (LA, ND)	150
Rural Policies Institute (NE, IA, MO)	1,193
Russian Wheat Aphid (CO)	303
Seafood Safety (MA)	453
Seed Technology (SD)	356
Small Fruit Research (OR, WA, ID)	439
Soil and Environmental Quality (DE)	292
Southwest Consortium for Plant Genetics and Water Resources (NM)	388
Soybean Cyst Nematode (MO)	794
Soybean Research (IL)	1,065

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
Research and Education Activities
Other Special Research Grants
(Dollars in Thousands)

STEEP III -- Water Quality in Northwest	634
Sudden Oak Death (CA)	97
Sustainable Agriculture (CA)	510
Sustainable Agriculture (MI)	380
Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources (PA)	188
Sustainable Beef Supply (MT)	974
Sustainable Engineered Materials from Renewable Sources (VA)	693
Swine and Other Animal Waste Management (NC)	484
Tick Borne Disease Prevention (RI)	149
Tillage, Silviculture, Waste Management (LA)	495
Tri-state Joint Peanut Research (AL)	585
Tropical Aquaculture (FL)	209
Tropical and Subtropical Research/T-Star	9,548
Uniform Farm Management Program (MN)	295
Virtual Plant Database Enhancement Project (MO)	698
Viticulture Consortium (NY, CA, PA)	2,079
Water Use Efficiency and Water Quality Enhancements (GA)	489
Wetland Plants (LA)	557
Wheat Genetic Research (KS)	341
Wine Grape Foundation Block (WA)	319
Wood Utilization (OR, MS, NC, MN, ME, MI, ID, TN, AK,WV)	6,371
Wool Research (TX, MT, WY)	295
Total, Other Special Research Grants	92,080

The Committee recommendation includes funding for other Federal Administration grants as follows:

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
Research and Education Activities
Other Federal Administration
(Dollars in Thousands)

Ag-based Industrial Lubricants (IA)	$544
Agriculture Development in the American Pacific	481
Agriculture Water Policy (GA)	882
Alternative Fuels Characterization Laboratory (ND)	279
Animal Waste Management (OK)	392
Applied Agriculture and Environmental Research (CA)	990
Aquaculture (OH)	891
Biodesign and Processing Research Center (VA)	941
Botanical Research (UT)	891
Center for Agricultural and Rural Development (IA)	589
Center for Food Industry Excellence (TX)	1,353
Center for Innovative Food Technology (OH)	1,134
Center for North American Studies (TX)	990
Climate Forecasting (FL)	3,566
Connecticut Oyster Fisheries	400
Cotton Research (TX)	2,475
Dietary Intervention (OH)	1,238
Greenhouse Nurseries (OH)	719
High Value Horticultural Crops (VA)	718
Mariculture (NC)	314
Monitoring Agricultural Sewage Sludge Application (OH)	1,200
NE Center for Invasive Plants (CT, VT, ME)	421
Pasteurization of Shell Eggs (MI)	1,337
Phytoremediation Plant Research (OH)	771
PM-10 Study (WA)	383
Precision Agriculture, Tennessee Valley Research Center (AL)	593
Shrimp Aquaculture (AZ, HI, MS, MA, SC, LA, TX)	4,158
Sustainable Agricultural Freshwater Conservation (TX)	2,050
Vitis Gene Discovery (MO)	602
Water Quality (ND)	495
Wetland Plants (WV)	198
University of Wisconsin -Stevens Point Geographic Information System	2,475
Total, Other Federal Administration	34,470

NATIVE AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS ENDOWMENT FUND

2007 appropriation	$12,000,000
2008 budget estimate	11,880,000
Provided in the bill	11,880,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	−120,000
2008 budget estimate	−−−

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Native American Institutions Endowment Fund, the Committee provides $11,880,000, a decrease of $120,000 below the amount available in fiscal year 2007 and the same as the budget request.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

2007 appropriation	$450,346,000
2008 budget estimate	431,125,000
Provided in the bill	463,886,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+13,540,000
2008 budget estimate	+32,761,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Extension Activities, the Committee provides an appropriation of $463,886,000, an increase of $13,540,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and an increase of $32,761,000 above the budget request.

The following table reflects the amount provided by the Committee:

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
Extension Activities
(Dollars in Thousands)

	2007 enacted	2008 request	2008 Committee recomm.
Smith-Lever Sections 3(b) and 3(c)	$285,565	$273,181	$281,429
Smith-Lever Section 3(d):			
Farm Safety	4,517	0	5,000
Food and Nutrition Education (EFNEP)	63,538	62,280	68,500
Indian Reservation Agents/Federally-recognized Tribes Extension	3,000	2,970	3,000
New Technologies for Ag Extension	1,485	2,970	1,485
Pest Management	9,860	10,651	9,860
Sustainable Agriculture	4,026	3,754	4,200
Youth at Risk	7,651	8,396	8,396
Youth Farm Safety Education and Certification	440	494	494
Total Section 3(d) Programs	94,517	91,515	100,935
1890 Colleges and Tuskegee	35,205	34,073	37,000
1890 Facilities Grants (Sec. 1447)	16,777	16,609	18,000
Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA)	4,019	4,052	4,052
Rural Health and Safety Education	1,946	0	0
Extension Services at the 1994 Institutions	3,321	3,240	3,321
Grants to Youth Organizations	1,980	0	1,980
Subtotal	443,330	422,670	446,717
Federal Administration and Special Grants:			
Ag in the Classroom	0	742	742
General Administration	7,016	7,713	7,713
Other Federal Administration	0	0	8,714
Total, Federal Administration	7,016	8,455	17,169
Total, Extension Activities	450,346	431,125	463,886

The Committee recommendation includes funding for other Federal Administration grants as follows:

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
Extension Activities
Other Federal Administration
(Dollars in Thousands)

Dairy Education (IA)	$227
Diabetes Detection, Prevention (WA)	1,082
E-commerce (MS)	328
Efficient Irrigation (NM, TX)	2,302
Entrepreneurial Alternatives (PA)	330
Income Enhancement Demonstration (OH)	1,235
National Wild Turkey Federation	232
Nursery Production (RI)	292
Pilot Technology Transfer (OK, MS)	297
Pilot Technology Transfer (WI)	248
Potato Pest Management (WI)	396
Red Cliff Tribal Hatchery (WI)	495
Wood Biomass as an Alternative Farm Product (NY)	186
Total Other Federal Administration	7,650

INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES

2007 appropriation	$55,234,000
2008 budget estimate	20,120,000
Provided in the bill	57,244,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+2,010,000
2008 budget estimate	+37,124,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Integrated Activities, the Committee provides an appropriation of $57,244,000, an increase of $2,010,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and an increase of $37,124,000 above the budget request.

The following table reflects the amount provided by the Committee:

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
Integrated Activities
(Dollars in Thousands)

	2007 enacted	2008 request	2008 Committee recomm.
Section 406 Legislative Authority:			
Water Quality	$12,738	0	$12,738
Food Safety	14,699	0	14,699
Regional Pest Management Centers	4,125	0	4,125
Crops at Risk from FQPA Implementation	1,375	0	1,375
FQPA Risk Mitigation Program for Major Food Crop Systems	4,419	0	4,419
Methyl Bromide Transition Program	3,075	0	3,075
Organic Transition Program	1,855	0	1,855
Total, Section 406	42,286	0	42,286
International Science and Education Grants Program	990	$1,990	3,000
Critical Issues Program	737	2,475	737
Regional Rural Development Centers Program	1,321	1,378	1,321
Homeland Security, Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative	9,900	14,277	9,900
Total, Integrated Activities	55,234	20,120	57,244

OUTREACH FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS

2007 appropriation	$5,940,000
2008 budget estimate	6,930,000
Provided in the bill	6,930,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+990,000
2008 budget estimate	– – –

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Outreach for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Program, the Committee provides an appropriation of $6,930,000, an increase of $990,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and the same amount as the budget request.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS

2007 appropriation	$721,000
2008 budget estimate	792,000
Provided in the bill	759,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+38,000
2008 budget estimate	–33,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, the Committee provides an appropriation of $759,000, an increase of $38,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and $33,000 below the budget request.

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

2007 appropriation	$846,230,000
2008 budget estimate	945,550,000
Provided in the bill	874,643,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+28,413,000
2008 budget estimate	–70,907,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Salaries and Expenses, the Committee recommends an appropriation of $874,643,000, an increase of $28,413,000 above the amount appropriated in fiscal year 2007, and a decrease of $70,907,000 below the budget request.

The Committee is aware of the proposal for user fees in the President's budget, but does not recommend establishing such fees in annual appropriations acts and will consider such fees should they achieve authorization.

Audit recommendations not achieving management decision within 180 days.—The Committee has received from the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the record a list of audit reports where management decisions have not been achieved within 180 days. Included on the list were four audit reports for APHIS, with a number of open recommendations. The Committee supports OIG in its

efforts to reach agreement within 180 days and directs APHIS to send the Committee a report by October 1, 2007 with a plan for reaching management decision on all outstanding issues.

International Activities.—The Committee recommendation does not include additional funding for international activities. According to APHIS budget documents, in fiscal year 2006, the agency had 143 staff years and spent almost $67,000,000 in over 23 overseas locations. For fiscal year 2008, APHIS has requested an additional 48 staff years and an increase of $8,775,000 for three different programs to establish new overseas offices or add to current offices. This would bring the budget for international activities to almost $76,000,000.

While the Committee appreciates APHIS' work in helping resolve unfair trade barriers, it is not clear what is being accomplished by the various APHIS programs with this significant amount of money. Along with the budget submission for fiscal year 2009, APHIS should submit to the Committee a comprehensive strategic plan for its international activities. The plan should include details of current activities, locations of where they are conducted, number of people, amount of money, and results being achieved. In addition, the plan should include long-term goals, strategies on how to reach these goals, justifications for each program, location, and resource requirement (both short-term and long-term).

The following table reflects the amounts provided by the Committee:

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
[In Thousands of Dollars]

Program	FY 2007 enacted	FY 2008 request *	FY 2008 Committee recomm.
Pest and Disease Exclusion:			
Agricultural quarantine inspection	$27,531	$26,548	$27,531
Cattle ticks	7,653	9,674	8,916
Foreign animal diseases/FMD	8,695	13,306	8,837
Fruit fly exclusion and detection	59,723	69,734	60,616
Import-export inspection	11,697	11,771	11,771
Screwworm	27,753	29,721	28,589
Trade issues resolution management	12,505	14,841	12,680
Tropical bont tick	424	431	429
Total, Pest and Disease Exclusion	155,981	176,026	159,369
Plant and Animal Health Monitoring:			
Animal health monitoring & surveillance	143,211	154,822	117,878
Animal and plant health regulatory enforcement	10,396	12,728	12,728
Biosurveillance	1,991	2,541	2,001
Emergency management systems	13,623	21,611	15,834
High Pathogenic Avian Influenza	47,200	57,044	57,044
Pest detection	26,471	38,912	26,967
Select Agents	3,501	6,666	4,544
Wildlife Disease Monitoring and Surveillance	0	1,950	0
Total, Plant & Animal Health Monitoring	246,393	296,274	236,996
Pest and Disease Management:			
Aquaculture	1,255	1,274	1,269
Biological control	9,581	9,935	9,833
Boll weevil	38,619	a/	a/
Brucellosis	8,909	9,092	9,043
Chronic wasting disease	16,645	12,320	16,720
Cotton Pests	a/	16,098	36,269
Emerging plant pests	98,541	132,303	131,245
Golden nematode	807	830	824
Grasshopper and Mormon cricket	5,531	4,505	4,505
Gypsy moth	4,803	4,920	4,887
Imported fire ant	1,898	2,150	1,908
Johne's disease	12,080	3,266	7,706
Low pathogen avian influenza	13,721	16,800	16,800

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
[In Thousands of Dollars]

Program	FY 2007 enacted	FY 2008 request *	FY 2008 Committee recomm.
Noxious weeds	1,441	1,146	1,446
Pink bollworm	5,188	a/	a/
Plum pox	2,199	3,214	2,210
Pseudorabies	4,374	2,471	2,471
Scrapie	18,487	17,320	17,320
Tuberculosis	14,897	16,844	16,050
Wildlife services operations	74,852	76,950	76,950
Witchweed	1,515	1,526	1,523
Total, Pest and Disease Management	335,343	332,964	358,979
Animal Care:			
Animal welfare	17,473	21,126	21,126
Horse protection	497	496	496
Total, Animal Care	17,970	21,622	21,622
Scientific and Technical Services:			
Biosecurity	1,952	3,452	1,952
Information technology infrastructure	4,506	5,029	4,506
Biotechnology regulatory services	10,533	14,141	10,751
Environmental Compliance	2,645	2,712	2,693
Plant methods development labs	8,550	11,932	9,828
Veterinary biologics	15,658	19,867	17,569
Veterinary diagnostics	22,496	32,944	24,143
Wildlife services methods development	15,900	17,932	17,932
Total, Scientific and Technical Services	82,240	108,009	89,374
Contingency fund	4,113	4,163	4,113
Physical security	4,190	6,492	4,190
TOTAL, SALARIES AND EXPENSES	846,230	945,550	874,643

* As amended.

a/ The 2008 budget and the Committee recommendation combine the Boll Weevil and Pink Bollworm programs in a new line called Cotton Pests.

To maintain agency functions the Committee provides the requested amount for cost of living requirements.

Agricultural Quarantine Inspection.—The Committee includes an appropriation of $27,531,000 for this program, including $1,000,000 for interline activities in Hawaii.

Animal Health Monitoring and Surveillance.—The Committee recommendation includes an increase of $5,600,000 for APHIS for activities related to Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia. The recommendation continues funding for surveillance activities for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy.

The Committee directs that within the amount provided, $1,980,000 is provided for a cooperative agreement with the Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium. This project supports the national plan to establish an animal and livestock 48-hour traceback system. The Committee also provides $594,000 for the Farm Animal Identification and Records (FAIR) program. Both the Wisconsin consortium and the FAIR project should also be eligible to apply for cooperative agreement funding for animal identification, which is funded within the NAIS total. In addition, the Committee provides $297,000 for a database of North Carolina's agriculture industry for rapid response capabilities and $542,000 for the New Mexico Syndromic Validation Program to support early detection of pathogens in animals and prevent their spread. The Committee provides $371,000 for Iowa State University's work regarding risk assessments of genetically modified agricultural products.

Animal Identification.—Through fiscal year 2007, a total of about $117,800,000 has been provided for a National Animal Identification System (NAIS). As of June 30, 2007, APHIS had spent $94,400,000 to register about 28 percent of all premises; develop and maintain information technology; conduct outreach and education initiatives; and pay staff for developing and managing NAIS. Of the amount spent, $6,000,000 was made available to nonprofit livestock and poultry industry organizations to advance the development of NAIS through outreach and promotional efforts. In addition, $500,000 was spent on a third party study to clarify the costs and benefits of animal identification.

Until August 2005, the Department had stated that program data would be held centrally; however, the Secretary announced in August that data would be held by private entities that meet certain requirements. In addition, after some signals from the Secretary that participation would be mandatory, the program is now voluntary. The NAIS implementation plan released in the spring of 2006 included a timeline that called for the NAIS to be operational by 2007 and fully implemented by 2009. However, in November 2006, APHIS released a Draft User Guide for NAIS, which states that the goal of premises registration is "to establish a complete record of all locations, or premises, in the United States that manage or hold livestock and/or poultry". According to USDA, because the program is voluntary and the goal can only be reached if producers choose to participate, a date is not specified as to when the goal is expected to be achieved. In addition, it is not clear if the program's original goal of 48-hour animal trace-back is still part of the plan.

The Committee requests a complete and detailed strategic plan for the program, including tangible outcomes, measurable goals, specific milestones, and necessary resources for the entire program. Until the Committee receives this plan, the Committee has no justification to continue funding for this program and therefore, the Committee recommendation includes no new funding.

Animal and Plant Health Regulatory Enforcement.—In addition to pay costs, the Committee recommendation includes an increase of $2,042,000 as requested for additional field investigators to ensure compliance with border and animal care regulations.

Emergency Management Systems.—In addition to pay costs, the Committee recommendation includes an increase of $2,000,000, of which $1,000,000 is for animal care in emergencies and $1,000,000 for the vaccine stockpile.

High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).—In addition to pay costs, the Committee recommendation includes an increase of $9,530,000 as requested for domestic and international surveillance, including live bird markets and wildlife. Since 2006, $118,700,000 has been provided to APHIS for HPAI work. The Committee requests a report by November 1, 2007, on how these funds have been spent.

Pest Detection.—The Committee recommendation provides $26,967,000 for this program. Within that amount, the Committee provides $831,000 in funding to continue a cooperative agreement with the California County Pest Detection Augmentation Program.

Select Agents.—In addition to pay costs, the Committee recommendation includes an increase of $1,000,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2007 to continue addressing issues raised by the Office of Inspector General.

Brucellosis.—The Committee recommendation includes $9,043,000 for this program. Within this amount, the Committee provides $900,000 for the Greater Yellowstone Interagency Brucellosis Committee to eliminate brucellosis from wildlife in the Greater Yellowstone area.

Chronic Wasting Disease.—The Committee recommendation includes $16,720,000 for this program. Within this amount, the Committee directs that $1,732,000 shall go to the State of Wisconsin.

Cotton Pests.—The Committee recommendation includes the consolidation of the Boll Weevil and Pink Bollworm line items into a new Cotton Pests program, as requested. The total provided is $36,269,000, to address boll weevil, pink bollworm, and other cotton pests or diseases. This amount is $20,171,000 above the budget request.

Emerging Plant Pests.—The Committee expects the Secretary of Agriculture to continue to use the authority provided in this bill to transfer funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) for the arrest and eradication of animal and plant pests and diseases that threaten American agriculture. By providing funds in this account, the Committee is enhancing, but not replacing, the use of CCC funding for emergency outbreaks.

For emerging plant pests, the Committee includes $131,245,000, an increase of $32,704,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2007. The Committee provides the following increased amounts for eradication and control activities: $20,007,000 for

Asian Long-horned Beetle; $36,709,000 for citrus pests and diseases; $24,175,000 for Glassy-winged Sharpshooter/Pierce's Disease; $6,750,000 for Potato Cyst Nematode; $30,657,000 for Emerald Ash Borer; $6,540,000 for Sudden Oak Death; $2,764,000 for Karnal Bunt; and $3,643,000 for other miscellaneous pests and diseases.

The Committee is concerned about the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer. The Committee recommendation more than doubles the amount available in 2007 to help States with new outbreaks, such as Maryland, and States that are at risk, such as Wisconsin. While the Committee is encouraged that APHIS may have a new and less costly survey tool to use in 2008, the Committee requests that APHIS submits a plan by September 30, 2007, on how resources available in 2008 will be spent and where activities will be conducted.

The Committee provides $495,000 for hydrilla eradication around Lake Gaston in Virginia, and expects APHIS to monitor the effectiveness of hydrilla eradication around Smith Mountain Lake in Virginia. The Committee also provides $312,000 for olive fruit fly activities in California.

The Committee encourages the Secretary to transfer funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to ensure adequate funding is made available for the eradication of potato cyst nematode in Idaho.

Gypsy Moth.—The Committee recommendation includes $4,887,000 for this program. The Committee encourages APHIS to help eradicate gypsy moth in New Jersey and Maryland.

Johne's Disease.—The Committee recommendation provides a total of $7,706,000, an increase of $4,440,000 above the budget request to maintain the current Federal share of total program costs.

Low Pathogen Avian Influenza.—The Committee recommendation provides a total of $16,800,000 as requested in the budget. This is an increase of $3,079,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2007. Funds are provided for work with the live bird marketing system, the commercial industry and National Poultry Improvement Plan, and the National Veterinary Services Laboratories.

Within the total, the Committee provides $1,000,000 to the State of Connecticut for purposes related to indemnification and education for AI vaccinations. The Committee recognizes that the traditional response to a low pathogen avian influenza (LPAI) outbreak on a poultry farm is the depopulation of the affected livestock, and that the USDA provides financial assistance through an emergency indemnification program to cover the cost of depopulation. The Committee is concerned that this approach is costly and ineffective and encourages the state to use the funds to study the costs and benefits of alternative methods for responding to an outbreak on poultry farms, including vaccinations.

In addition, $12,000,000 for indemnities, which was provided in fiscal year 2005, remains available to the program.

Noxious Weeds.—The Committee recommendation includes $1,446,000 for this program. Within this amount, the Committee provides $250,000 for the Nez Perce Bio-Control Center and $296,000 for the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.

Tuberculosis.—In addition to pay costs, the Committee recommendation includes an increase of $1,000,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2007 for work at major slaughter plants.

Wildlife Services Operations.—The Committee recommendation provides a total of $76,950,000 as requested in the budget. The Committee rejects APHIS's proposal to redirect funds within this line item.

The recommendation assumes the continuation of current cost share levels for cooperators. The Committee directs that, other than funding for the specific items noted in this report, the funds provided in the Wildlife Services Operations line item are available for general operations needs.

The Committee continues the fiscal year 2007 funding level for aviation safety. Within the Aviation Safety activities, the Committee encourages APHIS to expand research work into what can be done to deter birds from the increasing number of wind turbine generators around the nation.

The Committee continues to provide $1,039,000 for wolf predation management in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan.

The Committee provides funding for the following projects: $297,000 for Beaver management in North Carolina; $296,500 for crop and aquaculture losses in southeast Missouri; $200,000 for predation wildlife services in Virginia; $134,000 for blackbird control in Louisiana; $1,300,000 for predator control programs in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming; $940,000 for brown tree snake management in Guam; $400,000 for Hawaii and Guam operations; $990,000 for cormorant control in New York; $200,000 for the Cooperative Livestock Protection Program in the State of Pennsylvania; $533,000 for beaver management control in Mississippi; and $1,818,000 for surveillance in North Dakota.

The Committee expects APHIS to use program funding to appropriately address rabies in Broward County, Florida. The Committee expects APHIS to continue monitoring Ohio and Michigan for cormorant control. The Committee also expects APHIS to continue funding wildlife services in Arkansas at the fiscal year 2007 level. The Committee encourages APHIS to help resolve the damage and disease issues caused by non-native patas and rhesus monkeys in Puerto Rico.

Animal Welfare.—In addition to pay costs, the Committee recommendation includes an increase of $3,170,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2007 as requested. A total of $21,126,000 is provided for additional inspectors to further improve Animal Welfare Act enforcement. This responds to Animal Care's significantly increased workload as a result of rapid growth in the number of new licensees and registrants.

Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS).—The Committee is concerned with the gaps in oversight by USDA in this area. In December 2005, a report from the Office of Inspector General (OIG) identified numerous holes in APHIS' regulatory efforts for genetically-engineered crops. APHIS should proceed carefully to ensure the safe development and use of genetically-engineered organisms. The Committee understands that the Office of Inspector General is finalizing an audit on this program and expects APHIS to address all concerns before additional funding can be provided.

Plant Methods Development Labs.—In addition to pay costs, the Committee recommendation includes an increase of $1,000,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2007 to support the development of detection and control tools to contain and eradicate the emerald ash borer.

Veterinary Biologics.—In addition to pay costs, the Committee recommendation includes an increase of $1,413,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2007. Of this amount, $1,000,000 is for meeting increased demands for veterinary biologics applications, and $413,000 is for addressing containment requirements and meeting standards related to the use of select agents and toxins.

Veterinary Diagnostics.—In addition to pay costs, the Committee recommendation includes an increase of $1,000,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2007 for highest priority needs.

Within the total for Veterinary Diagnostics, funding is provided for the following projects: $371,000 is provided for the Agricultural Biosecurity Center at Kansas State University; $100,000 for Agricultural Compliance Laboratory equipment in Delaware; and $100,000 for aquaculture monitoring technology at Kentucky State University.

Wildlife Services Methods Development.—In addition to pay costs, the Committee recommendation includes an increase of $1,625,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2007 as requested for the avian influenza initiative to study the virus in swine.

Within the total provided, $415,000 is included for the National Wildlife Research Station in Kingsville, Texas, to address emerging infectious disease issues associated with wildlife populations.

The Committee also includes $231,000 to continue the cooperative agreement between the Hawaii Agricultural Research Center and the National Wildlife Research Center in Hilo.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

2007 appropriation	$4,946,000
2008 budget estimate	8,931,000
Provided in the bill	4,946,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	– – –
2008 budget estimate	– 3,985,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Buildings and Facilities, the Committee provides an appropriation of $4,946,000, the same as the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $3,985,000 below the budget request.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

MARKETING SERVICES

2007 appropriation	$74,937,000
2008 budget estimate	74,988,000
Provided in the bill	79,945,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+5,008,000
2008 budget estimate	+4,957,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Marketing Services of the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Committee provides an appropriation of $79,945,000, an increase of $5,008,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and an increase of $4,957,000 above the budget request.

The Committee recommendation includes $1,897,000 for pay costs as requested. The recommendation also includes an increase of $1,111,000 as requested for activities relating to Organic Standards for a total of $3,180,000. The Committee encourages the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to continue working with the Risk Management Agency to collect organic price data.

Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL).—The Committee recommendation includes an increase of $2,000,000 for AMS to implement COOL requirements for all covered commodities. The Committee understands that AMS is finishing the rule for fish and shellfish and is drafting a rule for all other covered commodities.

The Committee notes that AMS recently issued notices re-opening the comment period for 60 days for the proposed rule on all covered commodities, except fish and shellfish, and the interim final rule on fish and shellfish covered commodities. The Committee directs AMS to meet the following timeline:

January 17, 2008: Publish re-proposed rule for covered commodities with a 60-day comment period.

July 19, 2008: Publish final rule for all covered commodities.

July 26, 2008: Initiate Congressional review for final rule for all covered commodities.

September 30, 2008: Effective date for final rule for all covered commodities.

A report should be sent to the Committee a week after each date outlining the status of each milestone, the reason the deadline was not met if appropriate, and a plan on how AMS will meet the September 30, 2008 deadline.

Microbiological Data Program (MDP).—The Committee recommendation does not include the proposed termination of MDP. It is continued at $6,200,000. In its proposal to terminate the program, AMS argued that it was difficult to determine the usefulness of the data. The Committee would like to work with AMS to implement this program as originally intended. A report should be submitted to the Committee by November 1, 2007, outlining what AMS thinks are obstacles to meeting program goals and solutions to those obstacles. The report should also include recommendations on how this program can help the Food and Drug Administration in reducing foodborne illness incidences.

Audit-Based Programs.—The Committee is very interested in AMS' user-fee funded, voluntary programs that apply Good Manufacturing Practices, issued by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), to the management of production and handling systems for fresh-cut fruit and vegetables. The Committee urges AMS to develop an aggressive marketing plan to increase participation in these programs. In addition, it is not clear if the audit results are used by FDA to complement their food safety activities. The Committee requests a report from AMS by January 15, 2008, outlining

a marketing campaign to enhance participation in these audit-based programs and a plan to provide useful information to FDA.

National Organic Program.—The Committee recommendation includes $3,180,000 as requested for the National Organic Program. This represents an increase of almost 60 percent over the amount available in 2007.

The Committee continues to provide $1,000,000 in this account for the Farmers' Market Promotion Program to make grants to eligible entities for projects to establish, expand, and promote farmers' markets. The Committee directs that no entity should receive more than $75,000 in funding from the program, and requests a report on the grants made, including the entity, purpose, and location, and the administrative costs of the program by March 31, 2008.

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

2007 limitation	($62,211,000)
2008 budget limitation	(61,233,000)
Provided in the bill	(61,233,000)
Comparison:	
2007 limitation	−978,000
2008 budget limitation	− − −

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For a Limitation on Administrative Expenses of the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Committee provides $61,233,000, a decrease of $978,000 below the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and the same as the budget request.

FUNDS FOR STRENGTHENING MARKETS, INCOME, AND SUPPLY

(SECTION 32)

MARKETING AGREEMENT AND ORDERS

2007 appropriation [1]	($16,425,000)
2008 budget estimate [1]	(16,798,000)
Provided in the bill [1]	(16,798,000)
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+373,000
2008 budget estimate	− − −

[1] Does not include $20,000,000 in funding for commodity system replacement.

The following table reflects the status of this fund for fiscal years 2006 through 2008:

ESTIMATED TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE
AND BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD
FISCAL YEARS 2006-2008

	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Estimate	FY 2008 Estimate
Appropriation (30% of Customs Receipts)	$6,481,777,400	$7,029,269,059	$7,563,683,777
Rescission	-37,601,000	-37,601,000	-147,000,000
Supplemental Appropriation			
Less Transfers:			
Food and Nutrition Service	-5,187,621,000	-5,731,073,000	-6,235,057,000
Commerce Department	-79,284,400	-82,817,059	-84,594,777
Total, Transfers	-5,266,905,400	-5,813,890,059	-6,319,651,777
Budget Authority	1,177,271,000	1,177,778,000	1,097,032,000
Unobligated Balance Available, Start of Year	286,159,865	146,760,123	262,399,000
Recoveries of Prior Year Obligations	60,039,191	100,000,000	0
Available for Obligation	1,523,470,056	1,424,538,123	1,359,431,000
Less Obligations:			
Commodity Procurement:			
Child Nutrition Programs (Entitlement Commodities)	463,792,156	465,000,000	465,000,000
12 Percent Commodity Floor Requirement	86,000,000	200,000,000	200,000,000
State Option Contract	0	5,000,000	5,000,000
Removal of Defective Commodities	0	1,000,000	1,000,000
Emergency Surplus Removal	81,010,295	65,114,820	0
Direct Payments	700,000,000	110,000,000	0
Disaster Relief	1,900,880	25,000,000	5,000,000
Estimated Future Needs	0	242,970,303	352,964,000
Total, Commodity Procurement	1,332,703,331	1,114,085,123	1,028,964,000
Administrative Funds:			
Commodity Purchase Support	28,865,511	31,629,000	31,856,000
Marketing Agreements and Orders	15,141,091	16,425,000	16,798,000
Total, Administrative Funds	44,006,602	48,054,000	48,654,000
Total Obligations	1,376,709,933	1,162,139,123	1,077,618,000
Unobligated Balance Available, End of Year	146,760,123	262,399,000	281,813,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Marketing Agreements and Orders Program, the Committee provides a transfer from section 32 funds of $16,798,000, an increase of $373,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and the same amount as the budget request.

The Committee provides not less than $20,000,000 in funding for the Web-based Supply Chain Management System (WBSCM) in this account.

The Committee reiterates its position that administrative expenses to support section 32 purposes are expressly allowed, and that purchase and maintenance of a computer system supporting commodity purchases is an authorized administrative expense. Development and maintenance of all previous computer systems to support commodity purchase, including the existing Processed Commodity Inventory Management System (PCIMS), have been funded through section 32.

PAYMENTS TO STATES AND POSSESSIONS

2007 appropriation	$1,334,000
2008 budget estimate	1,334,000
Provided in the bill	1,334,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	– – –
2008 budget estimate	– – –

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Payments to States and Possessions, the Committee provides an appropriation of $1,334,000, the same as the amount available for fiscal year 2007, and the same as the budget request.

GRAIN INSPECTION, PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

2007 appropriation	$37,785,000
2008 budget estimate	44,385,000
Provided in the bill	41,115,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+3,330,000
2008 budget estimate	−3,270,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA), the Committee provides $41,115,000, an increase of $3,330,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007, and a decrease of $3,270,000 below the budget request.

The Committee is aware of the proposal for user fees in the President's budget, but does not recommend establishing such fees in annual appropriations acts and will consider such fees should they achieve authorization.

The recommendation includes an increase of $2,000,000 for increased enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act. GIPSA shall submit to the Committee no later than September 30, 2007 a detailed spending plan for resources available for enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act, including the recommended increase.

The Committee is seriously concerned about GIPSA's lack of oversight in the past on companies it is charged with regulating. The Packers and Stockyards (P&S) arm of GIPSA is charged with ensuring competitive, fair livestock, meat, and poultry markets. However, according to the agency, GIPSA has never conducted a financial audit of the large packers and has traditionally relied on the companies' auditors to ensure reported information is in compliance with the law. In addition, following a review of the P&S program in 2005, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) found material weaknesses in the agency's ability to define and track investigations, plan and conduct investigations, and make policy, areas that are essential to GIPSA's ability to administer and enforce the P&S Act.

The Committee notes that this latest OIG review cites similar concerns raised by a previous OIG review in 1997 and by the Government Accountability Office in 2000. The Committee urges GIPSA to use all resources available to the agency to conduct vigorous government oversight to ensure markets are fair and competitive, and businesses are in compliance with the law.

LIMITATION ON INSPECTION AND WEIGHING SERVICES EXPENSES

2007 limitation	($42,463,000)
2008 budget limitation	(42,463,000)
Provided in the bill	(42,463,000)
Comparison:	
2007 limitation	– – –
2008 budget limitation	– – –

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

The Committee includes a limitation on inspection and weighing services expenses of $42,463,000, the same as the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and the same as the budget request. The bill includes authority to exceed by 10 percent the limitation on inspection and weighing services with notification to the Committees on Appropriations. This allows for flexibility if export activities require additional supervision and oversight or other uncontrollable factors occur.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOOD SAFETY

2007 appropriation	$600,000
2008 budget estimate	659,000
Provided in the bill	632,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+32,000
2008 budget estimate	−27,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, the Committee provides an appropriation of $632,000, an increase of $32,000 above the amount provided for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $27,000 below the budget request.

FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE

2007 appropriation	$892,136,000
2008 budget estimate	930,120,000
Provided in the bill	930,120,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+37,984,000
2008 budget estimate	– – –

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Food Safety and Inspection Service, the Committee provides an appropriation of $930,120,000, an increase of $37,984,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and the same as the budget request.

The Committee is aware of the proposal for user fees in the President's budget, but does not recommend establishing such fees in annual appropriations acts and will consider such fees should they achieve authorization.

The Committee provides the full amounts requested related to pay costs and employee benefits, a total increase of $28,277,000. The Committee provides an increase of $750,000, as requested, for data systems for the Food Emergency Response Network (FERN), and an increase of $2,500,000 for lab equipment, as requested. The Committee provides an increase of $6,457,000 for filling vacancies in federal inspector positions. The Committee does not approve the proposed reduction of $1,976,000 in funding for the public health data communication infrastructure (PHDCI). Within the base resources provided is at least $5,000,000 for Humane Methods of Slaughter enforcement and at least $3,000,000 for the related tracking system.

The Committee does not approve the requested increase of $8,433,000 for seven additional FERN labs. While the Committee supports the goal of having adequate surge capacity for testing food in an emergency, it is troubled by the Department's abrupt change this year from its prior insistence that 100 labs were needed. It now says 25 labs are needed. This sudden change causes the Committee to question the analytical basis of this program. The Committee maintains funding for PHCDI and adds funding for food safety inspector vacancies. These funds are needed to improve the ability of FSIS to address current food safety needs.

Bonuses.—On September 29, 2006, the Under Secretary for Food Safety advised the Committee that FSIS might end that fiscal year with a balance of only several hundred thousand dollars and that it was continuing to cut spending and maintain a hiring freeze for non-frontline positions. In light of this, the Committee was very disturbed to learn that FSIS spent nearly half a million dollars on bonuses for senior FSIS officials for that year. At least 13 people received bonuses of $17,000 or more, which equates to about half of the top starting salary for a slaughter inspector. The Committee directs FSIS to use its appropriated funds for activities directly in support of the public health to the maximum available extent before using them for bonus awards for senior officials. The Committee requests a report by January 15, 2008 on any bonuses awarded to senior officials for fiscal year 2007.

Imported poultry products from China.—The Committee has included a general provision barring the use of funds in the bill to establish or implement any rule allowing poultry products from China into the U.S. This would apply to both the rule currently in effect that would allow poultry from the U.S. to be processed in China and shipped back and to a rule the Department is drafting that would allow China to export processed poultry products made from animals raised in China.

Given the recent situation involving pet foods contaminated with melamine from China and the repeated, serious food contamination incidents within China, it is clear that we cannot rely on the Chinese government to ensure its plants adhere to U.S. standards in processing. Weak government controls in China, coupled with the high incidence of H5N1 in that country, provide no assurance that the returned product is actually from U.S. poultry or that poultry carrying the H5N1 virus is not used instead of U.S.-produced poultry. While FSIS has said the products would be safe because processing would kill any H5N1 viruses, U.S. inspectors will not be standing over the shoulders of Chinese workers; in fact, U.S. inspectors would visit the Chinese plants at most once a year.

Risk-based inspection proposal.—The Committee has also included the same general provision that was enacted in P.L. 110–28 to bar FSIS from proceeding with the risk-based inspection program it announced on February 22, 2007, until the USDA Office of Inspector General (OIG) has provided its findings to the Food Safety and Inspection Service and the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the data used in support of the development and design of the riskbased inspection program and FSIS has addressed and resolved issues identified by OIG.

OIG has done 26 audits of FSIS since June 2000 and has repeatedly found basic problems with how the agency conducts its operations. In just two of its most recent audits of FSIS, OIG found that:

- From October 2003 through June 2005, FSIS had conducted only eight initial onsite reviews from a total of 28 State MPI programs.
- A significant number of establishments were excluded from *Salmonella* testing due to ineffective processes for identifying establishments eligible for testing.

Given the many problems found by OIG in the past and FSIS' poor track record, the Committee believes the agency must not proceed even with a pilot program until there has been a thorough review of its proposal by OIG and until all issues raised by OIG have been addressed and resolved. The Committee includes this language to ensure that there is adequate time for OIG to complete its work and for FSIS to resolve any issues that are raised.

The Committee intends FSIS to continue activities related to ensuring that the program, if it goes forward, is based on scientifically justified information. Those activities should include an emphasis on such activities as data collection and public meetings and less emphasis on activities such as the recent negotiations with the meat inspectors union. The Committee recognizes that moving forward with the risk-based inspection program without comprehen-

sive and accurate scientific data to rank product risk and an unbiased system for determining establishment risk would have the potential of jeopardizing public health.

Salmonella Verification Testing Program.—The purpose of the Salmonella Verification Testing Program is to provide FSIS with information about whether plants are controlling the level of Salmonella in their establishments. With this critical information, FSIS can then make informed regulatory decisions to further reduce pathogen contamination in meat and poultry products and improve food safety. After FSIS personnel collect, label and culture the Salmonella samples, an APHIS laboratory serotypes the positive Salmonella isolates, and then FSIS sends the isolates from raw meat and poultry products to an Agricultural Research Service Laboratory. After the ARS laboratory analyzes the samples further, it stores the information in databases. We understand the existing memorandum of understanding has lapsed and the agencies have been working on a replacement. The Committee directs the Food Safety and Inspection Service and the Agricultural Research Service to submit a report to the Committee by September 15, 2007 on the status of any memorandum of understanding between the two agencies regarding the access to the information housed in an ARS database on the salmonella isolates that were collected as a result of regulatory sampling by the Food Safety and Inspection Service.

Audit recommendations not achieving management decision within 180 days.—The Committee has received from the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the record a list of audit reports where management decisions have not been achieved within 180 days. Included on the list were four audit reports for FSIS, with multiple open recommendations. The Committee supports OIG in its efforts to reach agreement within 180 days and directs FSIS to send the Committee a report by October 1, 2007 with a plan for reaching management decision on the outstanding issues.

FARM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FARM AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

2007 appropriation	$632,000
2008 budget estimate	695,000
Provided in the bill	666,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+34,000
2008 budget estimate	−29,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, the Committee provides an appropriation of $666,000, an increase of $34,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $29,000 below the budget request.

The Committee notes that the budget request did not include estimates for implementing a new 2007 Farm Bill. Testimony given by the Under Secretary during the hearing on the Farm and Foreign Agricultural Service budget stated that "Once the parameters and details of the new bill are known, we will need to evaluate the

necessary administrative resource requirements to implement the legislative programs and policies." The Committee expects the Department to work with the Committee on Agriculture to provide estimates of the implementation costs for inclusion in the 2007 Farm Bill. The Committee directs the Department to submit reports to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and the agriculture authorizing committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate, within 30 days of passage of the House and Senate 2007 Farm Bills, that detail the necessary administrative resource requirements to implement the bills, including information technology expenses.

The Committee notes that the Farm Service Agency (FSA) computer system that is responsible for processing payments for all Farm Bill programs administered by the Farm Service Agency has been experiencing periodic shutdowns due to capacity overloads, causing the efficiency of thousands of Farm Service Agency county office employees to decrease dramatically. The Committee is aware that a plan to upgrade this system is being developed by USDA. The Committee directs the Secretary to submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and the agriculture authorizing committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report that has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget and reviewed by the Government Accountability Office. The report shall include: (1) An enterprise architecture; (2) an Information Technology Human Capital Plan; (3) a capital investment plan for implementing the enterprise architecture; (4) a description of the information technology capital planning and investment control process; and (5) a spending plan. The spending plan shall include each specific project funded, key milestones, all funding sources for each project, details of annual and lifecycle costs, and projected savings or cost avoidance to be achieved by the project.

The Committee is extremely disappointed with the Department's efforts to date to upgrade the technological capabilities of the FSA's Field Office hardware and software infrastructure, including digital mapping and crop planning analysis. Although Congress has approved significant funding for these activities, structural and technological issues continue to persist and plague the Agency's operations both at the headquarters and field level, and have had a direct impact on the quality of service provided to FSA customers. Without an appropriate level of upgraded technological support, fully executing the planned system-wide reorganization of field offices would be premature until the Agency submits the requested report on the spending plan.

The Committee includes statutory language to delay the development and implementation of plans to close any local or county office of the Farm Service Agency. The Committee held a hearing on the Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services budget and the message from the Committee was quite clear, Farm Service offices should not be closed until the technological issues are resolved or at least a plan in place. Also, a new Farm Bill will be passed and the impact on the Farm Service Agency structure is unknown at this time. The Committee directs the Department to take no further action on closure of FSA offices until at least six months after

the next Farm Bill is passed or expiration of the fiscal year 2008 appropriations bill.

The Committee is very concerned about the continued decline in the number of small minority owned and operated farms nationwide. According to an Economic Research Service (ERS) report the percentage of non-white farms owned has dropped from 15% to 2%. The number of such farms has declined from 845,300 in 1920 to 43,500 by 1992. Therefore, the Committee directs the Department to develop a plan of action to stabilize and expand the number of small minority owned and operated farms, including a detailed strategy on how the Department plans to expand opportunities for these farmers to fully participate in all USDA's farm programs, as well as proactive measures to reach out to this important resource and report its findings to the Committee by March 15, 2008.

Audit recommendations not achieving management decision within 180 days.—The Committee has received from the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the record a list of audit reports where management decisions have not been achieved within 180 days. Included on the list were two audit reports for FSA, with multiple open recommendations. The Committee supports OIG in its efforts to reach agreement within 180 days and directs FSA to send the Committee a report by October 1, 2007 with a plan for reaching management decision on the outstanding issues.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

	Appropriation	*Transfer from program accts.*	*Total, FSA, S&E*
2007 appropriation	$1,030,193,000	($306,859,000)	($1,337,052,000)
2008 budget estimate	1,228,662,000	(319,517,000)	(1,548,179,000)
Provided in the bill	1,127,409,000	(313,332,000)	(1,440,741,000)
Comparison:			
2007 appropriation	+97,216,000	+6,473,000	+103,689,000
2008 budget estimate	−101,253,000	−6,185,000	−107,438,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Salaries and Expenses of the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the Committee provides an appropriation of $1,127,409,000 and transfers from other accounts of $313,332,000, for a total program level of $1,440,741,000. This is an increase of $103,689,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $107,438,000 below the budget request.

The Committee recommendation includes an additional $29,489,000 for pay costs, $64,200,000 for activities previously funded through the Department's CCE account, and $10,000,000 for operating expenses.

The Committee provides to the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency, $24,000,000, the same as the fiscal year 2006 level, for the National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP). This amount is in addition to any provided by cooperating funds from any other federal, state, or local government funding for NAIP.

The Committee is concerned by the large increases requested for FSA salaries and expenses. The FSA salaries and expense request

represented over eight percent of the total budget request. FSA has received about a thirty percent increase in the salaries and expense account since fiscal year 2000. Included in the requested increase was $77,500,000 to restore funding for activities that were funded by balances carried over from fiscal year 2006 into fiscal year 2007. Any funds that are unspent from prior years and carried forward should not be considered as part of the base budget. Agencies were expected to manage within the funds provided within the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007.

The Committee is also concerned by the amount FSA spends on IT operations. In fiscal year 2007, FSA is estimated to spend over $312,000,000 for the costs of maintaining and operating FSA IT systems and the budget request includes an additional $28,000,000 in fiscal year 2008. Beginning last autumn, FSA began experiencing outages of service for some of its web-based applications that support certain farm programs. The supplemental included an additional $37,500,000 for network and database/application stabilization to address immediate needs identified by the Department to address the outage issues. The Committee directs the Secretary to provide a monthly update to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the progress of this project, including usage of funds. In addition, the Committee has been hearing for several years that FSA needs to modernize its IT system but a modernization plan has yet to be submitted. The budget request does not include reference to the FSA modernization issues but it is estimated the lifecycle cost is in the range of $450,000,000 to $600,000,000 over a 10 year time period. The Committee plans to have rigorous oversight of the current and projected IT spending within FSA.

The Committee notes that FSA is also using over $20,000,000 of the funds provided for NAIP for stabilization of the computer network. The Committee is concerned that additional resources above the amount identified by the Department for stabilization have been diverted from NAIP for this project.

The Committee expects FSA to improve communication with the Risk Management Agency to prevent duplicative payments. The Committee directs FSA to use all possible means to avoid duplicative payments, including data mining.

STATE MEDIATION GRANTS

2007 appropriation	$4,208,000
2008 budget estimate	4,000,000
Provided in the bill	4,000,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	−208,000
2008 budget estimate	− − −

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For State Mediation Grants, the Committee provides an appropriation of $4,000,000, a decrease of $208,000 below the amount available in fiscal year 2007 and the same as the budget request.

GRASSROOTS SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

2007 appropriation	$3,713,000
2008 budget estimate	0
Provided in the bill	3,713,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	– – –
2008 budget estimate	+3,713,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Grassroots Source Water Protection Program, the Committee provides an appropriation of $3,713,000, the same as the amount available in fiscal year 2007 and an increase of $3,713,000 above the budget request.

DAIRY INDEMNITY PROGRAM

2007 appropriation	$100,000
2008 budget estimate	100,000
Provided in the bill	100,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	– – –
2008 budget estimate	– – –

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Dairy Indemnity Program, the Committee provides an appropriation of $100,000, the same as the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and the same as the budget request.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

ESTIMATED LOAN LEVELS

2007 loan level	$3,749,528,000
2008 budget estimate	3,366,812,000
Provided in the bill	3,407,412,000
Comparison:	
2007 loan level	−342,116,000
2008 budget estimate	+40,600,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

Approximate loan levels provided by the Committee for fiscal year 2008 for the Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Programs are: $1,423,857,000 for farm ownership loans, of which $223,857,000 is for direct loans and $1,200,000,000 is for guaranteed loans; $1,879,595,000 for farm operating loans, of which $629,595,000 is for direct loans, $250,000,000 is for guaranteed subsidized loans, and $1,000,000,000 is for guaranteed unsubsidized loans; $3,960,000 for Indian tribe land acquisition loans; and $100,000,000 for boll weevil eradication loans.

The following table reflects the loan levels for the Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund program account:

AGRICULTURE CREDIT PROGRAMS—LOAN LEVELS

[In thousands of dollars]

	FY 2007 level	FY 2008 estimate	Committee provisions
Farm loan programs:			
Farm ownership:			
Direct	$207,642	$223,857	$223,857
Guaranteed	1,386,000	1,200,000	1,200,000
Farm operating:			
Direct	643,500	629,595	629,595
Unsubsidized guaranteed	1,138,500	1,000,000	1,000,000
Subsidized guaranteed	271,886	250,000	250,000
Indian tribe land acquisition	2,000	3,960	3,960
Boll Weevil Eradication	100,000	59,400	100,000
Total, farm loans	$3,749,528	$3,366,812	$3,407,412

ESTIMATED LOAN SUBSIDY AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES LEVELS

	Direct loan subsidy	*Guaranteed loan subsidy*	*Administrative expenses*
2007 appropriation	$86,248,000	$63,539,000	$311,229,000
2008 budget estimate	89,983,000	62,350,000	319,657,000
Provided in the bill	89,983,000	62,350,000	318,150,000
Comparison:			
2007 appropriation	+3,735,000	−1,189,000	+6,921,000
2008 budget estimate	− − −	− − −	−1,507,000

The following table reflects the costs of loan programs under credit reform:

AGRICULTURE CREDIT PROGRAMS—SUBSIDIES

[In thousands of dollars]

	FY 2007 estimate	FY 2008 estimate	Committee provisions
Farm loan subsidies:			
Farm ownership:			
Direct	$8,700	$9,962	$9,962
Guaranteed	8,039	4,800	4,800
Subtotal	16,739	14,762	14,762
Farm operating:			
Direct	75,225	79,896	79,896
Guaranteed unsubsidized	28,121	24,200	24,200
Guaranteed subsidized	27,379	33,350	33,350
Subtotal	130,725	137,446	137,446
Indian tribe land acquisition	423	125	125
Boll weevil eradication loans	1,900	0	0
Total, Farm loan subsidies	$149,787	$152,333	$152,333
ACIF expenses:			
Salaries and expenses	303,309	311,737	310,230
Administrative expenses	7,920	7,920	7,920
Total, ACIF expenses	$311,229	$319,657	$318,150

RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY

2007 appropriation	$76,658,000
2008 budget estimate	79,062,000
Provided in the bill	78,833,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+2,175,000
2008 budget estimate	−229,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Risk Management Agency, the Committee provides an appropriation of $78,833,000, an increase of $2,175,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $229,000 below the budget request.

The Committee has serious concerns about the ability of the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to prevent abuses in the crop insurance program. Therefore, the Committee has included a general provision to allow the use of up to $11,166,000 in mandatory funds to improve the Department's ability to police the program for waste, fraud and abuse. The funding made available would be used for maintaining and upgrading data-mining and supporting business applications and hardware used to detect and deter suspect claims and for the continuation of development of the Comprehensive Information and Management System (CIMS). CIMS is a joint information management system for RMA and the Farm Service Agency that will assist in identification of discrepancies between reports on participation in both programs to detect potential waste fraud and abuse.

In addition, the Committee has provided an increase of $1,000,000 for the USDA Office of Inspector General for continued work on waste, fraud and abuse issues related to crop insurance and farm payments.

The Committee believes that the administration must come forward with a plan—and the budgetary resources needed—to address aggressively the problems of waste, fraud and abuse in the crop insurance program that have been identified by OIG and the Government Accountability Office. The Committee directs the Secretary to submit such a plan to the Committee by February 1, 2008.

Audit recommendations not achieving management decision within 180 days.—The Committee has received from the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the record a list of audit reports where management decisions have not been achieved within 180 days. Included on the list were three audit reports for RMA, with a number of open recommendations. The Committee supports OIG in its efforts to reach agreement within 180 days and directs RMA to send the Committee a report by October 1, 2007 with a plan for reaching management decision on the outstanding issues.

CORPORATIONS

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION FUND

2007 appropriation	[1] $4,379,256,000
2008 budget estimate	[1] 4,818,099,000
Provided in the bill	[1] 4,818,099,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+438,843,000
2008 budget estimate	– – –

[1] Current indefinite appropriation.

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Fund, the Committee provides an appropriation of such sums as may be necessary (estimated to be $4,818,099,000 in the President's fiscal year 2008 budget request), an increase of $438,843,000 above the amount provided in fiscal year 2007 and the same as the budget request.

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION FUND

REIMBURSEMENT FOR NET REALIZED LOSSES

2007 appropriation	[1] $23,098,328,000
2008 budget estimate	[1] 12,983,053,000
Provided in the bill	[1] 12,983,053,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	– 10,115,275,000
2008 budget estimate	– – –

[1] Current indefinite appropriation.

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Reimbursement for Net Realized Losses to the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Committee provides such sums as may be necessary to reimburse for net realized losses sustained, but not previously reimbursed (estimated to be $12,983,053,000 in the President's fiscal year 2008 budget request), a decrease of $10,115,275,000 below the amount provided in fiscal year 2007 and the same as the budget request.

Audit recommendations not achieving management decision within 180 days.—The Committee has received from the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the record a list of audit reports where management decisions have not been achieved within 180 days. Included on the list was one audit report for CCC, with one open recommendation. The Committee supports OIG in its efforts to reach agreement within 180 days and directs CCC to send the Committee a report by October 1, 2007 with a plan for reaching management decision on the outstanding issue.

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

2007 limitation	$5,000,000
2008 budget estimate	5,000,000
Provided in the bill	5,000,000
Comparison:	
2007 limitation	– – –
2008 budget estimate	– – –

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For CCC Hazardous Waste Management, the Committee provides a limitation of $5,000,000, the same as the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and the same as the budget request.

The Committee is interested in the status of this program and requests a report by January 15, 2008. The report should include a history of funding and accomplishments to date, future plans, and resources needed. The report should also address how this program coordinates and complements the Departmental Hazardous Materials Management activities.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

2007 appropriation	0
2008 budget estimate	$4,660,000
Provided in the bill	0
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	– – –
2008 budget estimate	–4,660,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

The Committee recommendation does not include $4,660,000 for the Farm Storage Facility Loans program as proposed in the President's budget.

TITLE II—CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

2007 appropriation	$742,000
2008 budget estimate	822,000
Provided in the bill	781,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+39,000
2008 budget estimate	−41,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, the Committee provides an appropriation of $781,000, an increase of $39,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $41,000 below the budget request.

The Committee encourages the Under Secretary to give consideration to the following projects requesting financial and/or technical assistance under the Natural Resources and Environment mission area: White Tanks FRS #3 (AZ); Northeast Colorado Surface Water/Groundwater Conservation (CO); Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Habitat Preservation (CO); Gunnison Sage-grouse Habitat Improvement (CO); Big Cypress Reservation Water Conservation project as it contributes to Everglades restoration (FL); Watershed Dam Hazard Mitigation (GA); Grass Lake Restoration in Kandiyohi County (MN); Great Plains Riparian Initiative (MN); Callicoon Creek Watershed (NY); Esopus Creek Watershed (NY); Four Farm Conservation Project (NY); Moab Area Tamarisk/Russian Olive Control Project (UT); Virginia Nutrient Trading Program (VA); Wetlands Restoration (VA); Pioneers in Conservation (WA); Columbia Basin Ground Water Management (WA); Snoqualmie Watershed Integrated Plan (WA); and Bad River Tribe rehabilitation of Wild Rice Beds (WI).

The Committee expects these projects to only be approved when such applications are judged to be meritorious when subject to established review procedures.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSERVATION OPERATIONS

2007 appropriation	$763,360,000
2008 budget estimate	801,825,000
Provided in the bill	851,910,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+88,550,000
2008 budget estimate	+50,085,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Conservation Operations, the Committee provides an appropriation of $851,910,000, an increase of $88,550,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and an increase of $50,085,000 above the budget request. The Committee recommendation includes $20,000,000 for Common Computing Environment activities, as requested.

The Committee recommendation includes not more than $110,639,700 for National Headquarters salaries and expenses, as requested.

The Committee provides $27,225,000 for the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative and does not include the reduction proposed in the request. The Committee recommendation includes $10,840,000 for the Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting program, $10,779,000 for Plant Materials Centers, and $90,713,000 for the Soil Surveys Program. For Conservation Technical Assistance, $712,353,000 is provided. The recommendation for each program includes pay costs, as requested. The amount recommended for Conservation Technical Assistance also includes $11,090,000 as requested for the development and application of new comprehensive nutrient management plans for livestock operations. The Committee recommendation includes funding for one American Heritage navigator position on the Hudson River.

State funding allocations.—The Committee is concerned that funding allocations to the States are being reduced in proportion to Congressional projects funded in the Conservation Operations account. The Committee directs the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), in making the fiscal year 2008 Conservation Operations funding allocations to the States, to treat Congressional projects as additions to the States' funding allocation. The Committee directs the NRCS to provide a report to the Committee on Appropriations, not later than 45 days after the enactment of this Act, including the following: fiscal year 2007 Conservation Operations allocation by State, fiscal year 2008 Conservation Operations allocation by State, the fiscal year 2008 Congressional projects by State, and the total Conservation Operations allocation by State. In addition, the Chief of the NRCS is directed to inform the Committee immediately about any changes to the formula or process by which the base state allocations are made.

Conservation Technical Assistance Projects.—Funding for fiscal year 2007 projects is not continued in fiscal year 2008 unless specifically mentioned in this report. The following funds are directed to be used in cooperative agreements, continued with the same cooperator entities as in the fiscal year 2007 agreements, except as noted: National Water Management Center (AR)—$2,722,500; Mojave Water Agency (CA) non-native plant removal—$990,000; Monterey Bay Sanctuary (CA)—$594,000; Municipal Water District of Orange County for efficient irrigation (CA)—$198,000; Cooperative Agreement with Tufts University to improve conservation practices (CT)—$495,000; Suwannee, Dixie, and Lafayette Counties dairy and poultry waste treatment (FL)—$990,000; Cooperative agreement with the Green Institute (FL)—$396,000; Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission Cooperative Agreement (GA)—

$3,600,000; Community Nutrient Management Facilities for the Lagoon Waste Management Demonstration program (GA)—$346,500; Altamaha River Basin water quality project (GA)—$99,000; Agricultural Development and Resource Conservation (HI)—$891,000; Idaho One Plan (ID)—$198,000; The Illinois Buffer Initiative (IL)—$99,000; Illinois River Basin (IL)—$600,000 through EQIP; Hungry Canyons Project (IA)—$1,188,000; The Iowa Buffer Initiative (IA)—$99,000; CEMSA with Iowa Soybean Association (IA)—$427,680; On-farm Management System Evaluation Network (IA)—$247,500; Tallgrass Prairie Center—Native Seed Testing Lab (IA)—$441,540; Technical assistance to providing grants to Soil Conservation Districts in Kentucky (KY)—$990,000; Best Management Practices and Master Farmer Special Research grant with Louisiana State University (LA)—$396,000; Bayou Sere Drainage Improvements/False River (LA)—$198,000; Union-Lincoln Regional Water Supply Initiative (LA)—$123,750; Chesapeake Bay activities—$5,940,000; Weed It Now on the Berkshire Taconic Landscape (MA)—$66,000; Conservation Planning (MA/WI)—$594,000; Choctaw County feasibility study for surface impoundment (MS)—$247,500; Upper White River Basin Water Quality Project (MO)—$426,690; Carson City Waterfall Fire Restoration (NV)—$371,250; Pastureland Management/Rotational Grazing (NY)—$594,000; Skaneateles and Owasco Lake Watersheds (NY)—$321,750; Non-point pollution in Onondaga and Oneida Lake Watersheds (NY)—$495,000; Long Island Sound watershed initiative (NY)—$198,000; Pace University Land Use Law center (NY)—$198,000; Erosion control and stabilization for Hudson River shoreline at Village of Tarrytown (NY)—$247,500; Watershed Agricultural Council (NY)—$712,800; Technical assistance to livestock/poultry industry (NC)—$445,500; Town of Cary Swift Creek Watershed Protection and Stream Bank Restoration (NC)—$295,020; Maumee Watershed Hydrological Study and Flood Mitigation Plan (OH)—$990,000; Range revegetation for Fort Hood (TX)—$495,000; Water quality for Tarrant County (TX)—$500,000; Water Protection Plan for Hood County (TX)—$100,000; Washington Fields (UT)—$2,970,000; Natural stream restoration (WV)—$792,000; Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (WI)—$940,500; Cooperative agreement with Sand County Foundation (WI)—$1,188,000; Accelerated soil mapping survey (WY)—$297,000; Audubon at Home Pilot Program—$495,000; and Operation Oak Program to restore hardwoods—$396,000.

Plant Materials Centers.—The Committee provides the fiscal year 2007 level for the Hawaii Plant Materials Center.

WATERSHED SURVEYS AND PLANNING

2007 appropriation	$6,056,000
2008 budget estimate	0
Provided in the bill	6,556,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+500,000
2008 budget estimate	+6,556,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Watershed Surveys and Planning, the Committee provides an appropriation of $6,556,000, an increase of $500,000 above the

amount available in fiscal year 2007, and $6,556,000 above the budget request.

WATERSHED AND FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS

2007 appropriation	0
2008 budget estimate	0
Provided in the bill	$37,000,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+37,000,000
2008 budget estimate	+37,000,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations, the Committee provides an appropriation of $37,000,000, an increase of $37,000,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2007, and $37,000,000 above the budget request. Language is included which limits the amount spent on technical assistance to not more than $18,500,000.

The Committee is aware of and expects progress to continue and/or to provide financial/technical assistance for the next phase for the following projects: Pine Barren Watershed Extension (AL); Big Slough Watershed (AR); Departee Creek Watershed (AR); Four pilot projects in North Florida related to dairy and poultry cleanup efforts (FL); Wailuka-Alenaio Watershed (HI); Upcountry Maui Watershed (HI); Lower Hamakua Ditch Watershed (HI); Soap Creek Watershed (IA); Little Sioux Watershed Project (IA); Doyle Creek Watershed (KS); Little Otter Creek Watershed Project (MO); Buck and Duck Creek Watershed Project (NE); Yadkin County Deep Creek Project (NC); Swan Quarter Dike (NC); South Fork of the Licking River Watershed Project (OH); McKenzie Canyon Irrigation Pipeline Project (OR); Neshaminy Creek Watershed Project, Bucks County (PA); Tulpehocken Creek Watershed (PA); Big Creek (Tri-County) Watershed Project (TX); Attoyac Bayou site 23–A (TX); and Buena Vista Watershed (VA).

It the understanding of the Committee that the following projects will be completed in fiscal year 2007 and that no fiscal year 2008 funds are required for: Pigeon Roost Creek, Jackson County, Kentucky; and Lower Elk River and Upper Walnut North Watersheds, Kansas. The Committee requires immediate notification if the projects will be delayed due to technical or funding issues.

WATERSHED REHABILITATION PROGRAM

2007 appropriation	$31,309,000
2008 budget estimate	5,807,000
Provided in the bill	31,586,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+277,000
2008 budget estimate	+25,779,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Watershed Rehabilitation Program, the Committee provides an appropriation of $31,586,000, an increase of $277,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2007, and an increase of $25,779,000 above the budget request.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

2007 appropriation	$51,088,000
2008 budget estimate	14,653,000
Provided in the bill	52,370,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+1,282,000
2008 budget estimate	+37,717,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Resource Conservation and Development, the Committee provides an appropriation of $52,370,000, an increase of $1,282,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2007, and an increase of $37,717,000 above the budget request.

The recommendation includes funding for each of the 375 Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils to have a Federal coordinator. The budget request proposes to reduce the 375 coordinators to about 50. This is a concern, considering that the coordinator plays an important role in leveraging Federal funding to meet local needs.

The Committee encourages NRCS to continue to work with the Councils to develop appropriate measures of effectiveness for both conservation and economic development. Therefore future budget proposals can be based on the effectiveness and performance of the program.

The Committee expects the NRCS to promptly fill RC&D coordinator vacancies, and to allocate funding equitably among the existing councils.

The Committee has included bill language limiting the amount that can be spent at national headquarters from this account.

HEALTHY FORESTS RESERVE PROGRAM

2007 appropriation	$2,476,000
2008 budget estimate	2,476,000
Provided in the bill	0
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	−2,476,000
2008 budget estimate	−2,476,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Healthy Forests Reserve Program, the Committee provides no funding, a decrease of $2,476,000 below the amount available in fiscal year 2007 and the budget request.

TITLE III—RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

2007 appropriation	$632,000
2008 budget estimate	695,000
Provided in the bill	666,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+34,000
2008 budget estimate	−29,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the Under Secretary for Rural Development, the Committee provides an appropriation of $666,000, an increase of $34,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $29,000 below the budget request.

The Committee is concerned about the proposal to close local Rural Development (RD) offices. Some of these offices are located in counties identified by the Economic Research Service as persistent poverty counties. The Committee includes a general provision that requires the Secretary of Agriculture to determine the cost effectiveness and enhancement of program delivery prior to closing or relocating any Rural Development offices. The Committee directs the Department to provide a report, not later than 120 days before the date of the proposed closure or relocation, which describes in detail the justifications for such closures and relocation.

While the Committee is providing a significant increase in both loans and grants for renewable energy projects it directs the Department to review the current project eligibility and financial criteria and revise them as appropriate to ensure that projects funded will in fact lead to a significant reduction in traditional sources of energy, especially fossil fuels, and will have sufficient economic return on the investment to repay loans and employ proven technologies that yield significant environmental benefits. To that end the Committee directs the Department to include specific, discrete, measurable performance measures in each grant or loan provided under this heading for a renewable energy project and to subsequently measure the results against those performance measures.

Audit recommendations not achieving management decision within 180 days.—The Committee has received from the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the record a list of audit reports where management decisions have not been achieved within 180 days. Included on the list were eleven audit reports for the RD mission area, with multiple open recommendations. The Committee supports OIG in its efforts to reach agreement within 180 days and directs RD to send the Committee a report by October 1, 2007 with a plan for reaching management decision on the outstanding issues.

The Committee encourages the Under Secretary to give consideration to the following projects or organizations requesting financial and/or technical assistance, and grants and/or loans made available under the Rural Development mission area: Marine Service Center in Wrangell (AK); Alaska Berry Growers (AK); City of Saint Paul Landfill (AK); City of Saint Paul wastewater site (AK); Southwest Alaska Regional Geothermal Energy Project (AK); Public Building Authority, City of Rainsville (AL); Multipurpose Complex, Marion County (AL); National Egg Processing Center, Auburn (AL); Rainsville Agri-Center (AL); Home in Hale, HERO Housing Resource Center (AL); Marengo County Economic Development Authority (AL); Eutaw Civic Center (AL); Osceola Port Improvements (AR); Batesville Wastewater Treatment Plant and Pumping (AR); Northeast Arkansas Public Water Authority (AR); Ozark Mountain Regional Public Water Authority (AR); SE Washington County water project (AR); renovation of existing sewer system for the Town of Garner (AR); City of Mayflower water system improvements (AR); Why Utilities Water Distribution Lines (AZ); Lukachukai Board of Education (AZ); Ganado Chapter Municipal Water Project (AZ); Klagetoh Landfill Clean Closure and Open Dump (AZ); Rock Point Irrigation Project (AZ); Stanley Memorial Hall (AZ); Cascade Shores wastewater treatment plant (CA); Colfax wastewater treatment plant (CA); Greenwood Lake water treatment plant (CA); Grizzly Flat Fire Station and Community Center (CA); Chester Storm Drain Improvements (CA); Renewable Energy Development, Imperial Valley (CA); Water and wastewater infrastructure, Imperial (CA); Brawley Colonia Water District (CA); Sustainable Watershed Treatment, Chula Vista (CA); Second Harvest Food Bank Facility Improvement (CA); Alpine County Communications Infrastructure (CA); Calaveras County Multi-Agency Emergency Communication (CA); Produce Safety and Track Initiative (CA); San Joaquin County Agricultural Service Center (CA); Renewable Energy and Dairy Waste Management (CA); International Agri-Center University Extension (CA); Lower Lake Historical Museum Structural Retrofit (CA); Clarksburg Fire Station (CA); CCVT Energy Conservation Education Program (CA); San Jacinto Agriculture Groundwater Exchange (CA); Colorado and western states Telemedicine upgrades (CO); Plachy Hall Renewable Energy Program (CO); Costilla County Biodiesel Pilot Project (CO); Norwood Water Treatment and Distribution System (CO); Salt storage shed (CT); Municipal drinking water supply (CT); National Resource Center on Rural After School Program (CT); Homes in Partnership, Inc. (FL); Florida Public Access Enhancement Project (FL); Old Hastings Civic Center Upgrade Project (FL); Agriculture Civic Center (FL); National Hispanic Rural Communications Initiative (FL); Flood Mitigation Plan for the Lake Okeechobee Regional Hospital (FL); County of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County well and water tank (GA); SW Georgia Rural Disaster Demonstration Project (GA); Zion City housing program (GA); Polk County wastewater improvements (GA); Chattooga County water system upgrade (GA); WellCare Model Project, Screven County (GA); Healthy and Natural Animals for Human Consumption (GA); Purchase and upgrade America's Second Harvest Coastal Georgia, Savannah, Chatham County (GA); Idaho Foodbank Facility acquisition and expansion

(ID); Southern lllinois Regional Social Services, Inc. (IL); Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation (IL); Shawnee Health Services Center Dental Program (IL); SIU Belleville Agriculture Research and Education Center (IL); Midwest Emergency Department Services (IL); lllinois Broadband Map (IL); Miami County Commerce Development Initiative (IN); Bio-security computing and networking technology at KSU (KS); Chautauqua County Rural Water District No. 4 (KS); Clark County Recreational Center (KY); Hospice Care Plus Facility (KY); Fleming Country Health and Fitness Center (KY); Kentucky PRIDE Program (KY); Green County Agriculture Education, Marketing and Exposition Center, Greensburg (KY); West Baton Rouge Parish water well and tower (LA); East Feliciana Parish Sheriff's office (LA); Lamar Dixon Agricultural Community Center (LA); E-Learning Mobile Training Center (LA); City of Baton Rouge Downtown Urban Forestry Project (LA); Center for Excellence in Organic Agriculture (LA); Westbank Hurricane Protection Pump Station (LA); City of Hammond Fire Protection (LA); City of Bogalusa, Repair and upgrade sewer system (LA); Town of Abita Springs Sewer Plant Expansion (LA); Oil City, Water System Capital Improvements (LA); Springhill water system improvement (LA); Claiborne Parish, Fire House (LA); Mansfield wastewater treatment plant (LA); Village of South Mansfield water tank (LA); Town Pump Station refurbishing (LA); Company Canal Pump Station (LA); Marvin Braud Pumping Station Upgrade (LA); Saltwater Control Structure (LA); Regional Electric Cooperative Cape Cod Islands (MA); Three County Fairgrounds (MA); Grants to Public Broadcasting Systems (ME); Canola Extrusion Processor (ME); Downtown Saginaw Farmer's Market (MI); Wakefield Memorial Building restoration (MI); Arenac County Sherriff's Office jail expansion (MI); Ironwood wastewater infrastructure (MI); City of Munising Fire and Police facility (MI); Northern Lakes Economic Alliance (MI); Rural to Urban Tourism Links (MO); Northwest Missouri Regional Water Projects (MO); LinBrook Business Park water well (MS); Ranking Centralized Sanitary Sewer System (MS); Canton Multipurpose and Equine Center (MS); Seminary water well (MS); Leake Fire Station (MS); Johnston Community College Arboretum (NC); Endor Iron Furnace Historic restoration (NC); Jonesville Administrative Building and Welcome Center (NC); Bladen County Agriculture Industrial Expo Center (NC); Swain County School System Expansion (NC); Lab and research equipment for the Zeis Science (NC); Yancey County Extension and Research Center (NC); Cherokee Center for Applied Technology (NC); Graham County Rural Housing Program (NC); Bridgeton High School Stadium Preservation (NJ); Food Bank Facility and equipment upgrades (NJ); San Miguel County Courthouse Renovations (NM); Taos County Administrative/Judicial Complex (NM); Greater Chimayo Mutual Domestic Water Association (NM); Westside Public Safety Building (NM); Elevator Construction, Cherry Valley Community Center (NY); Town of Guilford building project (NY); Fort Ann Village Emergency Center (NY); Columbia County Broadband Development Project (NY); Broadband Infrastructure network in Otsego (NY); Implementing Healthcare Information Technology (NY); Rural College Readiness Distance Education Program (NY); Fairgrounds Youth Recreation Complex (NY);

Centerville Volunteer Fire Company (NY); Vassar Brothers Medical Center (NY); Port of Ogdensburg Bulk Handling Equipment (NY); Rural College Readiness Distance Education Program (NY); Lyndonville Waste Water Treatment Facility (NY); Parish Social Ministry food bank (NY); Kinskey Lane Improvements (OH); Mt. Victory Road Water Project (OH); Pomeroy Wastewater Collection System Expansion (OH); Phase IV Waterline Extension, Washington County (OH); Glenmoor/LaCroft sanitary sewer project (OH); Community Access Network, Marietta (OH); Rural Business Revitalization project (OK); Oaks Mission School Educational Center (OK); Seminole State College Foundation Call Center (OK); Oregon Burn Center Telephotography Project (OR); City of Coburg wastewater system (OR); Brookings Wastewater Infrastructure Replacement (OR); Philomath Wastewater System Improvement (OR); Eastern Oregon Center for Regional Economic Studies (OR); Happy Canyon Show Renovation (OR); Brewery Grade and Highway 30 Intersection Project (OR); Deer Creek Center (OR); Smart Planning Fund for Water (OR); EMHS Building Design, Phase II (PA); EMTA Vehicle Acquisition and Fuel Station capital (PA); Central Library Building, Pike County (PA); Pike County Senior Center (PA); The Dietrich Theater Expansion Project (PA); The Braddock Biofuels Initiative (PA); Three Rivers Wet Weather Demonstration Program (PA); Northern Columbia County Cultural Center (PA); Municipal maintenance and operational equipment (PA); Mercy Jeannette Hospital patient monitoring (PA); Conemaugh Valley Conservancy (PA); Cove Area Regional Digester (PA); Sanitary sewer system, Arturo Lluberas (PR); Sanitary sewer system for Ollas Hondas, Juana Diaz (PR); Las Delicias Water Improvement Project, Ciales (PR); Indiera Alta Water Treatment Plant Lares (PR); Aceituna's Water Improvement Project, Villalba (PR); Water system improvements for Anderson County (SC); Awendaw water system (SC); Town of Hollywood water project (SC); Town of Elloree water project (SC); Voorhees College Rural and Small Town Development (SC); Berkeley County water project (SC); Lowcountry Food Bank (SC); Lake View water improvements (SC); Darlington/Hartsville wastewater improvements (SC); Alligator Sewer Project in Chesterfield County (SC); East Grainger County regional wastewater system (TN); Roane County sewer system extension (TN); Modular On-dairy Gasification System (TX); Jim Hogg County Community Youth Center (TX); Starr County Community Youth Center (TX); Wilson County Community Youth Center (TX); Frio County Community Youth Center (TX); El Cenizo and Rio Bravo county vehicles (TX); Sabine County Water Project (TX); La Feria Technology, Training and Recreation Center (TX); Bio-Diesel Extruder Systems Purchase (TX); Cooperative Development Institution Pilot Program (TX); Emergency communication system for Weber County (UT); Water Line Upgrade Phase I Project, Corinne (UT); Water line upgrade, Phase I (UT); Woody Biomass Program (UT); Eastern Shore Broadband Build Out (VA); USVI wastewater repairs (VI); Water Reclamation Facility in Battle Ground (WA); Future Fields Project (WI); Rural Business Enhancement Center (WI); Gene Salem Senior Center (WV); Morgan County Courthouse (WV); Braxton-Gilmer Research Technology Institute (WV); Benwood Flood Protection Backup Power Supply (WV); Taylor

County Transfer Tank (WV); McMechen Water Project (WV); Claywood Park PSD Red Hills Sewer Extension Project (WV); Wadesville Water Project (WV); Connected Technologies (WV); and The Thurgood Marshall College Fund.

The Committee expects these projects to only be approved when such applications are judged to be meritorious when subject to established review procedures.

RURAL COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

2007 appropriation	$737,135,000
2008 budget estimate	[1] 570,491,000
Provided in the bill	728,807,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	−8,328,000
2008 budget estimate	+158,316,000

[1] The budget request included a proposal to fund the Rural Community Advancement Program in three separate accounts. For comparative purposes, the three accounts are being reflected in this account.

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Rural Community Advancement Program, the Committee provides an appropriation of $728,807,000, a decrease of $8,328,000 below the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and an increase of $158,316,000 above the budget request.

The budget request included a proposal to fund the three funding streams under the Rural Community Advancement Program (RCAP) (rural utilities programs, rural community programs, and rural business and cooperative development programs) in separate accounts, and eliminate the central RCAP account. While the Committee is intrigued by this proposal and believes it may have merit, enactment of the 2007 Farm Bill may impact these programs. Thus, the Committee intends to work with the Department to review the proposal carefully within the context of the enacted Farm Bill. For comparative purposes, the tables reflected within this account will show the three funding streams within RCAP.

The following table provides the Committee's recommendations as compared to the budget request:

RURAL COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

[in thousands of dollars]

	FY 2007 level	FY 2008 estimated	Committee provisions
Community facilities:			
Loan levels:			
Community facility direct loans	($297,000)	($302,414)	($350,000)
Community facility guaranteed loans	(207,900)	(210,000)	(250,000)
Subsidy and grants:			
Community facility direct loans	19,038	16,784	19,425
Community facility guaranteed loans	7,609	7,728	9,200
Community facility grants	16,830	0	23,117
Other	54,266	0	4,000
Subtotal, Community facilities subsidy and grants	97,742	24,512	55,742
Utilities:			
Loan levels:			
Water and waste direct loans	(990,000)	(1,080,239)	(1,000,000)
Water and waste guaranteed loans	(75,000)	(75,000)	(75,000)

RURAL COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM—Continued

[in thousands of dollars]

	FY 2007 level	FY 2008 estimated	Committee provisions
Subsidy and grants:			
Water and waste disposal direct loans	98,604	153,394	68,100
Water and waste disposal grants	437,748	344,920	500,000
Solid waste management grants	3,465	3,465	3,465
Emergency community water assistance grants	13,692	0	0
Other	1,485	1,000	1,500
Subtotal, Utilities subsidy and grants	554,994	502,779	573,065
Business:			
Loan level:			
Business and industry guaranteed loans	(913,962)	(1,000,000)	(1,250,000)
Subsidy and grants:			
Business and industry guaranteed loans	39,849	43,200	54,000
Rural business enterprise grants	39,600	0	40,000
Rural business opportunity grants	2,970	0	3,000
Delta regional authority	1,980	0	3,000
Subtotal, Business subsidy and grants	84,399	43,200	100,000
Total, program level	($3,055,898)	($3,017,039)	($3,503,082)
Total, subsidy and grants	$737,135	$570,491	$728,807

The following programs are included in bill language for the Rural Community Advancement Program: $1,000,000 is for grants to nonprofit organizations to finance construction, refurbishing, and servicing of individually-owned household water well systems in rural areas; $500,000 is for revolving funds for financing water and wastewater projects; $24,000,000 for Federally Recognized Native American Tribes, of which $4,000,000 is for community facilities grants to tribal colleges, and of which $250,000 is for transportation technical assistance; $500,000 for rural transportation technical assistance; $3,000,000 is for grants to Mississippi Delta Region counties; $25,000,000 is for water and waste disposal systems in the Colonias; $18,250,000 is for technical assistance for rural water and waste systems, of which $5,600,000 is for a rural community assistance program; $14,000,000 is for a circuit rider program; and $22,800,000 is for empowerment zones and enterprise communities (EZ/EC) and communities designated by the Secretary of Agriculture as Rural Economic Area Partnership Zones, of which $1,100,000 is for rural community programs, of which $13,400,000 is for rural utilities programs, and of which $8,300,000 is for the rural business and cooperative development programs.

The Committee provides a program level of $1,250,000,000 for the guaranteed business and industry guaranteed loan program. This is an increase of $250,000,000 above the budget request and $336,038,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007. The budget requested $100,000,000 of this amount to fund biomass and renewable energy projects. The Committee provides the increased program level to provide $350,000,000 for biomass and renewable energy projects.

The Committee is aware the Department has submitted a 2007 Farm Bill Proposal to address the backlog of Rural Critical Access Hospital needs. The Committee supports providing rural communities with a strong healthcare infrastructure. The Committee

notes that since fiscal year 2004, the USDA Community Facilities Programs have provided $260 million in loans and loan guarantees to support 53 rural critical access hospitals. The Committee requests the Department to provide a report, no later than January 31, 2008, on the status of community facility programs in addressing rural healthcare issues and needs, including facilities located in communities impacted by weather related disasters.

The Committee has included a general provision to require the water and waste direct loan subsidy rate to be calculated using the fiscal year 2007 borrower rates and the fiscal year 2008 President's economic assumptions. The Committee considered the President's budget proposal to lower the borrower interest rate for the direct water and waste loan program but the Committee needs additional information on the total cost of implementing this proposal. The change in the subsidy rate to incorporate the proposed borrower interest rate would cost an additional $80,000,000 in budget authority. During the Rural Development budget hearing, the Committee requested additional information on what the additional cost would be for allowing prior year loans to also disburse at the proposed borrower interest rate. From the data provided, it is estimated that the prior year cost of allowing the change in the borrower interest rate could cost over $200,000,000. This amount would be a modification and funded out of current year budget authority unless the proposal was restricted to loans obligated in fiscal year 2008. Considering this proposal could cost over $280,000,000 to implement and would reduce funding for water and waste grants in fiscal year 2008, the Committee is not providing the authority to implement the proposed borrower interest rate.

The Committee provides over $66,000,000 to restore funding for the Rural Business Enterprise, Rural Business Opportunity, and Community Facility Grant programs that were eliminated in the President's budget request. These grant programs are critical sources of funding for the development of essential community facilities, small and emerging private business enterprises, and sustainable economic development in rural communities. Especially in remote and very poor areas, rural communities have few resources to attract new businesses, support local small borrowers, and provide health care, public safety, or public and community services.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT SALARIES AND EXPENSES

	FY 2007 estimate	*FY 2008 estimate*	*Committee provisions*
Appropriations	$161,298,000	$208,194,000	$175,382,000
Transfer from:			
Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account	452,927,000	434,890,000	462,521,000
Rural Development Loan Fund Program Account	4,774,000	4,576,000	4,861,000
Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account	38,623,000	37,009,000	39,405,000

	FY 2007 estimate	*FY 2008 estimate*	*Committee provisions*
Total, RD Salaries and Expenses	$657,622,000	$684,669,000	$682,169,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Salaries and Expenses of the Rural Development mission areas, the Committee provides an appropriation of $175,382,000 and transfers from other accounts of $506,787,000, for a total program level of $682,169,000. This is an increase of $24,547,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $2,500,000 below the budget request.

The Committee recommendation includes an additional $13,767,000 for pay costs, $6,700,000 for activities previously funded through the Department's CCE account, and $4,080,000 for information technology.

RURAL HOUSING SERVICE

RURAL HOUSING INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

	Loan level	Subsidy level	Administrative expenses
2007 appropriation	$5,027,750,000	$228,789,000	$452,927,000
2008 budget estimate	5,087,919,000	35,854,000	434,890,000
Provided in the bill	5,100,000,000	212,163,000	462,521,000
Comparison:			
2007 appropriation	+72,250,000	−16,626,000	+9,594,000
2008 budget estimate	+12,081,000	+176,309,000	+27,631,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Rural Housing Insurance Fund program account, the Committee provides a loan level of $5,100,000,000, an increase of $72,250,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2007 and an increase of $12,081,000 above the budget request.

The following table reflects the loan levels for the Rural Housing Insurance Fund program account:

[In thousands of dollars]

	FY 2007 level	FY 2008 estimate	Committee provisions
Rural Housing Insurance Fund Loans			
Single family housing (sec. 502):			
Direct	$1,129,391	0	$1,129,391
Unsubsidized guaranteed	3,644,224	$4,848,611	3,716,425
Housing repair (sec. 504)	34,652	22,855	34,652
Rental housing (sec. 515)	99,000	0	99,000
Multi-family guaranteed (sec. 538)	99,000	200,000	99,000
Housing site development (sec. 524)	5,000	5,045	5,046
Credit sales of acquired property	11,485	11,408	11,486
Self-help housing land development fund	4,998	0	5,000
Total, Loan authorization	$5,027,750	$5,087,919	$5,100,000

The following table reflects the costs of loan programs under credit reform:

ESTIMATED LOAN SUBSIDY AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES LEVELS

[In thousands of dollars]

	FY 2007 level	FY 2008 estimate	Committee provisions
Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account (loan subsidies):			
Single family housing (sec. 502):			
Direct	$113,278	0	$105,824
Unsubsidized guaranteed	42,641	$10,070	44,359
Housing repair (sec. 504)	10,240	6,461	9,796
Rental housing (sec. 515)	45,213	0	42,184
Multi-family guaranteed (sec. 538)	7,663	18,800	9,306
Credit sales of acquired property	721	523	552
Multi-family housing preservation	8,910	0	0
Self-help housing land development fund	123	0	142
Total, Loan subsidies	$228,789	$35,854	$212,163
RHIF expenses:			
Administrative expenses	$452,927	$434,890	$462,521

The Committee provides an increase of over $176,000,000 to restore funding for the section 502 direct single family housing loan program, section 504 direct housing repair loan program, section 515 direct rental housing loan program, self-help housing land development fund loan program, and to reject the Administration's proposal to increase the guarantee fee in the section 502 guaranteed single family housing loan program. These critical housing loan programs were proposed for elimination or drastically cut in the President's budget request.

The Committee does not include the general provision that was requested in the President's budget, increasing the guarantee fee for the section 502 guaranteed single family housing loan program.

The Committee provided funding for the multi-family housing preservation program in the Multifamily Housing Revitalization Program Account.

At the time of the subcommittee markup, the Committee has not received the proposed legislation for subsidized guaranteed loans that the Department stated would replace the section 502 direct single family housing loan program. The Committee is unable to consider a hypothetical proposal to replace this critical program that provides housing opportunities to very-low income individuals and families.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

2007 appropriation	$616,020,000
2008 budget estimate	567,000,000
Provided in the bill	533,020,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	−83,000,000
2008 budget estimate	−33,980,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Rental Assistance Program, the Committee provides a program level of $533,020,000, a decrease of $83,000,000 below the amount available in fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $33,980,000 below the budget request.

These funds will be used for renewal of expiring rental assistance contracts for a one-year term and provides funding for preservation incentives and new construction contracts. In addition, this funding level provides a two-month funding reserve to cover any unforeseen disruptions for renewing contracts. This one-year agreement term will minimize the cost fluctuations in this account.

The Committee notes that the cost to provide renewal of expiring rental assistance contracts for a two-year term would be $905,700,000, an increase of $338,700,000 above the budget request and $297,600,000 over the amount available in fiscal year 2007. Since the budget request proposed eliminating many critical Rural Development loan and grant programs, the Committee was not able to provide the additional resources that would be required to maintain the rental assistance program for a two-year contract term. Also, the budget request assumed that funding for fiscal year 2007 would be based on one-year contract renewals but the Revised Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007, provided funding for two-year contract renewals. This change in the fiscal year 2007 assumption decreases the funding necessary to provide for one-year contract renewals in fiscal year 2008.

RURAL HOUSING VOUCHER PROGRAM

2007 appropriation	$15,840,000
2008 budget estimate	0
Provided in the bill	0
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	−15,840,000
2008 budget estimate	− − −

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Rural Housing Voucher Program, the Committee does not propose funding as requested in the President's budget. Funding for this program is provided in the Multifamily Housing Revitalization Program Account.

MULTIFAMILY HOUSING REVITALIZATION PROGRAM ACCOUNT

2007 appropriation	0
2008 budget estimate	$27,800,000
Provided in the bill	27,800,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+27,800,000
2008 budget estimate	− − −

For the Multifamily Housing Revitalization Program Account, the Committee provides an appropriation of $27,800,000, an increase of $27,800,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2007 and the same amount as the budget request.

The Committee provides $10,000,000 for the rural housing voucher program; $3,000,000 for the preservation of the section 515 multi-family housing portfolio; and $14,800,000 to continue a demonstration program for projects financed under the section 515 program.

The Committee proposes to provide authority to the Rural Housing Service to administer out of this account the rural housing voucher program and the demonstration programs that were funded in fiscal year 2007 in the Rural Housing Insurance Fund and

the Rural Housing Assistance Grant accounts. The Committee also includes authority to allow the Secretary to use funds made available for the demonstration program to carry out a section 515 multi-family rental housing loan restructuring program when it becomes authorized, with prior approval of the Committee.

MUTUAL AND SELF-HELP HOUSING GRANTS

2007 appropriation	$33,660,000
2008 budget estimate	9,500,000
Provided in the bill	40,000,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+6,340,000
2008 budget estimate	+30,500,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants, the Committee provides an appropriation of $40,000,000, an increase of $6,340,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2007 and an increase of $30,500,000 above the budget request.

The Committee provides over a 400 percent increase for this grant program from the President's budget request, which proposed to dramatically decrease funding for this program. Mutual and self-help housing grants are made available to public and private non-profit organizations, local governments and tribal organizations to provide technical assistance to low- and very-low income families to build their homes through the mutual self-help method.

RURAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS

2007 appropriation	$43,603,000
2008 budget estimate	39,000,000
Provided in the bill	39,000,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	−4,603,000
2008 budget estimate	−−−

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Rural Housing Assistance Grants program, the Committee provides an appropriation of $39,000,000, a decrease of $4,603,000 below the amount provided in fiscal year 2007 and the same amount as the budget request. The appropriated amount includes $30,000,000 for very-low income housing repair grants and $9,000,000 for rural housing preservation grants.

The Committee provided funding for the multi-family housing demonstration revolving fund in the Multifamily Housing Revitalization Program Account. The Committee also did not provide funding in this account for the supervisory and technical assistance grant program and the compensation for construction defects programs since the programs are expected to have carryover balances that will be used to fund the programs.

FARM LABOR PROGRAM ACCOUNT

	Loan level	Subsidy level	Grants
2007 appropriation	$38,117,000	$18,277,000	$13,860,000
2008 budget estimate	13,520,000	5,849,000	4,000,000
Provided in the bill	50,000,000	21,630,000	25,000,000
Comparison:			
2007 appropriation	+11,883,000	+3,353,000	+11,140,000
2008 budget estimate	+36,480,000	+15,781,000	+21,000,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Farm Labor program account, the Committee provides a loan subsidy of $21,630,000, which supports a loan level of $50,000,000, an increase of $3,353,000 in loan subsidy and an increase of $11,883,000 in loan level above the amount available in fiscal year 2007, and an increase of $15,781,000 in loan subsidy and an increase of $36,480,000 in loan level above the amount in the budget request.

The Committee also provides $25,000,000 in grants, an increase of $11,140,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2007 and an increase of $21,000,000 above the budget request.

The Committee provides over a 400 percent increase for the Farm Labor Housing loan and grant programs from the President's budget request, which proposed to dramatically decrease funding for these programs. The Farm Labor Housing loan and grant programs provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing for farm workers by providing loans to farmers for small, on-farm housing or loans and grants for off-farm multi-family developments.

RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE

RURAL DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

	Loan level	Subsidy level	Administrative expenses
2007 appropriation	$33,870,000	$14,927,000	$4,774,000
2008 budget estimate	33,772,000	14,485,000	4,576,000
Provided in the bill	33,772,000	14,485,000	4,861,000
Comparison:			
2007 appropriation	−98,000	−442,000	+87,000
2008 budget estimate	− − −	− − −	+285,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Rural Development Loan Fund program account, the Committee provides for a loan level of $33,772,000, a decrease of $98,000 below the amount provided for fiscal year 2007 and the same as the budget request.

For the estimated loan subsidy, the Committee provides an appropriation of $14,485,000, a decrease of $442,000 below the amount available in fiscal year 2007 and the same as the budget request.

The Committee also provides $4,861,000 in administrative expenses, an increase of $87,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2007 and an increase of $285,000 above the budget request.

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

	Loan level	Subsidy level
2007 appropriation	$24,752,000	[1] $5,406,000
2008 budget estimate	0	0
Provided in the bill	0	0
Comparison:		
2007 appropriation	−24,752,000	−5,406,000
2008 budget estimate	− − −	− − −

[1] Offset by a rescission from interest on the cushion of credit payments, as authorized by section 313 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936.

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

The President's budget proposes and the Committee recommends to fund this program from mandatory funds instead of discretionary funds.

RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

2007 appropriation	$26,718,000
2008 budget estimate	20,928,000
Provided in the bill	29,193,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+2,475,000
2008 budget estimate	+8,265,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Rural Cooperative Development Grants, the Committee provides an appropriation of $29,193,000, an increase of $2,475,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and an increase of $8,265,000 above the budget request.

The Committee provides a total of $29,193,000 for the Rural Cooperative Development Grant program, of which: $20,295,000 is for the value-added agricultural product market development grant program; $2,475,000 is provided for a cooperative agreement for the Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA) program through a cooperative agreement with the National Center for Appropriate Technology; $1,473,000 is for cooperatives or associations of cooperatives whose primary focus is to provide assistance to small, minority producers; $4,455,000 is for cooperative development grants and $495,000 is for a cooperative research agreement with a qualified academic institution.

RURAL EMPOWERMENT ZONES AND ENTERPRISE COMMUNITIES GRANTS

2007 appropriation	$11,088,000
2008 budget estimate	0
Provided in the bill	11,088,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	− − −
2008 budget estimate	+11,088,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Rural Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities Grants, the Committee provides an appropriation of $11,088,000, the same as the amount available in fiscal year 2007 and an increase of $11,088,000 above the budget request.

RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM

	Loan level	Subsidy level	Grants
2007 appropriation	$176,512,000	$11,456,000	$11,385,000
2008 budget estimate	195,470,000	18,941,000	15,000,000
Provided in the bill	250,000,000	24,225,000	21,775,000
Comparison:			
2007 appropriation	+73,488,000	+12,769,000	+10,390,000
2008 budget estimate	+54,530,000	+5,284,000	+6,775,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Renewable Energy Program, the Committee provides an appropriation of $46,000,000, an increase of $23,159,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2007 and an increase of $12,059,000 above the budget request.

The Committee recommendation provides for a renewable energy loan level of $250,000,000, an increase of $73,488,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2007 and an increase of $54,530,000 above the budget request.

The Committee recommendation provides for a renewable energy grant level of $21,775,000, an increase of $10,390,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2007 and increase of $6,775,000 above the budget request.

RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

	Loan level	Subsidy level	Administrative expenses
2007 appropriation	$6,079,524,000	$4,304,000	$38,623,000
2008 budget estimate	4,790,000,000	3,740,000	37,009,000
Provided in the bill	5,290,000,000	3,740,000	39,405,000
Comparison:			
2007 appropriation	789,524,000	−564,000	+782,000
2008 budget estimate	+500,000,000	– – –	+2,396,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

The following table reflects the loan levels for the Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program account:

[Dollars in thousands]

	FY 2007 enacted	FY 2008 estimate	Committee provisions
Loan authorizations:			
Electric:			
Direct, 5%	$99,000	$100,000	$100,000
Direct, Municipal rate	100,764	0	0
Direct, FFB	2,700,000	4,000,000	4,500,000
Direct, Treasury Rate	990,000	0	0
Guaranteed underwriting	1,500,000	0	0
Subtotal	5,389,764	4,100,000	4,600,000
Telecommunications:			
Direct, 5%	145,000	145,000	145,000
Direct, Treasury rate	419,760	250,000	250,000

[Dollars in thousands]

	FY 2007 enacted	FY 2008 estimate	Committee provisions
Direct, FFB	125,000	295,000	295,000
Subtotal	689,760	690,000	690,000
Total, Loan authorizations	$6,079,524	$4,790,000	$5,290,000

ESTIMATED LOAN SUBSIDY AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES LEVELS

[Dollars in thousands]

	FY 2007 enacted	FY 2008 estimate	Committee provisions
Loan subsidies:			
Electric:			
Direct, 5%	$2,119	$120	$120
Direct, Municipal rate	1,522	0	0
Subtotal	3,641	120	120
Telecommunications:			
Direct, 5%	537	116	116
Direct, Treasury rate	126	1,675	1,675
Direct, FFB	0	1,829	1,829
Subtotal	663	3,620	3,620
Total, Loan subsidies	$4,304	$3,740	$3,740
Electric and Telecommunications expenses:			
Administrative expenses	$38,623	$37,009	$39,405

The Committee has become aware of interest in wind power generation and has included increased funding to provide additional resources to support this growing renewable energy industry.

The Committee recommendation does not include a program level for the guaranteed underwriting loan program since the cap set in the authorizing legislation was reached in fiscal year 2007 for this loan program.

The Committee recommendation includes a general provision to limit RUS from drafting or implementing any regulation or rule insofar as it would require recertification of rural status for each electric and telecommunications borrower for the Rural Electrification and Telecommunication Loans program. The Committee is concerned by the Department's proposal to change the long-standing practice of the "Once Rural, Always Rural" principle until the authorizing committee has the opportunity to address the population requirement in the 2007 Farm Bill.

DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE AND BROADBAND PROGRAM

	Loan level	*Subsidy level*	*Grants*
2007 appropriation	$495,000,000	$10,643,000	$38,610,000
2008 budget estimate	300,000,000	6,450,000	24,750,000
Provided in the bill	300,000,000	6,450,000	52,820,000
Comparison:			
2007 appropriation	−195,000,000	−4,193,000	14,210,000
2008 budget estimate	– – –	– – –	28,070,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program, the Committee provides an appropriation of $59,270,000, an increase of $10,017,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and an increase of $28,070,000 above the budget request, including: $35,000,000 for Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants; $6,450,000 for Broadband Telecommunications loan subsidy, which supports a loan level of $300,000,000; and $17,820,000 for Broadband Grants.

The Committee is concerned by the Department's administration of the broadband loan program. Since the inception of the loan program, the Department has failed to obligate available resources to fund viable broadband projects. In fiscal year 2007, $10,642,000 was carried over from fiscal year 2006, providing a total of $21,285,000 in budget authority and a program level of $990,000,000. Historically, the Department does not obligate the current year appropriation for this program and it is estimated that the $10,643,000 provided in fiscal year 2007 will carry over into fiscal year 2008. This carry over will provide an additional program level of $495,000,000, for a total program level of $795,000,000 in fiscal year 2008. The Committee is aware that the Rural Utilities Service has published a proposed rule to address critical program issues. The Committee believes the appropriation for the broadband loan program is sufficient to meet expected demand in fiscal year 2008, with the expected carryover of prior year funds, and implementation of a new rule and the Farm Bill.

The Committee notes the proposed rule proposes to place limitations on service to high density areas which are likely to have broadband service. The Committee expects the Department to prioritize deployment of Broadband Service to households with no or limited broadband access.

TITLE IV—DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOOD, NUTRITION AND CONSUMER SERVICES

2007 appropriation	$597,000
2008 budget estimate	655,000
Provided in the bill	628,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+31,000
2008 budget estimate	−27,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, the Committee provides an appropriation of $628,000, an increase of $31,000 above the amount provided in fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $27,000 below the budget request.

The Committee is aware that the State of Indiana has recently entered into a contract to privatize certain operations of the Food Stamp Program. It is the Committee's understanding that USDA approved the contract in December 2006 without a clear understanding of the details of the program, including its implementation, effect on state employees, daily operation of the program or even whether the program complied with federal law. In February 2007, USDA sent a letter to the State of Indiana requesting additional details about the program, with only weeks to go before the initial transfer to private contractors of about 70 percent of state employees working on the Food Stamp Program; this had already been scheduled to occur on March 19, 2007. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary to perform comprehensive oversight of the program. It further directs the Secretary to provide the Committee with quarterly reports beginning 30 days after passage of this bill on this contract, including the effects on enrollment, program access, error rates, and spending on administrative expenses. The Committee directs the Secretary to be prepared to take appropriate administrative action if performance standards as stated in the contract are not met.

The Committee recognizes that the Food and Nutrition Service is promoting the Healthier U.S. School Challenge as part of the President's Healthier U.S. Initiative, and the Committee commends the USDA for participating in this initiative. The Committee notes that there are school-based physical education programs, such as PE4Life, that are getting positive measurable outcomes in student fitness, as well as reduced disciplinary incidences. The Committee strongly encourages the Food and Nutrition Service to explore collaboration between nutrition programming and wellness, and such school-based physical education programs.

The Committee believes that when a school food service authority contracts with a foodservice management company for the pro-

vision of meals it is important to ensure the integrity of accounting functions. The Committee believes that when allowing a food service management company to control, either directly or indirectly, point-of-sale software as well as the editing or reformatting of transactional data used to support the federal reimbursement claim, school food service authorities must exercise sufficient oversight, as required in regulation to protect the integrity of the school meal program. The Committee requests the Government Accountability Office to provide a report, no later than February 28, 2008, on the nature and effectiveness of internal control procedures to ensure the accuracy of meal counting and claiming by Food Service Management companies under contract to provide meal service to School Districts participating in the National School Lunch Program. In particular, the Committee is interested in such procedures established by Food Service Management companies themselves as well as those procedures undertaken by School Districts in their oversight and monitoring of contractual performance.

Audit recommendations not achieving management decision within 180 days.—The Committee has received from the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the record a list of audit reports where management decisions have not been achieved within 180 days. Included on the list were three audit reports for FNS, with several open recommendations. The Committee supports OIG in its efforts to reach agreement within 180 days and directs FNS to send the Committee a report by October 1, 2007 with a plan for reaching management decision on the outstanding issues.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

	Direct appropriation	*Transfer from section 32*	*Total program level*
2007 appropriation	$7,614,523,000	$5,731,073,000	$13,345,596,000
2008 budget estimate	7,592,797,000	6,304,475,000	13,897,272,000
Provided in the bill	7,668,156,000	6,235,057,000	13,903,213,000
Comparison:			
2007 appropriation	+53,633,000	+503,984,000	+557,617,000
2008 budget estimate	+75,359,000	−69,418,000	+5,941,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Child Nutrition Programs, the Committee provides a total of $13,903,213,000, an increase of $557,617,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and an increase of $5,941,000 above the budget request. Of the total amount provided, $7,668,156,000 is by direct appropriation and $6,235,057,000 is by transfer from Section 32.

The Committee includes a general provision to expand the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program to all States. The Committee provides up to $500,000 for each State, not currently authorized, to carry out a program to make free fresh fruits and vegetables available to elementary or secondary schools to make available to students throughout the school day.

The Committee also includes a general provision to expand the Simplified Summer Food Program to all States.

The Committee notes the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 authorized a pilot study on eliminating the reduced price school meal program, subject to the availability of funds. Eliminating reduced price meals nationwide by increasing the limit for free meals to 185 percent of poverty, would cost $3,500,000,000 over five years. A pilot study for forecasting the impact of eliminating the reduced price school meal program would require a demonstration with comparison sites and an evaluation that looked at participation increases, rates and how "error demographics" and administrative challenges were different between the demonstration sites and the comparison sites. A pilot program would take three years, two years to collect the data and one year to evaluate the program. Since the Child Nutrition Programs will be reauthorized in 2009, there is not time to initiate a pilot program before the program is reauthorized.

The following table reflects the Committee recommendations for the child nutrition programs:

[Dollars in thousands]

Child Nutrition Programs:	
School lunch program	$8,180,933
School breakfast program	2,389,988
Child and adult care food program	2,288,838
Summer food service program	310,634
Special milk program	14,618
State administrative expenses	175,636
Commodity procurement	508,608
Team nutrition	15,000
Food safety education	2,000
Coordinated review	5,505
Computer support and processing	9,453
CACFP training and technical assistance	2,000
Total	$13,903,213

The Committee provides $15,000,000 for TEAM nutrition. Included in this amount is $6,000,000 for food service training grants to States; $3,000,000 for technical assistance materials; $800,000 for National Food Service Management Institute cooperative agreements; $1,000,000 for print and electronic food service resource systems; $1,000,000 to assist USDA's Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion in development and maintenance of MyPyramid and Dietary Guidelines materials in support of nutrition education for Child Nutrition programs participants and their families, and $3,200,000 for other activities.

The Committee provides $2,000,000 for Food Safety Education and encourages FNS to develop materials to educate children and their families on food safety issues including anaphylaxis, to conduct further research into the causes of foodborne illness in schools using CDC data, support educational initiatives on the occurrence of foodborne norovirus outbreaks in schools and other food safety education activities.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

2007 appropriation	$5,204,430,000
2008 budget estimate	5,386,597,000
Provided in the bill	5,620,000,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+415,570,000
2008 budget estimate	+233,403,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), the Committee provides an appropriation of $5,620,000,000, an increase of $415,570,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and an increase of $233,403,000 above the budget request.

The Committee notes that since the budget request was submitted last February, estimates for participation and food costs have increased for fiscal year 2007 and fiscal year 2008, increasing the estimate for program needs in fiscal year 2008.

USDA has reported large upward revisions to its dairy price forecasts, and WIC food costs for fiscal year 2007 are starting to reflect this increase. Since milk and cheese account for about 40 percent of WIC food costs, large fluctuations in dairy prices have a significant impact on WIC food costs. The increased WIC food costs in fiscal year 2007 reduce the projected carry-over into fiscal year 2008. Also, participation in fiscal year 2007 has been somewhat higher than originally estimated, which increases the estimated participation for fiscal year 2008.

Also, it is currently estimated the WIC program will have an unobligated balance in the contingency reserve of about $141,069,000, which is $16,069,000 above the original appropriation of $125,000,000 provided for the reserve. The Committee includes a general provision to rescind the $16,069,000 from the contingency fund and includes this amount in this record level WIC grant funds.

The Committee does not include the requested increase of $75,000,000 in the contingency fund. The contingency fund is intended to support participation should cost or participation exceed budget estimates. The Committee instead includes an additional $270,570,000 for WIC grants to States to address the estimated increases in participation and food costs in fiscal year 2008.

The Committee does not include the provision as requested in the President's budget, that caps the national average participant grant for nutrition services and administration (NSA) grants to States at $14.12 for fiscal year 2008, increasing the estimate for NSA funding by $145,000,000.

Therefore, the recommended funding level, $233,403,000 above the budget request and $415,570,000 above the amount provided in fiscal year 2007, is currently estimated to be sufficient to meet program needs. However, the Committee is aware that dairy prices are continuing to rise and will continue to monitor WIC food costs, participation, and carry-over funds, and take additional action as necessary to ensure that funding provided in fiscal year 2008 is sufficient to serve all eligible applicants.

The recommended funding level includes $15,000,000 for continuation of the breastfeeding peer counselor program.

The Committee provides $30,000,000 for investments in management information systems, if the Secretary determines that those funds are not needed to maintain caseload and will not require use of the contingency fund.

The Committee does not include language requested by the Administration that provides guidance that funds under this heading shall not be used for WIC benefits for individuals who receive medical assistance or whose family member is a pregnant woman or infant who receives assistance, unless their family falls below 250 percent of the applicable poverty guidelines.

Electronic Benefit Transfer.—The Committee recommendation includes language to allow funds to be used for WIC electronic benefit transfer (EBT) systems and sets the authorized level of infrastructure funding at $14,000,000, which includes funding to develop EBT systems.

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

2007 appropriation	$38,161,534,000
2008 budget estimate	39,838,223,000
Provided in the bill	39,816,223,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+1,654,689,000
2008 budget estimate	−22,000,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Food Stamp Program, the Committee provides $39,816,223,000, an increase of $1,654,689,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $22,000,000 below the budget request. The total amount includes $3,000,000,000 for a contingency reserve in fiscal year 2008 and $140,000,000 for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).

The Committee does not include the provision, requested in the President's budget, which provides funding as a monthly transitional benefit to Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) participants. The Committee does not provide the funding requested in the President's budget for the CSFP transitional benefit or CSFP outreach grants. The Committee provided an appropriation for the CSFP in the Commodity Assistance Program.

The Committee includes statutory language to exclude special pay for military personnel deployed to designated combat areas when determining food stamp eligibility.

The following table reflects the Committee recommendations for the food stamp program:

[Dollars in thousands]

Food Stamp Program Account:	
Benefits	$31,902,007
Contingency Reserve	3,000,000
State Administrative Cost	2,662,000
Employment & Training	319,570
Other Program Costs	67,327
Nutrition Assistance to Puerto Rico	1,614,765
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)	84,650
The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)	140,000

Associated Activities	25,904
Total	$39,816,223

Included in the recommended level for other program costs are $2,000,000 to conduct Food Stamp Program modernization and innovation projects and $1,000,000 to assist USDA's Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion in the development and maintenance of MyPyramid and Dietary Guidelines materials in support of nutrition education for the food stamp eligible population.

Included in the recommended level for FDPIR is $34,206,000 to support additional administration funding in the program to address current inequities among tribes in the allocation of funds and to address pressing needs to improve warehousing and other administrative costs associated with commodity distribution.

COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

2007 appropriation	$177,572,000
2008 budget estimate	70,370,000
Provided in the bill	221,070,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+43,498,000
2008 budget estimate	+150,700,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

The Committee provides an appropriation of $221,070,000 for the Commodity Assistance Program, an increase of $43,498,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and an increase of $150,700,000 above the budget request.

The recommended funding level for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) is $150,000,000, an increase of $42,798,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and an increase of $150,000,000 above the budget request.

The Committee provides a large increase for the CSFP with the expectation that the fiscal year 2007 caseload will be maintained. Of this increase, the Committee provides at least $3,900,000 to begin funding the five states with USDA approved plans. Within the remaining available funds, the Committee directs the Department to provide additional caseload in the states with existing programs and documented additional needs. In assigning additional caseload, the Committee directs the Department to give priority to those states which received supplemental caseload in the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico and Pandemic Influenza Act of 2006, and continue to have demand for supplemental caseload.

The Committee is aware that of the funding made available for CSFP and TEFAP under Division B of P.L. 109–148, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico and Pandemic Influenza, 2006, a small amount of resources remain available. These resources are in the form of both cash balances and commodity inventories. Given that disaster-related program operations have ceased, the Committee has included a general provision to allow these remaining resources, and any subsequent recoveries and collections, to be used to support the normal on-going operations of CSFP and TEFAP.

The Committee has included $50,000,000 for administration of TEFAP, an increase of $500,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2007 and an increase of $500,000 above the budget request. These funds may be used for administration purposes or for food costs at the discretion of the States. In addition, the Committee recommendation includes language that allows the Secretary to transfer up to $10,000,000 of TEFAP commodity funding to processing, storage, and distribution costs.

For the Food Donations Programs the Committee provides an appropriation of $1,070,000 for Pacific Island Assistance, the same as the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and the same as the budget request.

Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.—The Committee recommendation includes $20,000,000 for the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, an increase of $200,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and an increase of $200,000 above the budget request.

Seniors Farmers' Market Program.—Public Law 107–171, Section 4402, directs mandatory funding for this program from funds available to the Commodity Credit Corporation through fiscal year 2007. This program is scheduled for reauthorization in fiscal year 2008.

NUTRITION PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION

2007 appropriation	$140,252,000
2008 budget estimate	148,926,000
Provided in the bill	146,926,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+6,674,000
2008 budget estimate	−2,000,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Nutrition Programs Administration, the Committee has provided $146,926,000, an increase of $6,674,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $2,000,000 below the budget request.

The Committee recommendation includes an increase of $2,000,000 to fund initiatives by the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion to continue development of an evidence-based system for the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and enhancements to MyPyramid interactive applications and information technology services.

TITLE V—FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND RELATED PROGRAMS

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

[Dollars in thousands]

	Appropriation	*Transfer from loan accounts*	*Total, FAS*
2007 appropriation	$156,220	($5,084)	($161,304)
2008 budget estimate	168,209	(4,985)	(173,194)
Provided in the bill	159,136	(4,985)	(164,121)
Comparison:			
2007 appropriation	+2,916	−99	+2,817
2008 budget estimate	−9,073	− − −	−9,073

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Foreign Agricultural Service, the Committee provides an appropriation of $159,136,000 and transfers of $4,985,000, for a total salaries and expenses level of $164,121,000, an increase of $2,817,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $9,073,000 below the budget request.

The Committee recommendation includes $2,817,000 for pay costs as requested. Unlike many other agencies, the Foreign Agricultural Service received an increase in the Revised Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007. The Committee believes that there are sufficient resources in base funding for overseas operations and reimbursements to the Department of State.

Audit recommendations not achieving management decision within 180 days.—The Committee has received from the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the record a list of audit reports where management decisions have not been achieved within 180 days. Included on the list was one audit report for FAS, with one open recommendation. The Committee supports OIG in its efforts to reach agreement within 180 days and directs FAS to send the Committee a report by October 1, 2007 with a plan for reaching management decision on the outstanding issue.

The Committee recommendation includes the fiscal year 2006 funding level for technical assistance for the promotion of specialty crop experts.

PUBLIC LAW 480

PROGRAM AND GRANT ACCOUNTS

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

The following table reflects the loan levels, subsidy levels, and administrative costs for all Public Law 480 programs:

[Dollars in thousands]

	FY 2007 enacted	FY 2008 estimate	Committee provisions
Public Law 480 Program Account:			
Title II—Commodities for disposition abroad:			
Program level	($1,214,711)	($1,219,400)	($1,219,400)
Appropriation	1,214,711	1,219,400	1,219,400
Salaries and expenses:			
FAS	166	– – –	– – –
FSA	3,207	2,761	2,749
Total, P.L. 480–S&E	3,373	2,761	2,749

The budget does not request funds for the Public Law 480 Title I program. The Committee understands that the Department estimates that it will have at least $20,000,000 in carryover funds available in fiscal year 2008 in the Ocean Freight Differential (OFD) account. The Committee has included language to permit these carryover funds to be transferred to the Title I account if needed. The Committee will continue to monitor the availability of carryover and OFD funds and requests the Department to advise it immediately if the United States Government enters into any agreements under Title I.

Administration proposal.—The administration proposed language under the Public Law 480 Title II account that would allow the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to use up to 25 percent of the funds appropriated "for local or regional purchase of food to assist people threatened by a food security crisis." The Committee has not included this language in this bill, but the Committee will consider this proposal as part of an overall examination of food aid programs. The Committee will hold a hearing this year to examine food aid issues and will invite the USAID administrator and the Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service to testify, as well as representatives from international organizations and humanitarian groups.

CCC EXPORT LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

2007 appropriation	$5,261,000
2008 budget estimate	5,344,000
Provided in the bill	5,338,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+77,000
2008 budget estimate	−6,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For administrative expenses of the Commodity Credit Corporation Export Loans Program Account, the Committee provides an appropriation of $5,338,000, an increase of $77,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $6,000 below the budget request.

MCGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM GRANTS

2007 appropriation	$99,000,000
2008 budget estimate	100,000,000
Provided in the bill	100,000,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+1,000,000
2008 budget estimate	– – –

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program Grants, as authorized by Section 3107 of P.L. 107–171 (7 U.S.C. 1736o–1), the Committee provides an appropriation of $100,000,000, an increase of $1,000,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007, and the same as the budget request.

TITLE VI—RELATED AGENCIES AND FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

	Appropriation	Drug, device and animal drug user fees	Total, FDA, S&E
2007 appropriation	$1,569,244,000	$407,530,000	$1,976,774,000
2008 budget estimate	1,635,709,000	416,092,000	2,051,801,000
Provided in the bill	1,697,709,000	13,696,000	1,711,405,000
Comparison:			
2007 appropriation	+128,465,000	−393,834,000	−265,369,000
2008 budget estimate	+62,000,000	−402,396,000	−340,396,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

The Committee provides an appropriation of $1,697,709,000 in budget authority, an increase of $128,465,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2007, and an increase of $62,000,000 above the budget request. In addition, the Committee makes available $13,696,000 in animal drug user fees for total Salaries and Expenses of $1,711,405,000.

The Committee provides budget authority as follows: $466,726,000 for the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) and related field activities of the Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA); $324,438,000 for the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) and related field activities of ORA; $155,073,000 for the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) and related field activities of ORA; $94,809,000 for the Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and related field activities of ORA; $240,122,000 for the Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) and related field activities of ORA; $36,455,000 for the National Center for Toxicological Research (NCTR); $88,577,000 for headquarters and the Office of the Commissioner; $131,533,000 for GSA rental payments; $59,168,000 for other rent and rent-related activities; and $38,808,000 for White Oak consolidation expenses.

In addition, the Committee also provides increases of $5,000,000 for the Office of Generic Drugs, $6,250,000 for the Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising and Communication, $12,750,000 for the Office of Surveillance and Epidemiology, $2,000,000 for the Office of Cosmetics and Colors, and $35,000,000 for CFSAN. In addition, the Committee provides a total of $5,000,000 for the Office of Women's Health.

The Committee notes that this bill, if enacted, would be the second straight large increase in funding provided for FDA. If this bill were enacted, FDA would receive an increase of almost

$231,000,000 in discretionary budget authority compared to the 2006 enacted bill.

The Committee does not make available prescription drug and medical device user fees, as the reauthorizations for those fees for fiscal year 2008 have not yet been enacted. However, if those fees are reauthorized at the levels estimated in the budget, total resources for FDA will exceed $2,000,000,000 in fiscal year 2008.

Pending further review, the Committee does not provide any funds for closure of FDA laboratory facilities.

The Committee does not approve the proposed reduction in the Food Contact Notification Program. The Committee provides funding as requested for the National Center for Food Safety and Technology and for New Mexico State University. The Committee does not provide funding for the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Commission, the Warehousing Education and Research Council, the Natural Products Center, or the Critical Path Institute.

Bill structure.—Although the budget requested a statutory "blank check" that would remove the specified levels of funding for each center and other activities in the bill, the Committee believes the agency needs more budget controls, not fewer. Therefore, it has maintained the usual bill language structure.

Food safety.—The Committee believes that FDA is failing to do what is needed to ensure the safety of our food supply.

The Committee believes that additional budgetary resources must be tied to a sound management plan that represents a systemic approach to addressing the shortfalls of the inspection of our domestic and imported foods and that has the support of the Administration.

There have been mixed signs as to whether FDA is going to produce such a plan. To ensure that it does, the Committee directs FDA to develop a performance plan that establishes measurable benchmarks for concrete improvements in the performance of its food safety mission.

The plan must set forth clear, definitive goals over a multiyear period to comprehensively overhaul FDA's food safety operations, covering both domestic and imported foods. The plan must include a detailed description of any organizational, managerial, statutory and regulatory changes necessary to achieve them, as well as an assessment of the budgetary resources needed. If statutory changes are proposed, the plan must include the statutory language. The plan must be approved by the Office of Management and Budget.

The Committee suggests that enforceable standards for food safety, HAACP-like systems, and a process for reviewing the food safety systems in countries that export food to the United States should be considered as key parts of the building blocks of a stronger food safety system. These are proposals that are not dissimilar to measures FDA has proposed in the past or may be considering currently.

The Committee provides $28,000,000 to be available on July 1, 2008 for implementation of the plan. In order to have sufficient time to evaluate the plan, the Committee directs that it be transmitted concurrently with the fiscal year 2009 budget.

While there are clearly shortfalls in FDA's approach to the safety of the other products it regulates, the Committee believes that it

is appropriate to begin the process of overhauling FDA with the foods program, since the pending reauthorizations for the drug and medical device programs may make fundamental changes in those areas.

The Committee provides an additional $7,000,000 for increased activities to protect the safety of imported foods.

Field activities.—The Committee believes that it must hold FDA accountable for its performance of its field operations, which are the most basic activities FDA performs to protect the public health. Therefore, within the sums provided in this bill, the Committee provides $527,567,000 in budget authority for ORA for field activities by center as follows: CFSAN, $319,138,000; CDER, $81,488,000; CBER, $29,310,000; CVM, $35,774,000; and CDRH, $61,857,000. The Committee directs FDA to maintain at least these levels for field activities and to notify the Committee if it proposes to reduce any of them.

Direct to consumer advertising user fees.—In its recommendations for reauthorization of the Prescription Drug User Fee Act, the Administration has proposed that FDA be permitted to charge drug companies a user fee for advisory reviews of their prescription drug direct-to-consumer (DTC) television ads. FDA's justification was, in part, that "these television advertisements are highly visible and if done well, will reflect positively on the [drug] industry as a whole..."

Positive impacts on an industry should not be any part of FDA's considerations. DTC ads are designed to affect consumers and FDA's reviews of them should protect their interests. Having drug companies pay for the review of such ads—and having reviewers' salaries dependent on drug company fees—will further undermine the public's confidence in FDA.

The Committee believes the Administration's proposal to establish a user fee for review of direct-to-consumer (DTC) advertising is ill-conceived. The Committee provides an increase of $6,250,000 for review of direct to consumer advertisements, the amount that FDA estimates would be raised by the proposed user fee. Should the DTC user fee proposal be authorized, the Committee will not approve an appropriation to make the funds collected available.

Postmarketing studies.—In June 2006, the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services (OIG) issued a report entitled "FDA's Monitoring of Postmarketing Study Commitments." OIG looked at FDA's database of postmarketing study commitments (PMCs) for drugs approved between 1990 and 2004 and concluded that "FDA cannot readily identify whether or how timely PMCs are progressing toward completion" because many reports were missing or incomplete or contained information that was of little use to FDA. Many reports included none of the milestones towards completion required by the agency's regulations or only partial information.

The Committee is very concerned that FDA rejected OIG's recommendation that it tell companies to provide additional useful information in the annual status reports they submit to FDA, such as milestones to monitor progress in completing studies, merely because FDA would be required to change its regulations to do so.

The Committee cannot accept FDA's reason for not implementing this recommendation and directs FDA to submit a report by November 1, 2007 explaining why it believes it should not comply with this recommendation.

Office of Women's Health.—The Committee believes that the work of the Office of Women's Health at FDA is critical to ensuring that the wide ranging policies and actions at the agency reflect the health needs of women, and include research, outreach, and analyses of data by demographic variables, including race and ethnicity. The Committee provides $5,000,000 for the Office of Women's Health. The Committee requests quarterly reports on the expenditures and staffing levels of the Office to ensure that the resources provided are used exclusively for that Office.

Ketek.—The Committee is very concerned about criticisms of FDA's handling of clinical safety issues involving the drug Ketek.

FDA told the Committee that it "will use the knowledge we have learned from the Ketek investigation to look at future studies and sites that we target for data audits."

The Committee requests a report from the agency by October 1, 2007, describing what FDA learned from the Ketek investigation.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy.—The Committee remains concerned over the prolonged delay in the issuance of a new, upgraded rule regarding the prohibition of additional specified risk materials from ruminant and non-ruminant animal feed. Within 60 days of enactment of this Act, FDA is directed to submit a report to the Committee detailing the obstacles to the completion of this report, as well as any legislative activity that would assist in the resolution of this issue.

Diacetyl.—The Committee is concerned about potential health hazards posed by exposure to the chemical diacetyl, a butter flavoring agent used in microwave popcorns and other foods. Although, FDA codified diacetyl as "generally regarded as safe" (GRAS) in 1983, several recent investigations by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) found diacetyl to have caused a rare and fatal lung disease (bronchiolitis obliterans). The Committee believes that the more recent safety information by NIOSH comprises compelling scientific evidence that diacetyl may not only pose a real threat to exposed workers, but also raises the possibility of harm to consumers of microwave popcorn. The Committee believes that this matter warrants reconsideration by the FDA of the GRAS status of diacetyl, but at minimum, the FDA should conduct further studies to examine the safety of diacetyl and the relationship between exposure to the chemical and consumption of food products containing the butter flavoring. The Committee directs that FDA submit a report on its plan to research this issue further to the House Committee on Appropriations within 90 days of enactment.

Microbial Resistance.—In 2003, FDA released guidance for industry that outlines a comprehensive, evidence-based approach to preventing antimicrobial resistance in humans that may result from the use of antimicrobial drugs in animals. However, the Committee is concerned that the guidance document does not assign enough weight to the impact of microbial resistance to drugs that are highly important to human medicine but are not used to treat

foodborne illnesses. Transferred resistance from antimicrobials used in animals produced for food can also render critically important human antibiotics ineffective, including those used to treat foodborne illnesses. The Committee is concerned that simply satisfying the requirements of the guidance document is not adequate to protect human health. Therefore, the Committee directs FDA to reevaluate the basis on which it makes such decisions and to provide a report to the Committee by November 1, 2007.

FDA enforcement.—FDA recently issued an import alert about certain types of farm-raised fish from China. The Committee is dismayed that it took the agency so long to act. FDA's own time-line on this issue indicates that concerns about this problem go back more than five years. The Committee expects FDA to act promptly to address violations of law and will monitor FDA's actions accordingly. The Committee will be examining this issue further this year.

The Committee is aware that the FDA issued a monograph for sunscreen products in 2002, and the monograph was stayed shortly thereafter so that FDA could address the issue of measuring protection against UVA rays, which cause skin cancer. The Committee is disappointed that FDA has taken no further action, although skin cancer rates continue to rise, especially among young people and women. The Committee believes that a comprehensive monograph is essential to helping consumers make informed choices about protecting themselves against sun exposure. Therefore, the Committee directs FDA to issue a comprehensive monograph for over-the-counter sunscreen products, including UVA and UVB labeling requirements, within three months of enactment of this Act.

The Committee is deeply concerned about the dangers of Salmonella, especially in highly susceptible populations like young children, pregnant women, individuals over 55, post operative patients, or individuals with compromised immune systems. The Committee recommends that the FDA encourage any facility that serves highly susceptible populations, including schools, hospitals, nursing homes, acute care facilities, day care centers, and hospice facilities to consider using eggs that have been pasteurized to destroy all viable salmonellae.

The Committee is concerned that the FDA has still not finished its review of the safety for people of the subtherapeutic use of penicillin in animal feed and, accordingly, directs FDA to finish this review and make the review public by June 30, 2008.

The conference report for fiscal year 2006 suggested that FDA review the implementation of new operating procedures in the Los Angeles district with regard to importers of ethnic foods. Last year, in response to questions from the Committee, FDA indicated that they have implemented several actions to improve the processing of food import entries. The Committee encourages FDA to consider establishing a formal process for tracking status inquiries.

The Committee requests FDA to submit a report to the Committee on the implementation of the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005 within 90 days of the date of enactment.

Responsiveness to Inspector General recommendations.—The Committee directs the agency to submit a report by October 1, 2007 on the status of all open audits and recommendations by OIG.

The report must also include a plan for getting to resolution on all these open issues.

Responsiveness to GAO recommendations.—The Government Accountability Office (GAO) maintains on its website a list of open recommendations from its review work. Currently, the GAO lists numerous reports with open recommendations involving FDA. The Committee directs FDA to report to the Committee by October 1, 2007 on the status of all open GAO recommendations and on its plan to reach closure on each of them.

High-Risk List.—In addition, the Committee directs FDA and USDA to work with GAO on a plan whose implementation would result in food safety being removed from GAO's High-Risk List and to submit a report on that plan to the Committee by October 1, 2007.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

2007 appropriation	$4,950,000
2008 budget estimate	4,950,000
Provided in the bill	4,950,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	– – –
2008 budget estimate	– – –

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Buildings and Facilities of the Food and Drug Administration, the Committee provides $4,950,000, the same as the amount available in fiscal year 2007 and the budget request.

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

2007 appropriation	$97,981,000
2008 budget estimate	116,000,000
Provided in the bill	102,550,000
Comparison:	
2007 appropriation	+4,569,000
2008 budget estimate	– 13,450,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the Committee provides an appropriation of $102,550,000, an increase of $4,569,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of $13,450,000 below the budget request.

The Committee does not adopt the President's request to impose fees on futures transactions, totaling $86,000,000.

The Committee recommendation includes $1,463,000 for pay costs as requested. The recommendation also includes $3,106,000 for highest priority needs, including additional staff, technology improvements, and program funding for enforcement.

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

2007 limitation	($44,250,000)
2008 budget estimate	(46,000,000)
Provided in the bill	(46,000,000)
Comparison:	
2007 limitation	+1,750,000
2008 budget estimate	– – –

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For a limitation on the expenses of the Farm Credit Administration, the Committee provides $46,000,000, an increase of $1,750,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and the same as the budget request.

TITLE VII—GENERAL PROVISIONS

INCLUDING RESCISSIONS AND TRANSFERS OF FUNDS

The General Provisions contained in the accompanying bill for fiscal year 2008 are fundamentally the same as those included in last year's appropriations bill.

Section 716: Language is included that allows funds to be used to carry out a competitive grants program.

Section 718: Language is included that allows for reimbursement of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust.

Section 721: Language is included related to final rulemaking on cost-sharing for APHIS animal and plant health emergency programs.

Section 722: Language is included to allow the disbursement of certain prior year obligations.

Section 723: Language is included regarding the recertification of rural status.

Section 724: Language is included that relates to government sponsored news stories.

Section 725: The Committee includes $10,000,000 for a specialty crops competitiveness program.

Section 726: Language is included that relates to importation of drugs.

Section 727: Language is included related to competitive sourcing related to rural development and farm loan programs.

Section 729: Language is included regarding the prohibition of funds for certain FDA activities.

Section 730: Language is included regarding funding allocations for the expanded food nutrition and education program.

Section 731: Language is included that limits implementation of a rule concerning countries eligible to export poultry products to the United States.

Section 733: Language is included regarding meat inspection.

Section 735: Language is included in regards to the water and waste direct loan program.

Section 736: Language is included that provides for a national Simplified Summer Food Program.

Section 737: Language is included that provides funding for a Fruit and Vegetable Pilot Program.

Section 738: Language is included regarding the Federal Meat Inspection and other acts.

Section 739: Language is included that rescinds certain funds.

Section 740: Language is included to provide $2,475,000 for a hunger fellowship program.

Section 741: Language is included that rescinds certain funds.

Section 742: Language is included that repeals section 9012 of Public Law 110–28.

Section 743: Language is included that amends the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act.

Section 744: Language is included regarding certain unexpended funds.

Section 745: Language is included to provide that certain locations shall be considered eligible for certain rural development programs.

Section 746: Language is included to prohibit funding certain activities.

Section 747: Language is included to prohibit funding certain contracts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REPORT REQUIREMENTS

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Appropriations bases its authority to report this legislation from clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the U.S. Constitution which states:

> No money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in consequence of Appropriations made by law . . .

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Pursuant to clause 3(f)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following table lists the transfers of funds included in the accompanying bill.

1. Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments.—The bill allows funds to be transferred to cover the costs of new or replacement space.

2. Hazardous Materials Management.—The bill allows the funds appropriated to the Department for hazardous materials management to be transferred to agencies of the Department as required.

3. Departmental Administration.—The bill requires reimbursement for expenses related to certain hearings.

4. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations.—The bill allows a portion of the funds appropriated to the Office of the Assistant Secretary to be transferred to agencies.

5. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.—Authority is included to enable the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer from other appropriations or funds of the Department such sums as may be necessary to combat emergency outbreaks of certain diseases of animals, plants, and poultry.

6. Agricultural Marketing Service.—The bill limits the transfer of section 32 funds to purposes specified in the bill.

7. Farm Service Agency.—The bill provides that funds provided to other accounts in the agency may be merged with the salaries and expenses account of the Farm Service Agency.

8. Dairy Indemnity Program.—The bill authorizes the transfer of funds to the Commodity Credit Corporation, by reference.

9. Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund.—The bill provides that funds from the account shall be transferred to the Farm Service Agency salaries and expenses account, and that funds may be transferred among lending programs.

10. Commodity Credit Corporation.—The bill includes language allowing certain funds transferred to the Foreign Agricultural Service for information resource management activities.

11. Rural Community Advancement Program.—The bill provides that prior year balances for high cost energy grants shall be transferred to and merged with the High Energy Costs Grants Account.

12. Rural Development Salaries and Expenses.—The bill provides that prior year balances from certain accounts shall be transferred to and merged with this account.

13. Rural Housing Insurance Fund program account; Rural Development Loan Fund program account; and Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans program account.—The bill provides that administrative funds shall be transferred to the Rural Development Salaries and Expenses Account.

14. Rural Housing Insurance Fund program account and Rural Housing Assistance Grants account.—The bill provides that balances for demonstration programs shall be transferred to and merged with the Rural Housing Service, Multifamily Housing Revitalization Program Account.

15. Child Nutrition Programs.—The bill includes authority to transfer section 32 funds to these programs.

16. Foreign Agricultural Service.—The bill allows for the transfer of funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation Export Loan Program Account and from the Public Law 480 Program Account.

17. Public Law 480 Title I Program Account.—The bill allows funds to be transferred to the Farm Service Agency, Salaries and Expenses accounts. The bill also provides that funds made available for the cost of title I agreements and for title I ocean freight differential may be used interchangeably.

18. Commodity Credit Corporation Export Loans Program.—The bill provides for transfer of funds to the Foreign Agricultural Service and to the Farm Service Agency for overhead expenses associated with credit reform.

19. Food and Drug Administration, Salaries and Expenses.—The bill allows funds to be transferred among activities.

CHANGES IN THE APPLICATION OF EXISTING LAW

Pursuant to clause 3(f)(1)(A) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted describing the effect of provisions in the accompanying bill that directly or indirectly change the application of existing law.

The bill includes a number of provisions which place limitations on the use of funds in the bill or change existing limitations and which might, under some circumstances, be construed as changing the application of existing law:

1. Office of the Secretary.—Language is included to limit the amount of funds for official reception and representation expenses, as determined by the Secretary.

2. Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments.—Language is included that allows for the reconfiguration and release of space back into the General Services Administration inventory in order to reduce space rental cost for space not needed for USDA programs.

3. Departmental Administration.—Language is included to reimburse the agency for travel expenses incident to the holding of hearings.

4. Agricultural Research Service.—Language is included that allows the Agricultural Research Service to grant easements at the Beltsville, MD agricultural research center.

5. Agricultural Research Service.—The bill includes language that prohibits funds from being used to carry out research related to the production, processing or marketing of tobacco or tobacco products.

6. Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.—The bill includes language that prohibits funds from being used to carry out research related to the production, processing or marketing of tobacco or tobacco products.

7. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.—A provision carried in the bill since fiscal year 1973 regarding state matching funds has been continued to assure more effective operation of the brucellosis control program through state cost sharing, with resulting savings to the Federal budget.

Language is included to allow APHIS to recoup expenses incurred from providing technical assistance goods, or services to non-APHIS personnel, and to allow transfers of funds for Agricultural emergencies.

8. Agricultural Marketing Service.—The bill includes language that allows the Secretary to charge user fees for AMS activity related to preparation of standards.

9. Agricultural Marketing Service, Limitation on Administrative Expenses—The bill includes language to allow AMS to exceed the limitation on administrative expenses by 10 percent with notification to the Appropriations Committees. This allows flexibility in case crop size is understated and/or other uncontrollable events occur.

10. Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Inspection and Weighing Services.—The bill includes authority to exceed the limitation on inspection and weighing services by 10 percent with notification to the Appropriations Committees. This allows for flexibility if export activities require additional supervision and oversight, or other uncontrollable factors occur.

11. Dairy Indemnity Program.—Language is included by reference that allows the Secretary to utilize the services of the Commodity Credit Corporation for the purpose of making dairy indemnity payments.

12. Risk Management Agency.—Language is included to limit the amount of funds for official reception and representation expenses.

13. Commodity Credit Corporation Fund.—Language is included to provide for the reimbursement appropriation. Language is also included to allow certain funds transferred from the Commodity Credit Corporation to be used for information resource management. In addition, language is included which limits the amount of funds that can be spent on operation and maintenance costs of CCC hazardous waste sites.

14. Natural Resources Conservation Service-Conservation Operations.—Language which has been included in the bill since 1938 prohibits construction of buildings on land not owned by the gov-

ernment, although construction on land owned by states and counties is authorized by basic law.

15. Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations.—Language which was included in the Emergency Jobs Bill of 1983 (P.L. 98–8) and all bills since 1984 provides that funds may be used for rehabilitation of existing works.

16. Rural Housing Service—Rental Assistance Program.—Language is included which provides that agreements entered into during the current fiscal year be funded for a one-year period.

17. Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loan program account.—Language is included to allow borrowers' interest rates for loans to exceed seven percent.

18. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).—Language is included to: provide funds for a breastfeeding support initiative; pay administrative expenses of clinics except those that have an announced policy prohibiting smoking within the space used to carry out the program; purchase infant formula except in accordance with law; or pay for activities that are not fully reimbursed by other departments or agencies unless authorized by law.

19. Food Stamp Program.—Language is included to exclude special pay for military personnel deployed to designated combat areas.

20. Foreign Agricultural Service.—Language carried since 1979 enables this agency to use funds received by an advance or by reimbursement to carry out its activities involving international development and technical cooperation. Language is included to limit the amount of funds for official reception and representation expenses.

21. Commodity Futures Trading Commission.—Language is included to limit the amount of funds for official reception and representation expenses.

22. General Provisions.—

Section 702: This provision, carried since 1976, is again included which provides that certain appropriations in this Act shall remain available until expended where the programs or projects involved are continuing in nature under the provisions of authorizing legislation, but for which such legislation may not specifically provide for extended availability. This authority tends to result in savings by preventing the wasteful practice often found in government of rushing to commit funds at the end of the fiscal year without due regard to the value of the purpose for which the funds are used. Such extended availability is also essential in view of the long lead time frequently required to negotiate agreements or contracts which normally extend over a period of more than one year. Under these conditions such authority is commonly provided in Appropriations Acts where omitted from basic law. These provisions have been carried through the years in this Act to facilitate efficient and effective program execution and to assure maximum savings. They involve the following items: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the contingency fund to meet emergency conditions, information technology infrastructure, the fruit fly program, emerging plant pests, the cotton pests program, avian influenza programs, up to $4,505,000 in the Pest and Disease Management program to con-

trol grasshoppers and Mormon crickets, up to $1,500,000 in the scrapie program for indemnities, up to $3,000,000 in the emergency management systems program for the vaccine bank, up to $1,000,000 for wildlife services methods development, up to $1,000,000 of the wildlife services operations program for aviation safety, and up to 25 percent of the screwworm program; Food Safety and Inspection Service, Public Health Data Communication Infrastructure System; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, funds for competitive research grants (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)), funds for the Research, Education, and Economics Information System, and funds for the Native American Institutions Endowment Fund; Farm Service Agency, salaries and expenses funds made available to county committees; Foreign Agricultural Service, middle-income country training program, and up to $2,000,000 of the Foreign Agricultural Service appropriation for foreign currency fluctuations.

Section 706: This provision provides that none of the funds in this Act may be made available to pay indirect costs charged against competitive agricultural research, education, or extension grants awarded by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service in excess of 20 percent of total direct costs, except for grants available under the Small Business Innovation and Development Act.

Section 707: This provision allows funds made available in the current fiscal year for the Rural Development Loan Fund program account; the Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans program account; and the Rural Housing Insurance Fund program account to remain available until expended to disburse obligations. The Credit Reform Act requires that the lifetime costs of loans be appropriated. Current law requires that funds unexpended after five years expire. The life of some loans extends well beyond the five-year period and this provision allows funds appropriated to remain available until the loans are closed out.

Section 708: Provides that of the funds made available, not more than $1,800,000 shall be used to cover expenses of activities related to all advisory committees, panels, commissions, and task forces of the Department of Agriculture except for panels used to comply with negotiated rule makings and panels used to evaluate competitively awarded grants.

Section 709: Provides that none of the funds may be used to carry out certain provisions of meat and poultry inspection acts.

Section 710: This provision prohibits any employee of the Department of Agriculture from being detailed or assigned to any other agency or office of the Department for more than 30 days unless the individual's employing agency or office is fully reimbursed by the receiving agency or office for the salary and expenses of the employee for the period of assignment.

Section 711: This provision prohibits the Department of Agriculture from transmitting or making available to any non-Department of Agriculture or the Food and Drug Administration employee questions or responses to questions that are a result of information requested for the appropriations hearing process.

Section 712: Language is included that requires approval of the Chief Information Officer and the concurrence of the Executive In-

formation Technology Investment Review Board for acquisition of new information technology systems or significant upgrades, and that prohibits the transfer of funds to the Office of the Chief Information Officer without the notification of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

Section 713: Language is included that requires certain reprogramming procedures of funds provided in Appropriations Acts.

Section 714: Language is included that prohibits funds from being used to prepare a budget submission to Congress that assumes reductions from the previous year's budget due to user fee proposals unless the submission also identifies spending reductions which should occur if the user fees are not enacted.

Section 715: Language is included that provides that no funds may be used to close or relocate a Rural Development office unless or until cost effectiveness and enhancement of program delivery have been determined. The bill also requires notification and a report to the Committees on Appropriation prior to the proposed closure or relocation.

Section 716: This provision provides that of the funds made available for competitive research grants, the Secretary of Agriculture may use up to 22 percent of the amount provided to carry out a competitive grants program under the same terms and conditions as those provided for the Initiative for Future Food and Agriculture Systems.

Section 717: Language is included that limits the environmental quality incentives program.

Section 718: Language is included that allows for reimbursement of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust.

Section 719: Language is included that limits the dam rehabilitation program.

Section 720: Language is included that rescinds certain funds.

Section 721: Language is included related to final rulemaking on costsharing for APHIS animal and plant health emergency programs.

Section 722: Language is included regarding the availability of funds for certain conservation programs.

Section 723: Language is included regarding recertification of rural status.

Section 724: Language is included that relates to government sponsored news stories.

Section 725: Language is included to provide funds for a specialty crops competitiveness program.

Section 726: Language is included regarding the importation of drugs.

Section 727: Language is included related to competitive sourcing with respect to rural development or farm loan programs.

Section 728: Language is included that rescinds certain funds.

Section 729: Language is included regarding the Food and Drug Administration advisory committees.

Section 730: Language is included regarding funding allocations for the expanded food nutrition and education program.

Section 731: Language is included prohibiting the establishment or implementation of a rule regarding importation of poultry products.

Section 732: Language is included that rescinds certain funds.

Section 733: Language is included regarding the use of funds to implement the risk-based inspection program.

Section 734: Language is included related to funds made available under section 522(e) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act.

Section 735: Language is included regarding the Water and Waste Systems Direct Loan Program.

Section 736: Language is included amending the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act.

Section 737: Language is included that provides funding for a Fruit and Vegetable Pilot Program.

Section 738: Language is included regarding the Federal Meat Inspection and other acts.

Section 739: Language is included that rescinds certain funds.

Section 740: Language is included to provide $2,475,000 for a hunger fellowship program.

Section 741: Language is included that rescinds certain funds.

Section 742: Language is included that repeals section 9012 of Public Law 110–28.

Section 743: Language is included that amends the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act.

Section 744: Language is included regarding certain unexpended funds.

Section 745: Language is included to provide that certain locations shall be considered eligible for certain rural development programs.

Section 746: Language is included to prohibit funding certain activities.

Section 747: Language is included to prohibit funding certain contracts.

STATEMENT OF GENERAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following is a statement of general performance goals and objectives for which this measure authorizes funding:

The Committee on Appropriations considers program performance, including a program's success in developing and attaining outcome-related goals and objectives, in developing funding recommendations.

COMPLIANCE WITH RULE XIII, CL. 3(e) (RAMSEYER RULE)

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

RICHARD B. RUSSELL NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

SEC. 13. (a) * * *

(b) SERVICE INSTITUTIONS.—

(1) PAYMENTS.—

[(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, payments to service institutions shall equal the full cost of food service operations (which cost shall include the costs of obtaining, preparing, and serving food, but shall not include administrative costs).]

[(B) MAXIMUM AMOUNTS.—Subject to subparagraph (C), payments to any institution under subparagraph (A) shall not exceed]

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B) and in addition to amounts made available under paragraph (3), payments to service institutions shall be—

(i) $1.97 for each lunch and supper served;

(ii) $1.13 for each breakfast served; and

(iii) 46 cents for each meal supplement served.

[(C)] *(B)* ADJUSTMENTS.—Amounts specified in subparagraph [(B)] *(A)* shall be adjusted on January 1, 1997, and each January 1 thereafter, to the nearest lower cent increment to reflect changes for the 12-month period ending the preceding November 30 in the series for food away from home of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor. Each adjustment shall be based on the unrounded adjustment for the prior 12-month period.

[(D)] *(C)* SEAMLESS SUMMER REIMBURSEMENTS.—A service institution described in subsection (a)(8) shall be reimbursed for meals and meal supplements in accordance with the applicable provisions under this Act (other than subparagraphs [(A), (B), and (C)] *(A) and (B)* of this paragraph and paragraph (4)) and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.), as determined by the Secretary.

* * * * * * *

(3) Every service institution, when applying for participation in the program, shall submit a complete budget for administrative costs related to the program, which shall be subject to approval by the State. Payment to service institutions for administrative costs shall equal the [full amount of State approved administrative costs incurred, except that such payment to service institutions may not exceed the maximum allowable] levels determined by the Secretary pursuant to the study prescribed in paragraph (4) of this subsection.

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SEC. 17. CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM.

(a) * * *

* * * * * * *

(r) PROGRAM FOR AT-RISK SCHOOL CHILDREN.—

(1) * * *

* * * * * * *

(5) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall limit reimbursement under this subsection for meals served under a program to in-

stitutions located in [seven] *eight* States, of which [five] *six* States shall be *West Virginia,* Illinois, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Delaware, and Michigan and two States shall be approved by the Secretary through a competitive application process.

* * * * * * *

PILOT PROJECTS

SEC. 18. (a) * * *

* * * * * * *

[(f) SIMPLIFIED SUMMER FOOD PROGRAMS.—

[(1) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE STATE.—In this subsection, the term "eligible State" means—

[(A) a State participating in the program under this subsection as of May 1, 2004; and

[(B) a State in which (based on data available in June 2005)—

[(i) the percentage obtained by dividing—

[(I) the sum of—

[(aa) the average daily number of children attending the summer food service program in the State in July 2003; and

[(bb) the average daily number of children receiving free or reduced price meals under the school lunch program in the State in July 2003; by

[(II) the average daily number of children receiving free or reduced price meals under the school lunch program in the State in March 2003; is less than

[(ii) 75 percent of the percentage obtained by dividing—

[(I) the sum of—

[(aa) the average daily number of children attending the summer food service program in all States in July 2003; and

[(bb) the average daily number of children receiving free or reduced price meals under the school lunch program in all States in July 2003; by

[(II) the average daily number of children receiving free or reduced price meals under the school lunch program in all States in March 2003.

[(2) PROGRAMS.—The Secretary shall carry out a summer food program in each eligible State to increase the number of children participating in the summer food service program in the State.

[(3) SUPPORT LEVELS FOR SERVICE INSTITUTIONS.—

[(A) FOOD SERVICE.—Under the program, a service institution in an eligible State shall receive the maximum amounts for food service under section 13(b)(1) without regard to the requirement under section 13(b)(1)(A) that payments shall equal the full cost of food service operations.

[(B) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Under the program, a service institution in an eligible State shall receive the maximum amounts for administrative costs determined by the Secretary under section 13(b)(4) without regard to the requirement under section 13(b)(3) that payments to service institutions shall equal the full amount of State-approved administrative costs incurred.

[(C) COMPLIANCE.—A service institution that receives assistance under this subsection shall comply with all provisions of section 13 other than subsections (b)(1)(A) and (b)(3) of section 13.

[(4) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—Expenditures of funds from State and local sources for maintenance of a summer food service program shall not be diminished as a result of assistance from the Secretary received under this subsection.

[(5) EVALUATION OF PROGRAMS.—

[(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service, shall conduct an evaluation of the program.

[(B) CONTENT.—An evaluation under this paragraph shall describe—

[(i) any effect on participation by children and service institutions in the summer food service program in the eligible State in which the program is carried out;

[(ii) any effect of the program on the quality of the meals and supplements served in the eligible State in which the program is carried out; and

[(iii) any effect of the program on program integrity.

[(6) REPORT.—Not later than April 30, 2007, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that includes—

[(A) the evaluations completed by the Secretary under paragraph (5); and

[(B) any recommendations of the Secretary concerning the programs.]

[(g)] *(f)* FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM.—

(1) * * *

* * * * * * *

[(h)] *(g)* SUMMER FOOD SERVICE RESIDENTIAL CAMP ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) * * *

* * * * * * *

[(i)] *(h)* ACCESS TO LOCAL FOODS AND SCHOOL GARDENS.—

(1) * * *

* * * * * * *

[(j)] *(i)* YEAR-ROUND SERVICES FOR ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

(1) * * *

* * * * * * *

[(k)] *(j)* FREE LUNCH AND BREAKFAST ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) * * *

* * * * * * *

SECTION 9012 OF U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

(Public Law 110–28)

[SEC. 9012. CONTRACT WAIVER.

[In carrying out crop disaster and livestock assistance in this title, the Secretary shall require forage producers to have participated in a crop insurance pilot program or the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program during the crop year for which compensation is received.**]**

APPROPRIATIONS NOT AUTHORIZED BY LAW

Pursuant to clause 3(f)(1)(B) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following table lists the appropriations in the accompanying bill which are not authorized by law for the period concerned:

[in thousands of dollars]

Agency/Program	Last year of authorization	Authorization level	Appropriation in last year of authorization	Appropriations in this bill
Foreign Agricultural Service				
McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program	9/30/2007	Such sums	$99,000	$100,000
CSREES				
Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program	9/30/2007	$83,000	$63,538	$68,500
Grants to upgrade facilities at 1890 instititutions	9/30/2007	$25,000	$16,777	$18,000
Education grants for Hispanic-serving institutions	9/30/2007	$20,000	$5,940	$6,237
Continuing animal health and disease research programs	9/30/2007	Not to exceed $25,000	$5,006	$5,006
Extension service	9/30/2007	Such sums	$450,346	$463,886
Competitive grants for international science and education programs	9/30/2007	Such sums	$990	$3,000
Integrated research, education and extension competitive grants program	9/30/2007	Such sums	$42,286	$42,286
1994 institution research grants	9/30/2007	Such sums	$1,544	$1,544
Grants for youth organizations	9/30/2007	Such sums	$1,980	$1,980
Resident instruction grants for insular areas	9/30/2007	Such sums	$495	$1,000
Renewable resources extension act	9/30/2007	$30,000	$4,019	$4,052
Outreach for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers	9/30/2007	$25,000	$5,940	$6,930
Competitive, special and facilities research grants	9/30/2007	$500,000	$190,229	$190,229
Special research grants	9/30/2007	Such sums	$14,650	$110,215
Farm Service Agency				
Dairy Indemnity Program	9/30/2007	$450	$100	$100
Grassroots Source Water Protection Program	9/30/2007	$5,000	$3,713	$3,713
Food and Nutrition Service				
Food Stamp Program Armed Services Provision	9/30/2007	Such sums	Such sums	Such sums
Food Stamp Program	9/30/2007	Such sums	$38,161,534	$39,816,223

[in thousands of dollars]

Agency/Program	Last year of authorization	Authorization level	Appropriation in last year of authorization	Appropriations in this bill
Food and Nutrition Service (continued)				
Commodity Assistance Program: Commodity Supplemental Food Program	9/30/2007	Prior year caseload	$107,202	$150,000
Commodity Assistance Program: The Emergency Food Assistance Program	9/30/2007	$60,000	$49,500	$50,000
Rural Development				
Revolving Funds for Financing Water and Wastewater Projects	9/30/2007	$30,000	$495	$500
Rural Business Opportunity Grants	9/30/2007	$15,000	$2,970	$3,000
Tribal College and University Essential Community Facilities	9/30/2007	$10,000	$4,419	$4,000
Grants to Nonprofit Organizations to Finance the Construction, Refurbishing, and Servicing of Individually-Owned Household Water Well Systems in Rural Areas for Individuals with Low or Moderate Incomes	9/30/2007	$10,000	$990	$1,000
Delta Regional Authority	10/1/2007	$7,000	$1,980	$3,000
Rural Utilities Service				
Telemedicine and Distance Learning Services in Rural Areas	9/30/2007	$100,000	$29,700	$35,000
Access to Broadband Telecommunications Services in Rural Areas	9/30/2007	Such sums	$10,643	$6,450
Broadband Telecommunications Grants	9/30/2007	$8,910	$8,910	$17,820
Rural Business Cooperative Service				
Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grants	9/30/2007	$40,000	$20,295	$20,295
Rural Cooperative Development Grants	9/30/2007	$50,000	$3,753	$4,455
Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements	9/30/2007	$23,000	$22,841	$46,000
Rural Housing Service				
Multifamily Housing Revitalization Program	9/30/2007	$0	$0	$27,800
Commodity Futures Trading Commission	9/30/2005	Such sums	$94,327	$102,550

RESCISSIONS

Pursuant to clause 3(f)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following table lists the rescissions in the accompanying bill:

The bill proposes rescissions of $34,000,000 of funds derived from interest on the cushion of credit payments in fiscal year 2008 under the Rural Economic Development Loans Program Account, which is an annual technical adjustment contained in the budget estimates; $25,740,000 from the High Energy Cost grants account; $16,069,000 from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children account; and $210,361,000 from Section 32 funds.

COMPARISON WITH THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a)(1)(A) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the following table compares the levels of new budget authority provided in the bill with the appropriate allocation under section 302(b) of the Budget Act.

[In millions of dollars]

Full committee data	302 (b) Allocation		This Bill	
	Budget authority	Outlays	Budget authority	Outlays
Comparison with Budget Resolution:				
Discretionary	$18,817	$20,027	$18,817	[1] $19,872
Mandatory	32,905	21,115	32,905	21,115

[1] Includes outlays from prior-year budget authority.

FIVE-YEAR OUTLAY PROJECTIONS

Pursuant to section 308(a)(1)(B) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the following table contains five-year projections prepared by the Congressional Budget Office of outlays associated with the budget authority provided in the accompanying bill:

[In millions of dollars]

Outlays:	
2008	$67,361
2009	3,313
2010	1,122
2011	281
2012	227

ASSISTANCE TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Pursuant to section 308(a)(1)(C) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the amounts of financial assistance to State and local governments is as follows:

[In millions of dollars]

Budget Authority	$26,148
Fiscal Year 2008 outlays resulting therefrom	25,627

EARMARKS

Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, this bill, as reported, contains the following congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI.

Agricultural Research Service - Salaries and Expenses	
Aerial Application Research, College Station, TX	Edwards, Kingston
Animal Health Consortium, Peoria, IL	LaHood
Animal Vaccines, Greenport, NY	Courtney, DeLauro
Appalachian Horticulture Research (U of TN/TN State), Poplarville, MS	Blackburn, Duncan, Wamp
Aquaculture Fisheries Center, Pine Bluff, AR	Ross
Aquaculture Initiatives for Mid-Atlantic Highlands, Leetown, WV	Mollohan
Aquaculture Initiatives, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, Stuttgart, AR	Mahoney
Aquaculture Research, Aberdeen, ID	Simpson
Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi (Rodale Inst.), Wyndmoor, PA	Gerlach
Arkansas Children's Nutrition Center, Little Rock, AR	Berry, Snyder
Avian Pneumovirus / Asian Bird Influenza, Athens, GA	Bishop (GA), Kingston
Barley Health Food Benefits, Beltsville, MD	Hoyer
Bee Research, Weslaco, TX	Edwards
Biomass Crop Production, Brookings, SD	Herseth Sandlin
Biomedical Materials in Plants, Biotech Foundation, Beltsville, MD	Hoyer
Biomineral Soil Amendments for Control of Nematode, Beltsville, MD	Hoyer
Bioremediation Research, Beltsville, MD	Hoyer
Biotechnology Research Development Corporation, Peoria, IL	LaHood
Bovine Genetics, Beltsville, MD	Hoyer
Broomweed Biological Controls, Albany, CA	Thompson (CA)
Catfish Genome, Auburn, AL	Davis (AL), Rogers (AL)
Center for Agroforestry, Booneville, AR	Emerson
Central Great Plains Research Station, Akron, CO	Musgrave, Udall
Cereal Crops Research, Madison, WI	Baldwin, Walz
Cereal Disease, St. Paul, MN	McCollum (MN), Peterson, Ramstad, Walz
Chronic Diseases of Children, Houston, TX	Bishop (GA), Culberson, Kingston
Citrus Waste Utilization, Winter Haven, FL	Mahoney (FL), Putnam
Coffee and Cocoa, Beltsville, MD	Hoyer, Walsh
Corn Germplasm, Ames, IA	Latham
Corn Rootworm, Ames, IA	Latham
Cotton Pathology, Shafter, CA	McCarthy (CA)
Crop Production and Food Processing, Peoria, IL	LaHood

Cropping Systems Research, Stoneville, MS	Blackburn, Duncan, Wamp
Dairy Genetics, Beltsville, MD	Hoyer
Dale Bumpers Small Farms Research Center, Booneville, AR	Berry; Ross
Delta Nutrition Initiative, Little Rock, AR	Berry, Snyder
Diet and Immune Function, Little Rock, AR	Berry, Snyder
Diet Nutrition and Obesity Research (Pennington), New Orleans, LA	Alexander, Baker
Dryland Production, Akron, CO	Musgrave, Udall
Endophyte Research, Booneville, AR	Boozman, Ross
Floriculture and Nursery Crops, Beltsville, MD	Farr, De Fazio, Hastings, Honda, Hooley, Larsen, Price
Food Fermentation Research, Raleigh, NC	Etheridge, McIntyre, Miller, Price
Food Safety for Listeria and E Coli, College Station, TX	Edwards
Food Safety for Listeria, E coli, and other Food Pathogens, Beltsville, MD	Hoyer
Food Safety for Meat and Produce, Beltsville, MD	Hoyer
Formosan Subterranean Termite, New Orleans, LA	Alexander, Baker
Foundry Sand By-Products Utilization, Beltsville, MD	Hoyer, Kaptur
Grand Forks Human Nutrition Research Laboratory, Grand Forks, ND	Pomeroy
Grape Genetics, Geneva, NY	Hinchey, Walsh
Grape Rootstock, Geneva, NY	Hinchey
Grassland Soil and Water Research, Temple TX	Carter, Edwards
Greenhouse and Hydroponics Research, Wooster, OH	Kaptur
Greenhouse Lettuce Germplasm, Salinas, CA	Farr
Harry K. Dupree National Aquaculture Research Center, Stuttgart, AR	Berry
Hops Research, Corvallis, OR	Hastings (WA), Hooley
Human Nutrition (Equipment), Boston, MA	Capuano
Human Nutrition (Obesity), Boston, MA	Capuano, Markey
Improved Crop Production Practices, Auburn, AL	Aderholt, Bonner, Rogers (AL)
Invasive Aquatic Weeds, Ft. Lauderdale, FL	DeLauro
Invasive Ludwigia Research, Davis, CA	Woolsey
Johne's Disease, Beltsville, MD	Hoyer
Karnal bunt, Manhattan, KS	Boyda, Moore, Moran, Tiarht
Lyme Disease 4 Poster Project, Beltsville, MD (National Program)	DeLauro

Medicinal and Bioactive Crops, Washington, DC	Hoyer
Mid-West/Mid-South Irrigation, Columbia, MO	Emerson
Minor-Use Pesticides (IR-4), Beltsville, MD	Hoyer
Mosquito Trapping Research/West Nile Virus, Gainesville, FL	DeLauro
National Center for Agricultural Law, MD	Boozman
National Germplasm Resources Program, Beltsville, MD	Hoyer
National Germplasm Resources System, Beltsville, MD	Hoyer
National Germplasm Resources, College Station, TX	Edwards
National Nutrition Monitoring System, Beltsville, MD	Hoyer
National Plant Germplasm Program, Aberdeen, ID	Simpson
National Soil Dynamics Laboratory, Auburn, AL	Aderholt, Rogers
Natural Products for Human Health, Beltsville, MD	Gohmert, Hoyer
Nematology Research, Tifton, GA	Kingston, Marshall
Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory, Mandan, ND	Pomeroy
Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research, Corvallis, OR	Blumenauer, DeFazio, Hastings, Hooley, McMorris Rodgers, Walden, Wu
Oat Virus, West Lafayette, IN	LaHood
Obesity Interventions (Nutricore), Beltsville, MD (National Program)	Hoyer
Ogallala Aquifer, Bushland, TX	Edwards, Neugebauer, Thornberry
Olive Fruit Fly, Montpelier, France	Thompson (CA)
Olive Fruit Fly, Parlier, CA	Thompson (CA)
Organic Minor Crop, Salinas, CA	Farr
Peanut Production, Dawson, GA	Bishop (GA), Kingston
Peanut Research, Dawson, GA	Bishop (GA), Kingston
Peanut Variety, Stillwater, OK	Lucas
Pecan Scab Research, Byron, GA	Bishop (GA), Kingston, Marshall
Phytoestrogen Research, New Orleans, LA	Jefferson, Jindal, Melancon, Kaptur
Pierce's Disease/Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter, Ft. Pierce, FL	Thompson (CA)
Pierce's Disease/Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter, Parlier and Davis, CA	Thompson (CA)
Pineapple Nematode Research, Hilo, HI	Hirono
Plant Stress and Water Conservation Lab, Lubbock, TX	Neugebauer

Potato Breeding, Prosser, WA	Hastings (WA), McMorris Rodgers
Potato Diseases, Beltsville, MD	Hoyer
Potato Research Enhancement, Prosser, WA	Hastings (WA), McMorris Rogers
Poult Enteritis-Mortality Syndrome, Athens, GA	Kingston
Poultry Diseases, Athens, GA	Kingston
Poultry Diseases, Beltsville, MD	Hoyer
Precision Agriculture Research, Mandan, ND	Pomeroy
Quantify basin water budget components in the Southwest, Tucson, AZ	Giffords, Pastor
Rainbow Trout, Aberdeen, ID	Simpson
Red River Valley Agricultural Research Center - Canada Thistle Research, Fargo, ND	Pomeroy
Red River Valley Agricultural Research Center - Cereal Crops and Sunflower Research, Fargo, ND	Herseth Sandlin, Pomeroy
Red River Valley Agricultural Research Center - National Sclerotinia Initiative, Fargo, ND	Musgrave, Peterson, Pomeroy
Red River Valley Agricultural Research Center - National Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative, Fargo, ND	Pomeroy
Red River Valley Agricultural Research Center - Regional Molecular Genotyping, Fargo, ND	Pomeroy
Red River Valley Agricultural Research Center - Wheat Quality Research, Fargo, ND	Pomeroy
Regional Grains Genotyping, Raleigh, NC	Price (NC)
Regional Molecular Genotyping, Pullman, WA	Hastings (WA), McMorris Rodger, Reichert
Residue Management in Sugarcane (Sugarcane Research), Houma, LA	Melancon
Rice research, Stuttgart, AR	Berry
Seasonal Grazing, Coshocton, OH	Space
Seismic and Acoustic Technologies in Soils Sedimentation Lab, Oxford, MS	Wicker
Shellfish Genetics Research, Newport, OR	Hooley
Sorghum Cold Tolerance, Lubbock, TX	Neugebauer
Sorghum Ergot Research, College Station, TX	Edwards
Sorghum Research, Bushland, TX	Neugebauer
Sorghum Research, Little Rock, AR	Berry, Snyder
Sorghum Research, Lubbock, TX	Neugebauer
Sorghum Research, Stillwater, OK	Lucas
Source Water Protection Initiatives, Columbus, OH	Kaptur
Southeastern Fruit and Tree Nut Research, Byron, GA	Bishop (GA), Kingston, Marshall
Southwest Pecan Research, College Station, TX	Edwards

Soybean and Nitrogen Fixation, Raleigh, NC	Price (NC)
Sudden Oak Disease, Davis, CA	Thompson (CA)
Sugarbeet Research, Kimberly, ID	Simpson
Sugarcane Variety Research, Canal Point, FL	Hastings (FL)
Sustainable Feeds, Aberdeen, ID	Simpson
Temperate Fruit Flies, Wapato, WA	Hastings (WA)
Termite Species in Hawaii, Gainesville, FL	Hirono
Tree Fruit Quality Research, Wenatchee, WA	Hastings (WA)
Tropical Aquaculture Feeds, Hilo, HI	Abercrombie, Hirono
Turfgrass Research, Washington, DC	Hoyer
U.S. Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Ctr Staffing, Hilo, HI	Hirono
USNA Germplasm/Ornamental Horticulture, Washington, DC	Hoyer
Vaccines and Microbe Control for Fish Health, Auburn, AL	Rogers (AL)
Vector-borne Diseases, Gainesville, FL	DeLauro
Verticillium Wilt, Salinas, CA	Farr
Viticulture, Corvallis, OR	Simpson
Water Management Research Laboratory, Brawley, CA	Filner
Water Resources Management, Tifton, GA	Bishop (GA), Kingston, Marshall
Water Use Management Technology, Tifton, GA	Bishop (GA), Kingston
Water Use Reduction, Dawson, GA	Kingston
Weed Management Research, Beltsville, MD	Gerlach, Hoyer
Wheat Quality Research, Manhattan KS	Kaptur, Tiahrt
Wheat Quality Research, Wooster, OH	Kaptur
Wild Rice, St.Paul, MN	Peterson (MN)
Agricultural Research Service - Buildings and Facilities	
Animal Bioscience Facility, Bozeman (MT)	Rehberg
Center for Advanced Viticulture and Tree Crop Research, Davis (CA)	Thompson
Center for Grape Genetics, Geneva (NY)	Arcuri, Hinchey, Reynolds, Walsh
Center of Excellence for Vaccine Research Storrs (CT)	Courtney, DeLauro, Murphy
National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research, Peoria (IL)	LaHood
Southeastern Poultry Research Laboratory, Athens (GA)	Kingston, President
U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, DC.	Blumenauer, Norton

University of Toledo Greenhouse and Hydroponic Research Complex, Toledo (OH)	Kaptur
US Agricultural Research Facility, Knipling-Bushland Laboratory, Kerrville (TX)	Smith (TX)
US Agricultural Research Service Laboratory, Canal Point, FL	Boyd, Hastings (FL)
US Agricultural Research Service Laboratory, Pullman (WA)	Baird, Dicks, Hastings, Larsen, McDermott, McMorris Rodgers, Smith
US Agricultural Research Service Sugarcane Research Laboratory, Houma (LA)	Melancon
US Agricultural Research Station, Salinas (CA)	Farr
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service - Research and Education Activities/Special Research Grants	
Aegilops Cylindrica (Jointed Goatgrass) (WA, ID)	Dicks, Hastings, Smith
Agricultural Diversification (HI)	Hirono
Agricultural Diversity/Red River Corridor (MN, ND)	Pomeroy
Agriculture Science (OH)	Kaptur
Agroecology (MD)	Bartlett, Cummings, Gilchrest, Hoyer, Sarbanes, Van Hollen, Wynn
Air Quality (TX, KS)	Edwards, Thornberry
Alternative Uses for Tobacco (MD)	Hoyer
Animal Disease Research (WY)	Cubin
Animal Science Food Safety Consortium (AR, KS, IA)	Boozman, Latham, Ross
Apple Fire Blight (MI, NY)	Acuri, Ehlers, Hinchey, Hoekstra, Rogers, Upton, Walberg and Walsh
Aquaculture (FL, CA, TX)	Brown-Waite, Buchanan, Davis (CA), Ortiz
Aquaculture (LA)	Alexander, Baker
Aquaculture (NC)	Etheridge, Price
Aquaculture (VA)	Goode
Aquaculture (WA, ID)	Baird, Dicks, Larsen
Armilliaria Root Rot (MI)	Hoekstra, Rogers, Upton, Walberg
Asparagus Technology and Production (WA)	Dicks, Hastings, Larsen
Avian Bioscience (DE)	Castle
Babcock Institute (WI)	Baldwin
Barley for Rural Development (MT, ID)	Rehberg, Sali, Simpson

Beef Improvement Research (TX, MO)	Rodriguez
Biomass-based Energy Research (OK, MS)	Lucas
Biotechnology (NC)	Etheridge, Price
Biotechnology Test Production (IA)	Latham
Bovine Tuberculosis (MI)	Rogers (MI), Upton and Walberg
Brucellosis Vaccine (MT)	Rehberg
Chesapeake Bay Agroecology (MD)	Bartlett, Cummings, Gilchrest, Hoyer, Sarbanes, Van Hollen and Wynn.
Citrus Canker/ Greening (FL)	Boyd, Brown, Buchanan, Crenshaw, Mack, Mahoney, Putnam, Stearns, Wexler
Competitiveness of Agricultural Products (WA)	Baird, Dicks, Hastings, Larsen, Reichert, Smith
Computational Agriculture (NY)	Hinchey
Cool Season Legume Research (ID, WA, ND)	Dicks, Hastings, Larsen, Simpson
Cotton Insect Management (GA)	Barrow, Bishop, Gingrey, Kingston, Lewis (GA), Marshall
Cranberry/Blueberry (MA)	Frank
Cranberry/Blueberry Disease and Breeding (NJ)	Frelinghuysen, Holt, LoBiondo, Pallone, Rothman, Saxton
Crop Integration and Production (SD)	Herseth Sandlin
Crop Pathogens (NC)	Etheridge, Price
Dairy and Meat Goat Research (TX)	McCaul
Dairy Farm Profitability (PA)	Peterson (PA)
Designing Foods for Health (TX)	Culberson, Rodriguez
Drought Mitigation (NE)	Fortenberry
Efficient Irrigation (NM, TX)	Conaway, Edwards, Reyes, Rodriguez, Wilson (NM)
Environmental Biotechnology (RI)	Kennedy, Langevin
Environmental Research (NY)	Hinchey
Environmental Risk Factors/Cancer (NY)	Lowey
Expanded Wheat Pasture (OK)	Lucas
Feed Efficiency in Cattle (FL)	Boyd
Feedstock Conversion (SD)	Hinchey
Fish and Shellfish Technologies (VA)	Goode
Floriculture (HI)	Hirono

Food and Agriculture Policy Research Institute (IA, MO)	Emerson, Hulsof, Latham,
Food Marketing Policy Center (CT)	Courtney, DeLauro
Food Safety (OK, ME)	Lucas
Food Safety Research Consortium (NY)	Hinchey, Walsh
Food Security (WA)	Dicks, Inslee, Reichert
Food Systems Research Group (WI)	Baldwin
Forestry Research (AR)	Ross
Fruit and Vegetable Market Analysis (AZ, MO)	Pastor
Future Foods (IL)	Johnson (IL), LaHood
Geographic Information System	Kanjorski
Global Change/ Ultraviolet Radiation	DeGette, Musgrave, Perlmutter, Udall, President
Grain Sorghum (KS, TX)	Boyda, Moore, Moran, Neugebauer, Tiahrt
Grass Seed Cropping for Sustainable Agriculture (WA, OR, ID)	Blumenauer, Dicks, Hooley, Larsen, Simpson, Wu
Human Nutrition (IA)	Latham
Human Nutrition (LA)	Alexander
Human Nutrition (NY)	Hinchey, Walsh
Hydroponic Production (OH)	Kaptur
Illinois-Missouri Alliance for Biotechnology	LaHood, Johnson (IL)
Improved Dairy Management Practices (PA)	Peterson (PA)
Improved Fruit Practices (MI)	Dingell, Ehlers, Hoekstra, Rogers (MI), Upton, Walberg
Increasing Shelf Life of Agricultural Commodities (ID)	Simpson
Infectious Disease Research (CO)	Musgrave, Udall
Initiative to Improve Blueberry Production and Efficiency (GA)	Bishop, Kingston, Westmoreland
Institute for Food Science and Engineering (AR)	Boozman
Institute of Agriculture-Phytosensors for Crop Security (TN)	Wamp
Integrated Fruit and Vegetable Research (GA)	Bishop, Kingston, Marshall, Westmoreland
Integrated Production Systems (OK)	Lucas
International Arid Lands Consortium (AZ)	Grijalva, Herseth Sandlin, Johnson (IL), Pastor
Livestock and Dairy Policy (NY, TX)	Edwards, Hinchey, Walsh
Livestock Genome Sequencing (IL)	LaHood, Jackson (IL), Johnson (IL)
Livestock Waste (IA)	Latham
Lowbush Blueberry Research (ME)	Allen, Michaud

Meadow Foam (OR)	Blumenauer, Hooley
Michigan Biotechnology Consortium	Rogers (MI)
Midwest Poultry Consortium (IA)	LaHood, Latham, Peterson (MN)
Milk Safety (PA)	Peterson (PA)
Molluscan Shellfish (OR)	Blumenauer, Hooley
Multi-commodity Research (OR)	Blumenauer, Hooley, Wu
National Beef Cattle Genetic Evaluation Consortium (NY, CO, GA)	Musgrave, Udall
Organic Cropping (WA)	Dicks, Hastings, Larsen, Smith
Organic Waste Utilization (NM)	Wilson (NM)
Oyster Post Harvest Treatment (FL)	Boyd
Peach Tree Disease (SC)	Brown (SC), Clyburn
Perennial Wheat (WA)	Dicks, Larsen
Pest Control Alternatives (SC)	Clyburn
Phytophthora Research (GA)	Bishop, Kingston, Marshall
Phytophthora Research (MI)	Dingell, Ehlers, Hoekstra, Rogers (MI), Upton, Walberg
Pierce's Disease (CA)	Farr, McCarthy (CA), Radonovich, Thompson
Potato Research	Allen, Hastings
Preharvest Food Safety (KS)	Boyda, Moore, Moran, Tiahrt
Preservation and Processing Research (OK)	Lucas
Protein Utilization (IA)	Latham
Regional Barley Gene Mapping Project (OR)	Dicks, Hastings, Hooley, Larsen, McMorris Rodgers, Musgrave, Reichert, Wu
Regionalized Implications of Farm Programs (MO, TX)	Edwards, Emerson
Rice Agronomy (MO)	Emerson
Ruminant Nutrition Consortium (MT, ND, SD, WY)	Herseth Sandlin
Rural Development Centers (LA, ND)	Alexander
Rural Policies Institute (NE, IA, MO)	Emerson
Russian Wheat Aphid (CO)	Musgrave, Udall
Seafood Safety (MA)	Olver
Seed Technology (SD)	Herseth Sandlin
Small Fruit Research (OR, WA, ID)	Baird, Blumenauer, Dicks, DeFazio, Hastings, Hooley, Larsen, McMorris Rodgers, Simpson, Walden , Wu
Soil and Environmental Quality (DE)	Castle

Southwest Consortium for Plant Genetics and Water Resources (NM)	Grijalva, Pastor
Soybean Cyst Nematode (MO)	Emerson
Soybean Research (IL)	LaHood, Jackson, Johnson
STEEP III -- Water Quality in Northwest	Blumenauer, Dicks, Hastings, Hooley, Larsen, McMorris Rodgers, Wu
Sudden Oak Death (CA)	Thompson
Sustainable Agriculture (CA)	Farr
Sustainable Agriculture (MI)	Dingell, Ehlers, Rogers, Upton, Walberg
Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources (PA)	Peterson (PA)
Sustainable Beef Supply (MT)	Rehberg
Sustainable Engineered Materials from Renewable Sources (VA)	Boucher, Goode
Swine and Other Animal Waste Management (NC)	Etheridge, Price
Tick Borne Disease Prevention (RI)	Kennedy, Langevin
Tillage, Silviculture, Waste Management (LA)	Alexander, Baker
Tri-state Joint Peanut Research (AL)	Everett, Rogers (AL)
Tropical and Subtropical Research/T-Star	Boyd, Fortuno, Young
Tropical Aquaculture (FL)	Castor
Uniform Farm Management Program (MN)	Emerson, Walz
Virtual Plant Database Enhancement Project (MO)	Emerson
Viticulture Consortium (NY, CA, PA)	Acuri, Farr, Hinchey, Thompson, Walsh
Water Use Efficiency and Water Quality Enhancements (GA)	Bishop, Kingston, Marshall
Wetland Plants (LA)	Alexander, Baker
Wheat Genetic Research (KS)	Boyda, Moore, Moran, Tiahrt
Wine Grape Foundation Block (WA)	Dicks, Hastings, Larsen
Wood Utilization (OR, MS, NC, MN, ME, MI, ID, TN, AK,WV)	Allen, Blumenauer, Etheridge, Hooley, Michaud, Pickering, Price, Rogers (MI), Sali, Upton, Wu
Wool Research (TX, MT, WY)	Conaway, Rodriguez
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service - Research and Education Activities/Federal Administration	
Ag-based Industrial Lubricants (IA)	Braley
Agriculture Development in the American Pacific	Hirono
Agriculture Water Policy (GA)	Bishop, Kingston

Alternative Fuels Characterization Laboratory (ND)	Pomeroy
Animal Waste Management (OK)	Lucas
Applied Agriculture and Environmental Research (CA)	Cardoza, Farr, Herger, McCarthy, Radanovich
Aquaculture (OH).	Kaptur
Biodesign and Processing Research Center (VA)	Boucher, Davis, Goodlatte
Botanical Research (UT)	Bishop (UT)
Center for Agricultural and Rural Development (IA)	Latham
Center for Food Industry Excellence (TX)	Conaway, Neugebauer
Center for Innovative Food Technology (OH).	Kaptur
Center for North American Studies (TX)	Edwards, Reyes
Climate Forecasting (FL)	Boyd
Connecticut Oyster Fisheries	DeLauro
Cotton Research (TX)	Neugebauer
Dietary Intervention (OH)	Hobson, Kaptur, Pryce, Turner
Greenhouse Nurseries (OH)	Kaptur
High Value Horticultural Crops (VA)	Goode
Mariculture (NC)	McIntyre
Monitoring Agricultural Sewage Sludge Application (OH)	Kaptur
NE Center for Invasive Plants (CT, VT, ME)	Allen, Courtney, DeLauro, Michaud
Pasteurization of Shell Eggs (MI)	Knollenberg
Phytoremediation Plant Research (OH)	Kaptur
PM-10 Study (WA)	Dicks, Larsen, McMorris Rodgers
Precision Agriculture, Tennessee Valley Research Center (AL)	Cramer, Rogers (AL)
Shrimp Aquaculture (AZ, HI, MS, MA, SC, LA, TX)	Grijalva, Hirono, Neal, Pastor
Sustainable Agricultural Freshwater Conservation (TX)	Reyes, Rodriguez
University of Wisconsin -Stevens Point Geographic Information System	Obey
Vitis Gene Discovery (MO)	Emerson
Water Quality (ND)	Pomeroy
Wetland Plants (WV)	Mollohan
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service - Extension Activities/Federal Administration and Special Grants	
Ag in the Classroom	Emerson, President
Dairy Education (IA)	Latham

Diabetes Detection and Prevention (WA)	Capuano, Lynch, McGovern
E-commerce (MS)	Pickering
Efficient Irrigation (NM, TX)	Conaway, Edwards, Ortiz, Reyes, Rodriguez, Wilson,
Entrepreneurial Alternatives (PA)	Peterson (PA)
Income Enhancement Demonstration (OH)	Kaptur
National Wild Turkey Federation	Berry, Bishop, Boyd
Nursery Production (RI)	Kennedy
Pilot Technology Transfer (OK, MS)	Lucas
Pilot Technology Transfer (WI)	Obey
Potato Pest Management (WI)	Obey
Red Cliff Tribal Hatchery (WI)	Obey
Wood Biomass as an Alternative Farm Product (NY)	Walsh
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - Salaries and Expenses	
Agriculture Compliance Laboratory Equipment	Castle (DE)
Aquaculture Monitoring Technology	Chandler (KY)
Avian Influenza preparedness	Courtney (CT)
Beaver Management and Control in Mississippi	Wicker (MS)
Beaver Management in North Carolina	Price (NC)
Biosafety Institute/National Institute for Genetically Modified Agriculture Products	Latham (IA)
Blackbird Control in Louisiana	Alexander (LA), Baker (LA), Boustany (LA)
Brown Tree Snake Management in Guam	Abercrombie (HI), Hirono (HI)
California County Pest Detection Augmentation Program	Costa (CA)
Chronic Wasting Disease in Wisconsin	Obey (WI)
Cooperative Livestock Protection Program	Murtha (PA)
Cormorant Control in New York	Walsh (NY)
Crop and Aquaculture Losses in Southeast Missouri	Emerson (MO)
Database of North Carolina's Agriculture Industry	Price (NC)
Farm Animal Identification and Records	Walsh (NY)
Greater Yellowstone Interagency Brucellosis Committee	Simpson (ID)
Hawaii and Guam Operations	Hirono (HI)
Hawaii Interline Activities	Abercrombie (HI), Hirono (HI)
Hydrilla Eradication around Lake Gaston, VA	Goode (VA)
National Agriculture Biosecurity Center	Boyda (KS), Moore (KS), Moran (KS), Tiahrt (KS)

National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy	Murtha (PA)
National Wildlife Research Center, Hilo, HI	Hirono (HI)
National Wildlife Research Station in Kingsville, Texas	Ortiz (TX)
New Mexico Syndromic Validation Program	Udall (NM)
Nez Perce Bio-Control Center	Simpson (ID)
Olive Fruit Fly	Thompson (CA)
Predation Wildlife Services in Virginia	Boucher, Goode, Goodlatte
Remote Diagnostic and Wildlife Disease Surveillance, ND	Pomeroy (ND)
Tri-State Predator Control (Idaho, Montana, Wyoming)	Simpson (ID)
Wildlife Services, AR	Berry
Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium	Obey (WI)
Wolf Predation Management in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan	Oberstar (MN), Obey (WI)

Natural Resources Conservation Service - Conservation Operations	
Accelerated Soil Mapping Survey	Cubin (WY)
Agricultural Development and Resource Conservation	Hirono (HI)
Altamaha River Basin water quality project	Kingston (GA)
Audubon at Home	Kaptur (OH), Moran (VA)
Bayou Sere Drainage Improvements/False River	Baker (LA)
Best Management Practices and Master Farmer Special Research Grant with LSU	Alexander (LA), Baker (LA)
Carson City Waterfall Fire Restoration	Heller (NV)
CEMSA with Iowa Soybean Association	Latham (IA)
Chesapeake Bay Activities	Sarbanes (MD), Scott (MD), Van Hollen (MD)
Choctaw County feasibility study for surface impoundment	Wicker (MS)
Community Nutrient Management Facilities for the Lagoon Waste Management Demonstration program	Bishop (GA), Kingston (GA)
Conservation Planning MA/WI	Frank (MA)
Cooperative agreement with Tufts University to improve conservation practices	DeLauro (CT), Courtney (CT)
GA Soil and Water Conservation Commission Cooperative Agreement	Bishop (GA), Kingston (GA), Marshall (GA)
Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative	Obey (WI)
Green Institute	Boyd (FL)
HI Plant Materials Center	Hirono (HI)
Hudson River Navigator	Hinchey (NY)
Hudson River shoreline at Village of Tarrytown	Lowey (NY)
Hungry Canyons Project	King (IA)
Idaho One Plan	Simpson (ID)
Illinois Buffer Initiative	LaHood (IL)
Illinois River Basin	LaHood (IL)
Iowa Buffer Initiative	Latham (IA)
Long Island Sound Watershed	Lowey (NY)
Maumee Watershed Hydrological Study and Flood Mitigation	Kaptur (OH)
Mojave Water Agency Non-Native Plant Removal	Lewis (CA)
Monterey Bay Sanctuary	Farr (CA)
Municipal Water District of Orange County for efficient irrigation	Calvert (CA), Miller (CA), Rohraback (CA), Sanchez (CA)
National Water Management Center	Berry (AR)
Natural Stream Restoration	Mollohan (WV)

Non-Point Pollution in Onondaga and Oneida Lake Watersheds	Walsh (NY)
On-Farm Management System Evaluation Network	Latham (IA)
Operation Oak Program	Berry (AR), Bishop (GA), Boyd (FL), Kingston (GA)
Pace University Land Use Law Center	Lowey (NY)
Pastureland Management/Rotational Grazing	Walsh (NY)
Range Revegetation for Fort Hood	Carter (TX), Edwards (TX)
Sand County Foundation	Baldwin (WI)
Skaneateles and Owasco Lake Watersheds	Walsh (NY)
Suwannee, Dixie, and Lafayette Counties Dairy and Poultry waste treatment	Boyd (FL)
Tallgrass Prairie Center - Native Seed Testing Lab	Braley (IA)
Technical Assistance to Livestock Poultry Industry	Butterfield (NC), Etheridge (NC), Price (NC)
Technical Assistance to providing grants to Soil Conservation Districts	Rogers (KY)
Town of Cary Swift Creek watershed protection and stream bank restoration	Miller (NC), Price (NC)
Union-Lincoln Regional Water Supply Initiative	Alexander (LA)
Upper White River Basin Water Quality Project	Blunt (MO)
Washington Fields	Matheson (UT)
Water Protection Plan for Hood County	Edwards (TX)
Water Quality for Tarrant County	Granger (TX)
Watershed Agricultural Council	Hinchey (NY)
Weed It Now on the Berkshire Taconic Landscape	Olver (MA)

Natural Resources Conservation Service - Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	
Attoyac Bayou site 23-A	Gohmert (TX)
Big Creek (Tri-County) Watershed Project	Carter (TX)
Big Slough Watersheds	Berry (AR)
Buck and Duck Creek Watershed Project	Fortenberry (NE)
Buena Vista Watershed	Goodlatte (VA)
Departee Creek Watershed	Berry (AR)
Doyle Creek Watershed	Moran (KS)
Four pilot projects in North Florida related to dairy and poultry cleanup efforts	Boyd (FL)
Little Otter Creek Watershed Project	Graves (MO)
Little Sioux Watershed Project	King (IA)
Lower Hamakua Ditch Watershed	Hirono (HI)
McKenzie Canyon Irrigation Pipeline Project	Walden (OR)
Neshaminy Creek Watershed Project, Bucks County	Murphy (PA)
Pine Barren Watershed	Bonner (AL)
Soap Creek Watershed	Loebsack (IA)
South Fork of the Licking River Watershed Project	Space (OH)
Swan Quarter Dike	Jones (NC)
Tuplehocken Creek Watershed	Holden (PA)
Upcountry Maui Watershed	Hirono (HI)
Wailuka-Alenaio Watershed	Hirono (HI)
Yadkin County Deep Creek Project	Foxx (NC)
Rural Development	
Rural Community Assistance Program	Kaptur (OH), Olver (MA)
Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas	Boozman, Carney, Gilchrest, Hinchey, Walsh
Food and Drug Administration	
National Center for Food Safety and Technology	Jackson (IL), Lipiniski (IL)
New Mexico State University - Physical Science Laboratory	Wilson (NM)
General Provisions	
Congressional Hunger Center	Emerson, Kaptur, McGovern

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2007
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2008
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE I - AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS					
Production, Processing, and Marketing					
Office of the Secretary	5,097	18,355	5,505	+408	-12,850
Executive Operations:					
Chief Economist	10,487	11,347	10,847	+360	-500
National Appeals Division	14,466	15,056	15,056	+590	---
Office of Budget and Program Analysis	8,270	9,035	8,622	+352	-413
Homeland Security staff	931	2,412	2,252	+1,321	-160
Office of the Chief Information Officer	16,361	17,024	16,723	+362	-301
Common computing environment	107,971	---	---	-107,971	---
(Provided in other accounts) (NA)	---	(90,900)	(90,900)	(+90,900)	---
Office of the Chief Financial Officer	5,850	30,863	6,076	+226	-24,787
Working capital fund	1,891	---	---	-1,891	---
Total, Executive Operations	166,227	85,737	59,576	-106,651	-26,161
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights	818	897	897	+79	---
Office of Civil Rights	20,020	23,147	23,147	+3,127	---
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration	673	739	709	+36	-30
Agriculture buildings and facilities and rental payments	(185,919)	(216,837)	(196,616)	(+10,697)	(-20,221)
Payments to GSA	146,257	156,590	156,590	+10,333	---
Building operations and maintenance	39,662	60,247	40,026	+364	-20,221
Hazardous materials management	11,887	12,200	12,200	+313	---
Departmental administration	23,144	24,608	23,913	+769	-695

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2007
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2008
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations	3,795	4,099	3,936	+141	-163
Office of Communications	9,338	9,720	9,720	+382	---
Office of the Inspector General	80,052	83,998	85,998	+5,946	+2,000
Office of the General Counsel	39,227	41,721	40,964	+1,737	-757
Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics	596	654	626	+30	-28
Economic Research Service	75,193	82,544	79,282	+4,089	-3,262
National Agricultural Statistics Service	147,253	167,699	166,099	+18,846	-1,600
Census of Agriculture	(36,249)	(54,325)	(52,725)	(+16,476)	(-1,600)
Agricultural Research Service:					
Salaries and expenses	1,128,944	1,021,517	1,076,340	-52,604	+54,823
Buildings and facilities	---	16,000	64,000	+64,000	+48,000
Total, Agricultural Research Service	1,128,944	1,037,517	1,140,340	+11,396	+102,823
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service:					
Research and education activities	671,419	562,518	671,419	---	+108,901
Native American Institutions Endowment Fund	(12,000)	(11,880)	(11,880)	(-120)	---
Extension activities	450,346	431,125	463,886	+13,540	+32,761
Integrated activities	55,234	20,120	57,244	+2,010	+37,124
Outreach for socially disadvantaged farmers	5,940	6,930	6,930	+990	---
Total, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service	1,182,939	1,020,693	1,199,479	+16,540	+178,786

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2007
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2008
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs	721	792	759	+38	-33
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service:					
Salaries and expenses	846,230	945,550	874,643	+28,413	-70,907
Animal welfare (user fees) (leg. proposal) NA.	---	(9,000)	---	---	(-9,000)
Buildings and facilities	4,946	8,931	4,946	---	-3,985
Total, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	851,176	954,481	879,589	+28,413	-74,892
Agricultural Marketing Service:					
Marketing Services	74,937	74,988	79,945	+5,008	+4,957
(Limitation on administrative expenses, from fees collected)	(62,211)	(61,233)	(61,233)	(-978)	---
Funds for strengthening markets, income, and supply (transfer from section 32)	16,425	16,798	16,798	+373	---
Discretionary appropriations	20,000	20,000	20,000	---	---
Payments to states and possessions	1,334	1,334	1,334	---	---
Total, Agricultural Marketing Service	112,696	113,120	118,077	+5,381	+4,957
Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration:					
Salaries and expenses	37,785	44,385	41,115	+3,330	-3,270
Grain inspection, packers and stockyards administration (user fees) (leg. proposal)NA	---	(21,200)	---	---	(-21,200)
Limitation on inspection and weighing services	(42,463)	(42,463)	(42,463)	---	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2007
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2008
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety.....	600	659	632	+32	-27
Food Safety and Inspection Service.....	892,136	930,120	930,120	+37,984	---
Food safety inspection (user fees) (leg. prop) NA.	---	(96,000)	---	---	(-96,000)
Lab accreditation fees.....	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	---	---
Total, Production, Processing, and Marketing....	4,976,236	4,874,722	5,019,299	+43,063	+144,577
Farm Assistance Programs					
Office of the Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services.....	632	695	666	+34	-29
Farm Service Agency:					
Salaries and expenses.....	1,030,193	1,228,662	1,127,409	+97,216	-101,253
(Common computing environment) (NA).....	---	(64,200)	(64,200)	(+64,200)	---
(Transfer from export loans).....	(343)	(359)	(353)	(+10)	(-6)
(Transfer from P.L. 480).....	(3,207)	(2,761)	(2,749)	(-458)	(-12)
(Transfer from ACIF).....	(303,309)	(311,737)	(310,230)	(+6,921)	(-1,507)
(Transfer from farm storage loan program account).	---	(4,660)	---	---	(-4,660)
Subtotal, transfers from program accounts.....	(306,859)	(319,517)	(313,332)	(+6,473)	(-6,185)
Total, Salaries and expenses.....	(1,337,052)	(1,548,179)	(1,440,741)	(+103,689)	(-107,438)
State mediation grants.....	4,208	4,000	4,000	-208	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2007
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2008
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Grassroot source water protection program	3,713	---	3,713	---	+3,713
Dairy indemnity program	100	100	100	---	---
Subtotal, Farm Service Agency	1,038,214	1,232,762	1,135,222	+97,008	-97,540
Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Farm ownership loans:					
Direct	(207,642)	(223,857)	(223,857)	(+16,215)	---
Guaranteed	(1,386,000)	(1,200,000)	(1,200,000)	(-186,000)	---
Subtotal	(1,593,642)	(1,423,857)	(1,423,857)	(-169,785)	---
Farm operating loans:					
Direct	(643,500)	(629,595)	(629,595)	(-13,905)	---
Unsubsidized guaranteed	(1,138,500)	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)	(-138,500)	---
Subsidized guaranteed	(271,886)	(250,000)	(250,000)	(-21,886)	---
Subtotal	(2,053,886)	(1,879,595)	(1,879,595)	(-174,291)	---
Indian tribe land acquisition loans	(2,000)	(3,960)	(3,960)	(+1,960)	---
Boll weevil eradication loans	(100,000)	(59,400)	(100,000)	---	(+40,600)
Total, Loan authorizations	(3,749,528)	(3,366,812)	(3,407,412)	(-342,116)	(+40,600)

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2007
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2008
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Loan subsidies:					
Farm ownership loans:					
Direct	8,700	9,962	9,962	+1,262	---
Guaranteed	8,039	4,800	4,800	-3,239	---
Subtotal	16,739	14,762	14,762	-1,977	---
Farm operating loans:					
Direct	75,225	79,896	79,896	+4,671	---
Unsubsidized guaranteed	28,121	24,200	24,200	-3,921	---
Subsidized guaranteed	27,379	33,350	33,350	+5,971	---
Subtotal	130,725	137,446	137,446	+6,721	---
Indian tribe land acquisition	423	125	125	-298	---
Boll weevil eradication	1,900	---	---	-1,900	---
Total, Loan subsidies	149,787	152,333	152,333	+2,546	---
ACIF expenses:					
Salaries and expense (transfer to FSA)	303,309	311,737	310,230	+6,921	-1,507
Administrative expenses	7,920	7,920	7,920	---	---
Total, ACIF expenses	311,229	319,657	318,150	+6,921	-1,507
Total, Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund	461,016	471,990	470,483	+9,467	-1,507
(Loan authorization)	(3,749,528)	(3,366,812)	(3,407,412)	(-342,116)	(+40,600)

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2007
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2008
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Total, Farm Service Agency	1,499,230	1,704,752	1,605,705	+106,475	-99,047
Risk Management Agency,					
Administrative and operating expenses	76,658	79,062	78,833	+2,175	-229
Total, Farm Assistance Programs	1,576,520	1,784,509	1,685,204	+108,684	-99,305
Corporations					
Federal Crop Insurance Corporation:					
Federal crop insurance corporation fund	4,379,256	4,818,099	4,818,099	+438,843	---
Commodity Credit Corporation Fund:					
Reimbursement for net realized losses	23,098,328	12,983,053	12,983,053	-10,115,275	---
Hazardous waste management (limitation on expenses)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	---	---
Farm Storage Facility Loans Program Account:					
Salaries and expenses:					
Farm Service Agency (transfer to FSA)	---	4,660	---	---	-4,660
Total, Corporations	27,477,584	17,805,812	17,801,152	-9,676,432	-4,660
Total, title I, Agricultural Programs	34,030,340	24,465,043	24,505,655	-9,524,685	+40,612
(By transfer)	(306,859)	(319,517)	(313,332)	(+6,473)	(-6,185)
(Loan authorization)	(3,749,528)	(3,366,812)	(3,407,412)	(-342,116)	(+40,600)
(Limitation on administrative expenses)	(109,674)	(108,696)	(108,696)	(-978)	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2007
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2008
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE II - CONSERVATION PROGRAMS					
Office of the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment	742	822	781	+39	-41
Natural Resources Conservation Service:					
Conservation operations	763,360	801,825	851,910	+88,550	+50,085
(Common computing environment) (NA)	---	(20,000)	(20,000)	(+20,000)	---
Watershed surveys and planning	6,056	---	6,556	+500	+6,556
Watershed and flood prevention operations	---	---	37,000	+37,000	+37,000
Watershed rehabilitation program	31,309	5,807	31,586	+277	+25,779
Resource conservation and development	51,088	14,653	52,370	+1,282	+37,717
Healthy forests reserve program	---	2,476	---	---	-2,476
Total, Natural Resources Conservation Service	851,813	824,761	979,422	+127,609	+154,661
Total, title II, Conservation Programs	852,555	825,583	980,203	+127,648	+154,620
TITLE III - RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS					
Office of the Under Secretary for Rural Development	632	695	666	+34	-29

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2007
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2008
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Rural Development:					
Rural community advancement program:					
Rural community program account 1/:					
Loan authorizations:					
Community facility:					
Direct	(297,000)	(302,414)	(350,000)	(+53,000)	(+47,586)
Guaranteed	(207,900)	(210,000)	(250,000)	(+42,100)	(+40,000)
Subtotal, Loan authorizations	(504,900)	(512,414)	(600,000)	(+95,100)	(+87,586)
Loan subsidies and grants:					
Commmunity facility:					
Direct	19,038	16,784	19,425	+387	+2,641
Guaranteed	7,609	7,728	9,200	+1,591	+1,472
Grants	16,830	---	23,117	+6,287	+23,117
Rural community development initiative	6,287	---	---	-6,287	---
Economic impact initiative grants	17,820	---	---	-17,820	---
High energy cost grants	25,740	---	---	-25,740	---
Tribal college grants	4,419	---	4,000	-419	+4,000
Subtotal, RCP subsidies and grants	97,743	24,512	55,742	-42,001	+31,230

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2007
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2008
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Rural Business Program Account 2/:					
(Guaranteed business and industry loans).....	(913,962)	(1,000,000)	(1,250,000)	(+336,038)	(+250,000)
Loan subsidies and grants:					
Guaranteed business and industry subsidy..	39,849	43,200	54,000	+14,151	+10,800
Grants:					
Rural business enterprise.....	39,600	---	40,000	+400	+40,000
Rural business opportunity.....	2,970	---	3,000	+30	+3,000
Delta regional authority.....	1,980	---	3,000	+1,020	+3,000
Subtotal, RBP subsidies and grants.....	84,399	43,200	100,000	+15,601	+56,800
Rural water & waste disposal program account 3/:					
Loan authorizations:					
Direct.....	(990,000)	(1,080,239)	(1,000,000)	(+10,000)	(-80,239)
Guaranteed.....	(75,000)	(75,000)	(75,000)	---	---
Subtotal, Loan authorizations.....	1,065,000	1,155,239	1,075,000	+10,000	-80,239
Loan subsidies and grants:					
Direct subsidy.....	98,604	153,394	68,100	-30,504	-85,294
Water and waste grants.....	437,748	344,920	500,000	+62,252	+155,080
Solid waste management grants.....	3,465	3,465	3,465	---	---
Emerg. community water assistance grants..	13,692	---	---	-13,692	---
Water and waste financing revolving fund..	495	---	500	+5	+500
Water well system grants.....	990	1,000	1,000	+10	---
Subtotal, Water subsidies and grants....	554,994	502,779	573,065	+18,071	+70,286

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2007
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2008
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Less adjustment (rounding)	-1	---	---	+1	---
Total, Rural community advancement program	737,135	570,491	728,807	-8,328	+158,316
(Transfer to High energy costs grants)	(-25,740)	---	---	(+25,740)	---
RD expenses:					
Salaries and expenses	161,298	208,194	175,382	+14,084	-32,812
(Common computing environment)	---	(6,700)	(6,700)	(+6,700)	---
(Transfer from RHIF)	(452,927)	(434,890)	(462,521)	(+9,594)	(+27,631)
(Transfer from RDLFP)	(4,774)	(4,576)	(4,861)	(+87)	(+285)
(Transfer from RETLP)	(38,623)	(37,009)	(39,405)	(+782)	(+2,396)
Subtotal, Transfers from program accounts	(496,324)	(476,475)	(506,787)	(+10,463)	(+30,312)
Total, RD expenses	(657,622)	(684,669)	(682,169)	(+24,547)	(-2,500)
Total, Rural Development	898,433	778,685	904,189	+5,756	+125,504
Rural Housing Service:					
Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Single family direct (sec. 502)	(1,129,391)	---	(1,129,391)	---	(+1,129,391)
Unsubsidized guaranteed	(3,644,224)	(4,848,611)	(3,716,425)	(+72,201)	(-1,132,186)
Subtotal, Single family	(4,773,615)	(4,848,611)	(4,845,816)	(+72,201)	(-2,795)
Housing repair (sec. 504)	(34,652)	(22,855)	(34,652)	---	(+11,797)
Rental housing (sec. 515)	(99,000)	---	(99,000)	---	(+99,000)

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2007
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2008
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Site loans (sec. 524)	(5,000)	(5,045)	(5,046)	(+46)	(+1)
Multi-family housing guarantees (sec. 538)	(99,000)	(200,000)	(99,000)	---	(-101,000)
Multi-family housing credit sales	(1,485)	(1,408)	(1,486)	(+1)	(+78)
Single family housing credit sales	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)	---	---
Self-help housing land develop. (sec. 523)	(4,998)	---	(5,000)	(+2)	(+5,000)
Total, Loan authorizations	(5,027,750)	(5,087,919)	(5,100,000)	(+72,250)	(+12,081)
Loan subsidies:					
Single family direct (sec. 502)	113,278	---	105,824	-7,454	+105,824
Unsubsidized guaranteed	42,641	10,070	44,359	+1,718	+34,289
Subtotal, Single family	155,919	10,070	150,183	-5,736	+140,113
Housing repair (sec. 504)	10,240	6,461	9,796	-444	+3,335
Rental housing (sec. 515)	45,213	---	42,184	-3,029	+42,184
Multi-family housing guarantees (sec. 538)	7,663	18,800	9,306	+1,643	-9,494
Multi-family housing credit sales	673	523	552	-121	+29
Single family housing credit sales	48	---	---	-48	---
Self-help housing land develop. (sec. 523)	123	---	142	+19	+142
Multi-family housing preservation	8,910	---	---	-8,910	---
Total, Loan subsidies	228,789	35,854	212,163	-16,626	+176,309
RHIF administrative expenses (transfer to RD)	452,927	434,890	462,521	+9,594	+27,631
Total, Rural Housing Insurance Fund program	681,716	470,744	674,684	-7,032	+203,940
(Loan authorization)	(5,027,750)	(5,087,919)	(5,100,000)	(+72,250)	(+12,081)

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2007
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2008
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Rental assistance program:					
(Sec. 521)	608,100	567,000	525,100	-83,000	-41,900
(Sec. 502(c)(5)(D))	7,920	---	7,920	---	+7,920
Total, Rental assistance program	616,020	567,000	533,020	-83,000	-33,980
Rural housing voucher program	15,840	---	---	-15,840	---
Multifamily housing revitalization program account	---	27,800	27,800	+27,800	---
MHRP administrative expenses (transfer to RD)	---	---	---	---	---
Total, Multifamily housing revitalization	---	27,800	27,800	+27,800	---
Mutual and self-help housing grants	33,660	9,500	40,000	+6,340	+30,500
Rural housing assistance grants	43,603	39,000	39,000	-4,603	---
Farm labor housing program account:					
(Loan authorization)	(38,117)	(13,520)	(50,000)	(+11,883)	(+36,480)
Loan subsidy	18,277	5,849	21,630	+3,353	+15,781
Grants	13,860	4,000	25,000	+11,140	+21,000
Total, Farm Labor Housing Program Account	32,137	9,849	46,630	+14,493	+36,781
Total, Rural Housing Service	1,422,976	1,123,893	1,361,134	-61,842	+237,241
(Loan authorization)	(5,065,867)	(5,101,439)	(5,150,000)	(+84,133)	(+48,561)

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2007
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2008
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Rural Business-Cooperative Service:					
Rural Development Loan Fund Program Account:					
(Loan authorization)	(33,870)	(33,772)	(33,772)	(-98)	---
Loan subsidy	14,927	14,485	14,485	-442	---
Administrative expenses (transfer to RD)	4,774	4,576	4,861	+87	+285
Total, Rural Development Loan Fund	19,701	19,061	19,346	-355	+285
Rural Economic Development Loans Program Account:					
(Loan authorization)	(24,752)	(33,077)	(33,077)	(+8,325)	---
Direct subsidy	5,406	---	---	-5,406	---
Mandatory subsidy (NA)	---	(7,472)	(7,472)	(+7,472)	---
Rural economic development grants (NA)	---	(10,000)	(10,000)	(+10,000)	---
Rural cooperative development grants:					
Cooperative development	3,753	4,455	4,455	+702	---
Appropriate technology transfer for rural areas	936	---	2,475	+1,539	+2,475
Cooperative research agreement	495	---	495	---	+495
Value-added agricultural product market development	20,295	15,000	20,295	---	+5,295
Grants to assist minority producers	1,239	1,473	1,473	+234	---
Total, Rural Cooperative development grants	26,718	20,928	29,193	+2,475	+8,265
Rural empowerment zones and enterprise communities grants	11,088	---	11,088	---	+11,088

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2007
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2008
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Renewable energy program:					
(Loan authorization)	(176,512)	(195,470)	(250,000)	(+73,488)	(+54,530)
Loan subsidy	11,456	18,941	24,225	+12,769	+5,284
Grants	11,385	15,000	21,775	+10,390	+6,775
Total, Renewable energy program	22,841	33,941	46,000	+23,159	+12,059
Total, Rural Business-Cooperative Service	85,754	73,930	105,627	+19,873	+31,697
(Loan authorization)	(235,134)	(262,319)	(316,849)	(+81,715)	(+54,530)
Rural Utilities Service:					
Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Electric:					
Direct, 5%	(99,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(+1,000)	---
Direct, Municipal rate	(100,764)	---	---	(-100,764)	---
Direct, FFB	(2,700,000)	(4,000,000)	(4,500,000)	(+1,800,000)	(+500,000)
Direct, Treasury rate	(990,000)	---	---	(-990,000)	---
Guaranteed underwriting	(1,500,000)	---	---	(-1,500,000)	---
Subtotal, Electric	(5,389,764)	(4,100,000)	(4,600,000)	(-789,764)	(+500,000)
Telecommunications:					
Direct, 5%	(145,000)	(145,000)	(145,000)	---	---
Direct, Treasury rate	(419,760)	(250,000)	(250,000)	(-169,760)	---
Direct, FFB	(125,000)	(295,000)	(295,000)	(+170,000)	---
Subtotal, Telecommunications	(689,760)	(690,000)	(690,000)	(+240)	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2007
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2008
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Total, Loan authorizations	(6,079,524)	(4,790,000)	(5,290,000)	(-789,524)	(+500,000)
Loan subsidies:					
Electric:					
Direct, 5%	2,119	120	120	-1,999	---
Direct, Municipal rate	1,522	---	---	-1,522	---
Subtotal, Electric	3,641	120	120	-3,521	---
Telecommunications:					
Direct, 5%	537	116	116	-421	---
Direct, Treasury rate	126	1,675	1,675	+1,549	---
Direct, FFB	---	1,829	1,829	+1,829	---
Subtotal, Telecommunications	663	3,620	3,620	+2,957	---
Total, Loan subsidies	4,304	3,740	3,740	-564	---
RETLP administrative expenses (transfer to RD)	38,623	37,009	39,405	+782	+2,396
Total, Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account	42,927	40,749	43,145	+218	+2,396
(Loan authorization)	(6,079,524)	(4,790,000)	(5,290,000)	(-789,524)	(+500,000)

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2007
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2008
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
High energy costs grants (by transfer)	(25,740)	---	---	(-25,740)	---
Distance learning, telemedicine, and broadband program:					
Loan authorizations:					
Broadband telecommunications	(495,000)	(300,000)	(300,000)	(-195,000)	---
Total, Loan authorizations	(495,000)	(300,000)	(300,000)	(-195,000)	---
Loan subsidies and grants:					
Distance learning and telemedicine:					
Grants	29,700	24,750	35,000	+5,300	+10,250
Broadband telecommunications:					
Direct	10,643	6,450	6,450	-4,193	---
Grants	8,910	---	17,820	+8,910	+17,820
Total, Loan subsidies and grants	49,253	31,200	59,270	+10,017	+28,070
Total, Rural Utilities Service	92,180	71,949	102,415	+10,235	+30,466
(Loan authorization)	(6,574,524)	(5,090,000)	(5,590,000)	(-984,524)	(+500,000)
Total, title III, Rural Economic and Community Development Programs	2,499,975	2,049,152	2,474,031	-25,944	+424,879
(By transfer)	(522,064)	(476,475)	(506,787)	(-15,277)	(+30,312)
(Loan authorization)	(14,359,387)	(13,121,411)	(13,981,849)	(-377,538)	(+860,438)

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2007
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2008
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE IV - DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS					
Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services	597	655	628	+31	-27
Food and Nutrition Service:					
Child nutrition programs	7,614,523	7,592,797	7,668,156	+53,633	+75,359
Transfer from section 32	5,731,073	6,304,475	6,235,057	+503,984	-69,418
Total, Child nutrition programs	13,345,596	13,897,272	13,903,213	+557,617	+5,941
Special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children (WIC)	5,204,430	5,386,597	5,620,000	+415,570	+233,403
Food stamp program:					
Expenses	33,463,137	35,053,973	35,053,973	+1,590,836	---
Armed forces provision	1,000	---	1,000	---	+1,000
Reserve	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	---	---
Nutrition assistance for Puerto Rico and Samoa	1,557,397	1,621,250	1,621,250	+63,853	---
The emergency food assistance program	140,000	140,000	140,000	---	---
CSFP transitional benefit	---	21,000	---	---	-21,000
CSFP outreach grant	---	2,000	---	---	-2,000
Total, Food stamp program	38,161,534	39,838,223	39,816,223	+1,654,689	-22,000
Commodity assistance program:					
Commodity supplemental food program	107,202	---	150,000	+42,798	+150,000
Farmers market nutrition program	19,800	19,800	20,000	+200	+200
Emergency food assistance program	49,500	49,500	50,000	+500	+500

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2007
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2008
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Pacific island and disaster assistance.....	1,070	1,070	1,070	---	---
Total, Commodity assistance program.....	177,572	70,370	221,070	+43,498	+150,700
Nutrition programs administration.....	140,252	148,926	146,926	+6,674	-2,000
Total, Food and Nutrition Service.....	57,029,384	59,341,388	59,707,432	+2,678,048	+366,044
Total, title IV, Domestic Food Programs.....	57,029,981	59,342,043	59,708,060	+2,678,079	+366,017
TITLE V - FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND RELATED PROGRAMS					
Foreign Agricultural Service					
Salaries and expenses, direct appropriation.....	156,220	168,209	159,136	+2,916	-9,073
(Transfer from export loans).....	(4,918)	(4,985)	(4,985)	(+67)	---
(Transfer from P.L. 480).....	(166)	---	---	(-166)	---
Total, Salaries and expenses program level.....	(161,304)	(173,194)	(164,121)	(+2,817)	(-9,073)
Public Law 480 Program and Grant Accounts:					
Title II - Commodities for disposition abroad:					
Program level.....	(1,214,711)	(1,219,400)	(1,219,400)	(+4,689)	---
Appropriation.....	1,214,711	1,219,400	1,219,400	+4,689	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2007
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2008
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Salaries and expenses:					
Foreign Agricultural Service (transfer to FAS)	166	---	---	-166	---
Farm Service Agency (transfer to FSA).....	3,207	2,761	2,749	-458	-12
Subtotal.....	3,373	2,761	2,749	-624	-12
Total, Public Law 480:					
Program level.....	(1,214,711)	(1,219,400)	(1,219,400)	(+4,689)	---
Appropriation.....	1,218,084	1,222,161	1,222,149	+4,065	-12
CCC Export Loans Program Account (administrative expenses):					
Salaries and expenses (Export Loans):					
General Sales Manager (transfer to FAS).....	4,918	4,985	4,985	+67	---
Farm Service Agency (transfer to FSA).....	343	359	353	+10	-6
Total, CCC Export Loans Program Account.....	5,261	5,344	5,338	+77	-6
McGovern-Dole international food for education and child nutrition program grants.....	99,000	100,000	100,000	+1,000	---
Total, title V, Foreign Assistance and Related Programs.....	1,478,565	1,495,714	1,486,623	+8,058	-9,091
(By transfer).....	(5,084)	(4,985)	(4,985)	(-99)	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2007
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2008
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE VI - RELATED AGENCIES AND FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION					
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES					
Food and Drug Administration					
Salaries and expenses, direct appropriation	1,569,244	1,635,709	1,697,709	+128,465	+62,000
Prescription drug user fee act	(352,200)	(339,195)	---	(-352,200)	(-339,195)
Medical device user fee act	(43,726)	(47,500)	---	(-43,726)	(-47,500)
Animal drug user fee act	(11,604)	(13,696)	(13,696)	(+2,092)	---
Generic drug user fee	---	(15,701)	---	---	(-15,701)
Reinspection fees (user fees) (leg. prop) NA	---	(23,276)	---	---	(-23,276)
Food export fees (user fees) (leg. prop) NA	---	(3,741)	---	---	(-3,741)
Subtotal	(1,976,774)	(2,051,801)	(1,711,405)	(-265,369)	(-340,396)
Mammography clinics user fee (outlay savings)	(17,522)	(18,398)	(18,398)	(+876)	---
Export and color certification	(8,481)	(9,500)	(9,500)	(+1,019)	---
Payments to GSA	(126,871)	(131,533)	(131,533)	(+4,662)	---
Buildings and facilities	4,950	4,950	4,950	---	---
Total, Food and Drug Administration	1,574,194	1,640,659	1,702,659	+128,465	+62,000

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2007
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2008
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES					
Commodity Futures Trading Commission	97,981	116,000	102,550	+4,569	-13,450
Transaction fees (user fees) (leg. prop) NA	---	(86,000)	---	---	(-86,000)
Farm Credit Administration (limitation on administrative expenses)	(44,250)	(46,000)	(46,000)	(+1,750)	---
Total, title VI, Related Agencies and Food and Drug Administration	1,672,175	1,756,659	1,805,209	+133,034	+48,550
TITLE VII - GENERAL PROVISIONS					
Denali Commission	743	---	---	-743	---
Hunger Fellowships	---	---	2,475	+2,475	+2,475
Section 32 (rescission)	-37,601	-65,452	-210,361	-172,760	-144,909
Specialty crop grants (sec. 736)	6,930	---	10,000	+3,070	+10,000
Healthy Forest Reserve	2,476	---	---	-2,476	---
Simplified Summer Food Program	---	---	5,000	+5,000	+5,000
Food stamp program employment & training (rescission)	-11,200	---	---	+11,200	---
ARS buildings and facilities (rescission)	---	-16,000	---	---	+16,000
Fruit and vegetable program	---	---	21,000	+21,000	+21,000
WIC (rescission)	---	---	-16,069	-16,069	-16,069
High energy cost grant (rescission)	---	---	-25,740	-25,740	-25,740
Department of Homeland Security (rescission)	---	---	-8,000	-8,000	-8,000
Total, title VII, General provisions	-38,652	-81,452	-221,695	-183,043	-140,243

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2007
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2008
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
OTHER APPROPRIATIONS					
U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007					
Foreign Agricultural Service					
Public Law 480 Title II Grants (Titles I/III) (emerg).	450,000	---	---	-450,000	---
General Provisions					
Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust (Title III) (emerg)...	10,000	---	---	-10,000	---
Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve program (Title IV) (emergency).....	115,000	---	---	-115,000	---
Stafford Act Disaster Relief (Title V) (emergency)....	40,000	---	---	-40,000	---
Farm Service Agency					
Salaries and expenses (Title VI).....	37,500	---	---	-37,500	---
Agricultural Assistance (Title IX)	---	---	---	---	---
Crop disaster assistance (Sec. 9001) (emergency).....	1,552,000	---	---	-1,552,000	---
Livestock compensation program (Sec.9002a) (emergency)	1,203,000	---	---	-1,203,000	---
Livestock indemnity payments (Sec. 9002b) (emergency).	29,000	---	---	-29,000	---
Emergency conservation program (Sec. 9003) (emergency)	16,000	---	---	-16,000	---
National Diary Market Loss Payment Program (Sec. 9006) (emergency).....	31,000	---	---	-31,000	---
Dairy assistance (Sec. 9007) (emergency).....	16,000	---	---	-16,000	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2007
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2008
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Low-income migrant and seasonal farmworkers (Sec. 9009) (emergency)	16,000	---	---	-16,000	---
Conservation security program (Sec. 9010) (emergency)	115,000	---	---	-115,000	---
Farm Service Agency, salaries and expenses (Sec. 9011) (emergency)	22,000	---	---	-22,000	---
Subtotal, Title IX	3,000,000	---	---	-3,000,000	---
Total, Public Law 110-28	3,652,500	---	---	-3,652,500	---
(emergency appropriations)	(3,615,000)	---	---	(-3,615,000)	---
Grand total	101,177,439	89,852,742	90,738,086	-10,439,353	+885,344
Appropriations	(97,611,240)	(89,934,194)	(90,998,256)	(-6,612,984)	(+1,064,062)
Emergency Appropriations	3,615,000	---	---	-3,615,000	---
Rescissions	(-48,801)	(-81,452)	(-260,170)	(-211,369)	(-178,718)
(By transfer)	(834,007)	(800,977)	(825,104)	(-8,903)	(+24,127)
(Loan authorization)	(18,108,915)	(16,488,223)	(17,389,261)	(-719,654)	(+901,038)
(Limitation on administrative expenses)	(153,924)	(154,696)	(154,696)	(+772)	---

FOOTNOTES:
1/ Budget request includes program account under Rural Housing.
2/ Budget request includes program account under Rural Business-Cooperative Service.
3/ Budget request includes program account under Rural Utilities Service.

MINORITY VIEWS OF REPRESENTATIVE JERRY LEWIS AND REPRESENTATIVE JACK KINGSTON

The fiscal year 2008 appropriations bill for Agriculture, Rural Development, the Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies funds critical agricultural research; farm and conservation programs; trade, marketing and regulatory programs; rural housing, electric, and economic development; nutrition assistance and international food aid; and food and drug safety. As a result, this bill directly and indirectly reaches every American, and millions of others around the world, everyday.

Chairwoman DeLauro has held numerous hearings this year. We have participated in those hearings and are appreciative of the fact that all subcommittee members have been given ample time and opportunity to question witnesses. We will support the Chairwoman in this process; our subcommittee hearings continue to embrace a spirit of bipartisanship as they have in the past.

FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

The 302(b) allocation to the Subcommittee is $18.817 billion. This is an increase of $1.043 billion, or 5.9 percent, above the FY '07 enacted level and an increase of $982 million, or 5.6 percent, above the President's request. When the impact of funding limitations on mandatory programs is figured in, the fiscal year 2008 allocation represents a 3.6 percent increase above the fiscal year 2007 enacted level. Mr. Kingston offered an amendment in full committee to reduce the spending in this bill by 3.6 percent. That amendment was defeated by voice vote. The President has made clear that he will veto spending bills that exceed his overall top-line request for discretionary spending, and this bill does that.

While we support the Committee's efforts in writing this bill and report, there are several accounts in the bill in which special accommodations were made and the Democrat majority, in our view, provides excessive funding increases while failing to recognize the substantial investments made by this Subcommittee on a bipartisan basis in recent years.

FLOOR CONSIDERATION

It is striking that the Agriculture Appropriations bill, one of the most widely supported and least controversial of our spending measures, is being scheduled for consideration so late in the legislative cycle. Traditionally, this bill has been one of the first annual spending bills approved by the House. The fiscal year 2007 Agriculture Appropriations bill was passed out of the House on May 23, 2006 and the fiscal year 2006 bill was passed on June 8, 2005. We would urge Chairman Obey to consider restoring the tradition of moving this bill earlier in the legislative process.

We would also strongly encourage the House and Senate Appropriations leadership to agree to move all appropriations bills by the Summer adjournment date in order to prevent a legislation train wreck at the end of the year. House Members have worked round the clock to pass bills off the floor while the Senate remains unable to move its spending bills beyond full committee.

Lastly, we are concerned by the fact that the Democrat majority imposed at least 45 reporting requirements upon the USDA and FDA at various intervals throughout fiscal year 2007 and fiscal year 2008. While necessary in some instances, an excessive number of reports place an undue burden upon these agencies, and in many instances, takes away from time better spent performing agency-critical functions.

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE BILL

There were several issues that the Subcommittee Ranking Member brought to the attention of the Chairwoman, requesting that these issues be addressed in the managers' amendment at full committee. We appreciate the following improvements made to the bill:

- Funding to increase capacity of the Economic Research Service to meet the demand for farm bill and rural economic analysis;
- Clarification of resources that are available to the Inspector General as a result of a transfer of personnel to the Homeland Security Staff;
- Report on renewable energy loans and grants to ensure that these projects have measurable results; and,
- Inspector General audit of the rural broadband program to ensure that the government is not competing with the private sector.

LABORATORY CAPACITY

Unfortunately, many of our concerns were not fully addressed or addressed at all. For instance, we remain concerned about the fact that the bill does not include funds the President requested for laboratory capacity. A recent GAO study on avian influenza preparedness conveyed concern that government investigators are worried about incomplete information, the ability of laboratories to handle a surge in testing, disposal of carcasses, and uncertainty as to the amount of antiviral medication needed for workers depopulating diseased animals and cleaning infected facilities. If an outbreak should occur, at current funding levels, laboratories would not have the capability to handle testing activities, therefore hampering the Agency's ability to contain, control, and eradicate a disease quickly and effectively. The requested funding would have addressed these issues. We remain hopeful that the Committee can address this shortfall as the bill moves through the legislative process.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING (COOL) FUNDING

We also have strong reservations about providing $2 million for the implementation of the COOL requirements for all covered commodities. There is no information available relating to the use of these funds, or even why they are needed in fiscal year 2008. The

funding may, in fact, be premature since COOL will not be enacted until September 30, 2008. With the fierce competition for funds, this $2 million could be put to better use elsewhere in the bill.

Further complicating matters, the timeline that the Democrat majority directs for the implementation of COOL for all covered commodities is based on statute enacted in 2002. Yet, on July 19, 2007, the House Agriculture Committee passed an amendment during consideration of the new farm bill that makes changes to the 2002 statute.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA) OFFICE CLOSURES

Further, we are concerned about the restrictive FSA office closure language included in the bill. In many cases, the USDA has completed required steps to close certain offices under provisions set forth in fiscal year 2006, and again in the Continuing Resolution that agencies are operating under this fiscal year. Members are urged to consider these facts: there are 58 FSA offices that have no staff; 139 offices that have one employee; 338 that have two employees; and 515 offices that have three employees.

It is also worth noting that the funding level included in the bill for FSA salaries and expenses is $102 million below the President's budget request. As a result, the Democrat majority has significantly cut the appropriation below the request while prohibiting the FSA from closing unneeded offices. There are many States that, while not necessarily happy with proposals to close some offices, are willing to work with the FSA to close offices that should no longer be open. The minority worked with Chairwoman DeLauro to modify the language in the bill in order to continue making progress on this issue. Ranking Member Kingston offered an amendment that would allow FSA to close those offices that have zero employees, and the amendment was adopted by the full committee. People often ask why government can't run more efficiently. Closing FSA offices provides a good example. It's hard to run an agency with 435 managers second-guessing all decisions.

FUNDING FOR RURAL AMERICA

The fiscal year 2008 Committee-reported bill continues the Subcommittee's commitment to rural America. From fiscal year 2001 through the House-passed fiscal year 2007 bill, the Committee provided more than $72.4 billion for the following programs:

Rural Community Advancement Program—$5.7 billion
Rural Housing (loans, subsidies)—$38 billion
Rural Electric (loans, subsidies)—$28.7 billion

FARM LABOR

The bill contains large increases over both fiscal year 2007 and above the fiscal year 2008 request in loans and grant funds for construction of facilities for farm laborers. The program cannot really function effectively without substantial rental assistance and a deep subsidy. Of further concern is that the program is limited to domestic farm workers. As a result, the program is not widely used by many states. In our view, these issues should be thoroughly analyzed before providing substantial increases.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Renewable energy funding is strongly supported on a bipartisan basis and the demand for on-farm renewable energy facilities has increased. But this is the kind of program that can easily turn into a boondoggle and leave the taxpayer holding the bag for a bunch of small white elephants that don't work or are not used. Free money tends to produce these kinds of results. The funding should be directed towards projects that actually work, save taxpayers money, and use proven technology. These funds are not for research nor are they for high risk ventures. We urge that the Democrat majority work to ensure that this investment is based on outcomes and results rather than pure political emotion.

RURAL BROADBAND/DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE (DLT)

We continue to have reservations about this program. It is one thing for the federal government to help expand the use of DLT and broadband services. It is quite another for the government to both compete with and undermine the private sector where they would operate except for being undercut by the government. The increases provided in this bill should not be enacted until and unless that issue has been resolved or it will exacerbate the problem. In addition, there are concerns about the government subsidizing the implementation of internet services for individuals that have the wherewithal to pay those costs. We are all for helping rural, low-income areas but not the retired doctor who has moved to a mountain-top lodge who is unable to use his laptop to access the latest stock quotes from the NYSE.

WIC

The mark includes $5.62 billion dollars for WIC. This is a $415.6 million increase above FY '07 and an increase of $223.4 million above the President's request. We have not seen any justification of how the Democrat majority arrived at this funding level.

While the Committee has a clear and strong history of supporting this important program, the vastly increased WIC appropriations are coming at the expense of other critical programs that are equally important to the health and welfare of Americans as a whole. These include rural water, housing, telecommunications and utilities that are so important to rural America; research, education, and extension programs that enable the safe and abundant food supply for this and coming generations; conservation programs that protect our watersheds, rivers, and air quality; and the countless other programs funded by this bill.

Nearly half of the increase in the subcommittee's 302(b) allocation goes to this program at the expense of the very programs which are designed to diminish the need for WIC participation. WIC is an important program, but one that treats the result of the problem, and not the problem itself.

There is clear evidence of the Committee's longstanding support of the WIC program. Total funding for this program grew by $1.2 billion in six years, from $4.043 billion in 2001 to $5.244 billion in fiscal year 2007. Congress should closely examine how this program is currently funded, and how it will be funded in the future,

as this program alone consumes nearly 30 percent of the discretionary budget authority in this bill.

Another issue that Congress should examine is Medicaid adjunctive-eligibility for WIC participants. This provision allows that those eligible to receive food stamps, Medicaid, and TANF—or even certain family members that are eligible to receive Medicaid or TANF—have automatic income eligibility for WIC. For the WIC program, the State agency's income standard must be between 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) guidelines, but no more than 185 percent of FPL. However, this limit becomes less meaningful for those who live in states with Medicaid eligibility above 185 percent. Some states, such as Hawaii and New Hampshire, have Medicaid eligibility requirements of 300 percent of FPL. This is shocking. Under the guidelines, those states whose Medicaid eligibilities are set at 300 percent of FPL—which in some cases can be about $62,000 for a family of four—can also automatically receive WIC funding in addition to their Medicaid dollars. We believe that this is not the intention of the program.

FDA

At $1.698 billion, the bill includes a $128 million increase above fiscal year 2007 for the Food and Drug Administration, and $62 million above the President's request. Our hope is that the Chairwoman's goal is to direct these resources toward the inspection of those products that have caused so much pain and suffering in this country as a result of weak regulatory controls in exporting countries.

The bill includes a major, controversial provision that allows the importation of prescription drugs. If this provision is going to remain in the bill, then there should be funding to ensure the safety and efficacy of those imported drugs.

HORSE SLAUGHTER

Without any consultation with the minority, the Democrat majority decided to include multiple horse slaughter provisions that are troublesome and may have many unintended consequences. The provision would bar oversight not only for transportation and export of horses intended for human consumption, but also for horses to be transported for any purpose, including the prevention and the spread of communicable disease. The interstate movement, import, and export of live horses for any purpose would be shut down by the provision by virtue of the prohibition on inspection activities including the creation, distribution, certification, endorsement or filing of "any certificate concerning horses." Finally, and most importantly, the prohibition on the assessment and collection of fees under 21 U.S.C. 136 would make it impossible for the Secretary to administer federal animal quarantine laws regarding horses not merely at importation, but domestically as well, under existing regional animal disease programs. Because these provisions were not well written and their adverse effects not contemplated, they will cause harm to the entire horse industry in this country.

FOOD AID/FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE FUNDING

Our colleagues should be made aware of the fact that we have had no hearings on one of the major accounts in this bill. This bill appropriates $1.483 billion for the Foreign Agricultural Service and International Food Aid programs of which $1.219 billion is for Title II—Public Law 480 grants, $164 million is for the Foreign Agricultural Service, and $100 million is for the McGovern-Dole International Feeding Program. The Chairwoman has indicated her willingness to proceed with hearings on this important subject matter at a later date, and we look forward to this opportunity.

In conclusion, we would not have funded some of the increases in the bill the way the Democrat majority did, nor rescinded the level of funds that the majority has from section 32. We would have put all available offsets on the table for consideration as we have in the past, and would have worked with an allocation that could be supported by the Legislative and Executive branches. Our hope is that the bill, as it moves through the legislative process, can be improved to the point that it will become a legislative product the President will sign.

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