

About the Legislative Process and DC State of Play

May 19, 2026

Today we'll cover:

- Key decision makers
- Authorization vs. appropriations and the process for each
- Current funding state of play
- Current Status at USDA
- Notes on Advocacy



Where Are We Now?

- **Trump Administration:**
 - 1.5 years into second Trump term
 - Over 200 Executive Orders (EO) in first year vs 220 EOs in his first term
 - Stable Cabinet and White House staff, beginning to break down
 - DOGE no more, powerful OMB
- **119th Congress**
 - Everything is about the Midterms on November 3, 2026
 - New precedent: finishing controversial funding via reconciliation: DHS, Farm Bill funding
 - To Do list is substantial:
 - *FY 2026 Homeland Security appropriations bill*
 - *FY 2027 appropriations bills (Summer)*
 - *Farm Bill – extended through Sep 30, 2026*
 - *National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)*
 - *Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)*

Ag Committee Leadership

Senate



Chairman John Boozman
(R- AR)



Ranking Member Amy
Klobuchar (D- MN)
Running for Governor

House



Chairman G.T. Thompson
(R-PA)
Chair term limited



Ranking Member Angie
Craig (D-MN)
Running for Senate

Ag Appropriations Leadership

Senate



Chairman John Hoeven
(R-ND)
Also sits on Ag Committee



Ranking Member Jeanne
Shaheen (D-NH)
Retiring

House



Chairman Andy Harris
(R-MD)



Ranking Member Sanford
Bishop Jr. (D-GA)

Very high turnover in Congress expected

A Note on NIFA Funding Lines

NIFA is broken down into over 70 different budget lines that delineate programs directed by Congress for USDA to administer.

- Some are very small – just a few million and may only fund a handful of institutions
- Some are large and are paid out based on a formula to the land grants, some are competitive
- These are the mechanisms by which Congress appropriates funds where they want them to go.

APLU focuses on a shorter list of 10 so we can better work together. This is called our Unified Ask (green column)

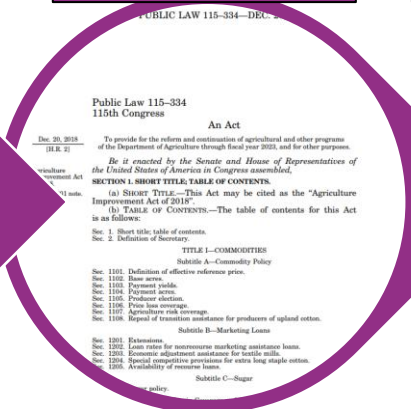
FY 2027 Agriculture Appropriations: BAA Priorities					
Appropriations Account	U.S. Code	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 BAA Request	FY 2027 PBR	FY 2027 House
NIFA Total	7 U.S.C. Chapter 64	\$1,677,010	n/a	\$1,022,004	\$1,642,700
Research					
Hatch Act	7 U.S.C. 361a-i	\$265,000	\$300,000	\$0	\$265,000
Evans-Allen Research (1890 Research)	7 U.S.C. 3222	\$89,000	\$125,000	\$50,000	\$89,000
Research Grants for 1994 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 301 note	\$5,500	\$17,867	\$5,000	\$5,500
McIntire-Stennis	16 U.S.C. 582a through a—7	\$38,000	\$46,000	\$20,000	\$38,000
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)	7 U.S.C. 450i(b)	\$435,000	\$500,000	\$419,378	\$435,000
Cooperative Extension System					
Smith-Lever 3 (b) & (c)	7 U.S.C. 343(b) and (c) and 208(c) of P.L. 93 471	\$325,000	\$420,000	\$175,000	\$325,000
Extension Services at 1890 Universities	7 U.S.C. 3221	\$72,000	\$102,000	\$62,000	\$72,000
Extension Services at 1994 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 343(b)(3)	\$12,000	\$17,867	\$11,000	\$12,000
Smith-Lever 3 (d)	7 U.S.C. 343(d)	\$88,600	\$115,000	\$67,000	\$88,600
Education					
Payments to the 1994 institutions	7 U.S.C. 301 note	\$8,000	\$17,867	\$7,000	\$8,000

Authorizers decide which programs should exist

Agriculture Committee

Farm Bill

AFRI



Glenn "GT" Thompson (PA)

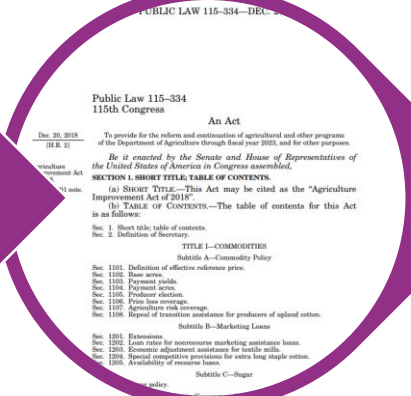
- The Farm Bill authorizes AFRI at \$700M.

Appropriators decide how much money each program gets

Agriculture Committee

Farm Bill

AFRI



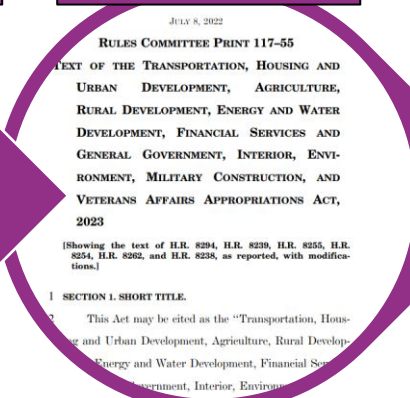
Glenn "GT" Thompson (PA)

- The Farm Bill authorizes AFRI at \$700M.
- Ag Approps has always been supportive.
- But AFRI has never gotten this much.

Approps Committees

Approps Bills

Funding



Andy Harris (MD)

The Budget Committee sets a cap on total funding



Jodey Arrington
(TX)



302(a)

The same process needs to happen on the Senate side, and then they *all* need to agree.



Tom Cole (OK)

302(b)
s

12 Sub
cmmts



Andy Harris (MD)

We are at the FY 2027 starting line

- FY 2027 President's Budget Request expected this week or next
 - It will propose deep cuts, these are expected to be rejected by Congress.
- USDA budget hearings likely mid April
- House and Senate Drafts out this Spring/Summer
- August *and* October will be recess months
 - If bills get done this year, most likely December

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~~2023, 2024, 2025~~ 2026?

Farm Bill Progress

- House Ag version passed on the Floor
- Largely the same package as 2024
- BAA priorities well-represented
- Senate TBD
- Reconciliation/OBBBA *major issue*
 - **Funded RFA** and other “orphans”
 - SNAP cuts (including SNAP Ed elimination) makes Dem support for any Farm Bill uncertain

U.S. Department of Agriculture



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Scott Hutchins: Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, & Economics



- Former Deputy US for REE in first Trump Administration
- Ph.D. in Entomology from Iowa State
- Former President Entomological Society of America (ESA)
- 30+ years in private sector

USDA Snapshot - funding

- America First & MAHA
- Reorganization & Relocation
- Unified Terms & Conditions/Research Security
- MOU with Department of War to collaborate

National Institute of Food & Agriculture (NIFA)

- After major disruptions in 2025, funding is flowing again
- Flat funding in FY26—Capacity and AFRI solicitations are out
 - New NSF Partnered solicitation on AI with direct Cooperative Extension call out
- REE has desire to get back to regular cadence
- ***Research Facilities Act NOFO is on the way—APPLY!***
- Uncertainty as to how NIFA, ARS will be impacted in the relocation

Keep an eye out for other opportunities outside USDA:

- NSF AI Ready America solicitation directly calls out Extension – will be one in each state
- HHS and EPA?

Final Thoughts

- Major disruptions in parts of the federal government will continue
- Solicitations for capacity and other NIFA programs are here, some new strings attached
- Capitol Hill is **OPEN**—work with your Members to share success and concerns, they work for YOU
 - They will be in the state a lot this year, take advantage of it

Questions

- christina@lewis-burke.com



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