

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY MR. ROGERS OF
KENTUCKY, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS REGARDING THE HOUSE AMENDMENT TO
THE SENATE AMENDMENT ON H.R. 83

CONSOLIDATED AND FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2015

The following is an explanation of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015.

This Act includes eleven regular appropriations bills for fiscal year 2015, as well as further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act. The divisions contained in the Act are as follows:

- Division A – Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015;
- Division B – Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015;
- Division C – Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2015;

The agreement includes requested funding for the pollinator health initiative, restoration of the fruit and vegetable in-season reports, and restoration of the chemical use survey and does not include the suspension of reports as proposed in the budget.

In fiscal year 2014, USDA was provided \$2,250,000 to conduct the Organic Production Survey. It is expected that USDA will conduct this survey as a comprehensive follow-on survey to the 2012 Census of Agriculture.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The agreement provides \$1,132,625,000 for the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Salaries and Expenses.

The agreement does not accept the President's budget request regarding the termination and redirection of research programs or the closure of research stations. The agreement expects extramural research to be funded at no less than fiscal year 2014 levels. The agreement provides funding increases for forest product, pollinator, porcine virus, grazing-related sheep, and methyl bromide alternatives research.

ARS is directed to prepare a long-term facility management plan to guide capital asset construction and renovation for current ARS and university cooperator space where the cooperator or university has expressed an interest in relocating ARS researchers or facilities to alternate locations. The plan should establish a process for setting and ranking these facilities, with priority placed on current ARS facilities conducting high priority research with a low facility condition index. The report should clearly describe the proposed relocation, include estimated costs for completing the relocation, and address any legal barriers that may exist for the proposed location.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For ARS Buildings and Facilities, the agreement provides an appropriation of \$45,000,000 for priorities identified in the USDA ARS Capital Investment Strategy, April 2012.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

The agreement provides \$786,874,000 for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's research and education activities.

The agreement directs that not less than 15 percent of the competitive research grant funds be used for USDA's agricultural research enhancement awards program, including USDA-EPSCoR.

The following table reflects the amounts provided by the agreement:

<i>National Institute of Food and Agriculture</i>		
<i>Research and Education Activities</i>		
(Dollars in Thousands)		
Hatch Act	7 U.S.C. 361a-i	\$243,701
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act	16 U.S.C. 582a through a-7	33,961
Research at 1890 Institutions (Evans-Allen Program)	7 U.S.C. 3222	52,485
Payments to the 1994 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 301 note	3,439
Education Grants for 1890 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 3152(b)	19,336
Education Grants for Hispanic-Serving Institutions	7 U.S.C. 3241	9,219
Education Grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions	7 U.S.C. 3156	3,194
Research Grants for 1994 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 301 note	1,801
Capacity Building for Non Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture	7 U.S.C. 3319i	4,500
Grants for Insular Areas	7 U.S.C. 3222b-2, 3362 and 3363	2,000
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	7 U.S.C. 450i(b)	325,000
Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment	7 U.S.C. 3151a	5,000
Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Program	7 U.S.C. 3195	4,000
Supplemental and Alternative Crops	7 U.S.C. 3319d	825
Multicultural Scholars, Graduate Fellowship and Institution Challenge Grants	7 U.S.C. 3152(b)	9,000
Secondary and 2-year Post-Secondary Education	7 U.S.C. 3152(j)	900
Aquaculture Centers	7 U.S.C. 3322	4,000
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education	7 U.S.C. 5811, 5812, 5831, and 5832	22,667
Farm Business Management	7 U.S.C. 5925f	1,450
Sun Grant Program	7 U.S.C. 8114	2,500
Minor Crop Pest Management (IR-4)	7 U.S.C. 450i(c)	11,913

Alfalfa and Forage Research Program	7 U.S.C. 5925	1,350
Special Research Grants:	7 U.S.C. 450i(c)	
Global Change/UV Monitoring		1,405
Potato Research		1,350
Aquaculture Research		1,350
Total, Special Research Grants		<u>4,105</u>
Necessary Expenses of Research and Education Activities:		
Grants Management System		7,830
Federal Administration—Other		6,387
Necessary Expenses for Research and Education Activities		
GSA Rent and DHS Security Expenses		6,311
Total, Necessary Expenses		<u>20,528</u>
Total, Research and Education Activities		<u>\$786,874</u>

NATIVE AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS ENDOWMENT FUND

The agreement provides \$11,880,000 for the Native American Institutions Endowment Fund.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

The agreement provides \$471,691,000 for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's extension activities.

The following table reflects the amounts provided by the agreement:

<i>National Institute of Food and Agriculture</i>		
<i>Extension Activities</i>		
(Dollars in Thousands)		
Smith-Lever, Section 3(b) and (c) programs and Cooperative Extension	7 U.S.C. 343(b) and (c) and 208(c) of P.L. 93-471	\$300,000
Extension Services at 1890 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 3221	43,920
Extension Services at 1994 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 343(b)(3)	4,446
Facility Improvements at 1890 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 3222b	19,730
Renewable Resources Extension Act	16 U.S.C. 1671 et seq.	4,060
Rural Health and Safety Education Programs	7 U.S.C. 2662(i)	1,500
Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program	7 U.S.C. 7642	1,250

Women and Minorities in STEM Fields	7 U.S.C. 5925	400
Food Safety Outreach Program	7 U.S.C. 7625	2,500
Smith-Lever, Section 3(d):	7 U.S.C. 343(d)	
Food and Nutrition Education		67,934
Farm Safety and Youth Farm Safety Education Programs		4,610
New Technologies for Agricultural Extension		1,550
Children, Youth, and Families at Risk		8,395
Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program		3,039
Total, Section 3(d)		<u>85,528</u>
Necessary Expenses of Extension Activities:		
Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom		552
Federal Administration—Other		7,805
Necessary Expenses for Extension Activities		
Total, Necessary Expenses		<u>8,357</u>
Total, Extension Activities		<u>\$471,691</u>

INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES

The agreement provides \$30,900,000 for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's integrated activities.

The following table reflects the amounts provided by the agreement:

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
Integrated Activities
(Dollars in Thousands)

Methyl Bromide Transition Program	7 U.S.C. 7626	\$2,000
Organic Transition Program	7 U.S.C. 7626	4,000
Regional Rural Development Centers	7 U.S.C. 450i(c)	1,000
Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative	7 U.S.C. 3351	6,700
Crop Protection/Pest Management Program	7 U.S.C. 7626	17,200
Total, Integrated Activities		<u>\$30,900</u>

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS