

Cornerstone Report from Washington

April 14, 2016

House Subcommittee Approves FY 2017 Agriculture Appropriations Bill

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies met this week to approve its FY 2017 spending bill for USDA agencies, including the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). As shown below, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative would receive a \$25 million boost, all other core funding priorities would remain at FY 2016 levels.

Land-Grant NIFA Priorities in House Mark (\$Millions)

Priority	FY 16 Final	FY17 APLU Request	FY 17 House
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	350.000	700.000	375.000
Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c)	300.000	304.000	300.000
Hatch-Act	243.701	256.201	243.701
Evans-Allen (1890s Research)	54.185	60.500	54.185
1890 Institutions Extension	45.620	49.350	45.620
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry	33.961	35.500	33.961

The bill would also provide an additional \$5 million under the Food Safety Outreach Program, and directs NIFA to be the sole agency providing food safety training, education, outreach, and technical assistance at the farm level.

The subcommittee's allocation is \$21.3 billion in discretionary funding, which is \$451 million lower than the fiscal year 2016 enacted level and \$281 million below the President's budget request.

Next Steps

The full House Appropriations Committee will mark up the Agriculture Appropriations Bill on Tuesday, April 19. The Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee is expected to consider their version of the bill in the coming weeks, and congressional leaders continue to promise an aggressive appropriations schedule.

As always, we will continue to keep you informed as further developments occur.

THE CORNERSTONE TEAM