

Verticillium wilt research.—The Committee commends the agency’s research that seeks to minimize the effects the Verticillium wilt fungus can have on crops, such as lettuce, potatoes, tomatoes, and cotton, and encourages the agency to continue to work with industry, university, and other partners to develop effective control mechanisms.

Floriculture and Nursery Research.—The Committee recognizes the important research the agency has undertaken regarding floral and horticultural crops and encourages it to continue to work with industry, university, and other partners to address the unique challenges floral and horticultural crop growers face.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

2011 appropriation	\$698,740,000
2012 budget estimate	708,107,000
Provided in the bill	600,800,000
Comparison:	
2011 appropriation	– 97,940,000
2012 budget estimate	– 107,307,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Research and Education Activities, the Committee provides an appropriation of \$600,800,000.

Program Management.—The Committee concurs with the proposal to support activities under the Graduate Fellowship Grants and Institution Challenge Grants through the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative. The Committee also concurs with the proposal to consolidate pest control activities under the Integrated Pest Management and Biological Control Program.

Research Priorities.—The Committee regrets it cannot provide an increase for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative for fiscal year 2012. While the Committee appreciates the work of the dedicated staff of NIFA, especially for their efforts to reorganize the agency and raise the profile of agricultural research as directed by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, it is concerned about some of the research being funded by the agency. For example, the agency recently awarded more than \$23 million in grants to improve regional and local food systems. Over the past few years, numerous reports from Federal agencies and private philanthropic and scientific organizations have highlighted the need for the United States to invest in agricultural research, particularly to ensure productivity growth and to develop and refine sound natural resources management practices for U.S. farmers and ranchers and others around the world. In light of this advice and the nation’s serious budget deficit and debt problems, the agency should be focusing its research efforts on only the highest priority, scientifically merited research. While there are many interesting research topics and a multitude of issues that could be researched, the Committee expects the agency to focus on its core mission of agricultural research by setting a very high standard for research funded by the agency and requiring a rigorous peer review.

Policy Research.—The Committee directs the Director of NIFA to consult with the Office of the Chief Economist in developing any

requests for proposals for competitive grants, reviewing applications submitted to the Department, and awarding competitive grants for the activities authorized by 7 U.S.C. 3155.

Unexpended Balances.—The Committee is concerned that the agency continues to have significant unexpended balances. The Committee directs the agency to provide a report on the balances, including an explanation for its past practices and the agency’s plans to improve the management of its appropriation and activities by September 1, 2011.

Blueberry and Cranberry Research.—The Committee recognizes that the production of blueberries and cranberries is vital to many local economies and encourages the agency to work with partners to support the development of new cultivars to enhance economic stability and develop environmentally sound insect and disease management strategies and technologies.

The following table reflects the amount provided by the Committee:

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES
(Dollars in Thousands)

	2011 enacted	2012 budget	Committee provision
Hatch Act, Formula Funds	\$236,334	\$204,250	\$208,000
McIntire-Stennis, Cooperative Forestry, Formula Funds	32,934	27,550	30,000
Evans-Allen Program (1890 Colleges and Tuskegee University)	50,898	48,500	48,000
Special Grants for Global Change/Ultraviolet Radiation	1,405	1,408	1,250
Integrated Pest Management and Biological Control	16,153	16,185	14,000
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	264,470	324,655	229,500
Animal Health and Disease Research	2,944	0	4,000
Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment	4,790	4,800	4,200
Multicultural Scholars Program	1,239	1,241	1,000
Hispanic Education Partnership Grants	9,219	10,161	7,800
Alaska Native and Hawaiian Native Education Grants	3,194	3,200	2,700
Secondary, 2 Year Post Secondary and Ag in the Classroom	981	3,483	900
Aquaculture Grants	3,920	3,928	3,300
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education	14,471	15,000	12,300
Capacity Building Grants for 1890 Institution	19,336	20,075	16,400
Payments to 1994 Institutions	3,335	3,676	2,800
Resident Instruction Grants for Insular Areas	898	900	900
Distance Education Grants for Insular Areas	749	750	750
Competitive Grants for Policy Research	0	0	3,000
Federal Administration	11,230	14,253	10,000
Data Information System (REEIS)	2,699	2,704	2,500
Electronic Grants Administration System	2,132	5,136	2,000
Total Research and Education Activities	698,740	708,107	600,800

NATIVE AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS ENDOWMENT FUND

2011 appropriation	(\$11,880,000)
2012 budget estimate	(11,880,000)
Provided in the bill	(11,880,000)
Comparison:	
2011 appropriation	---
2012 budget estimate	---

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Native American Institutions Endowment Fund, the Committee provides \$11,880,000.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

2011 appropriation	\$479,132,000
2012 budget estimate	466,788,000
Provided in the bill	411,200,000
Comparison:	
2011 appropriation	- 67,932,000
2012 budget estimate	- 55,588,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Extension Activities, the Committee provides an appropriation of \$411,200,000.

The following table reflects the amount provided by the Committee:

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
EXTENSION ACTIVITIES
(Dollars in Thousands)

	2011 enacted	2012 budget	Committee provision
Smith-Lever Sections 3(b) and 3(c)	\$293,911	\$282,625	\$259,200
Extension Services at 1994 Institutions	4,312	5,321	3,600
Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program	67,934	68,070	58,000
Pest Management Program	9,918	9,938	8,400
New Technologies for Ag Extension	1,747	1,750	1,400
Facility Improvement Grants for 1890 Institutions	19,730	19,770	16,700
Youth at Risk Program	8,395	8,412	7,100
Renewable Resources Extension Act	4,060	4,068	3,400
Tribal Extension Program	3,039	8,000	2,600
Sustainable Agriculture Program	4,696	4,968	4,000
Rural Health and Safety Education	1,735	1,738	1,500
Cooperative Extension at 1890 Institutions	42,592	42,677	36,000
Grants to Youth Organizations	1,780	0	1,500
Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database	998	0	1,000
Federal Administration	7,996	8,012	6,800
Total Extension Activities	479,132	466,788	411,200

INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES

2011 Appropriation	\$36,926,000
2012 budget estimate	29,874,000
Provided in the bill	8,000,000
Comparison:	
2011 appropriation	- 28,926,000
2012 budget estimate	- 21,874,000

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Integrated Activities, the Committee provides an appropriation of \$8,000,000, of which \$4,000,000 is provided for the regional pest management centers and activities and \$4,000,000 for the organic transition program.