

2025 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES - CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

**Table CD-1. 2024 Congressional Directives**

Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Date Due to Congress
<b>Departmental Activities</b>				
OBPA	Explanatory Notes	House Report 118-124	The Committee appreciates the Department’s work to restore the Explanatory Notes to the same format as they had been presented in prior to fiscal year 2021 and directs that this format be maintained for fiscal year 2025 and beyond.	Congressional Justifications
OBPA	Spending Plans	House Report 118-124	The bill continues a provision in Title VII that requires USDA to submit spending plans to the Committee within 30 days of enactment. Previous versions of these plans have not included adequate details that would be useful for Committee oversight. The Committee requests that USDA spending plans include for each program, project, or activity: (1) a comparison between the budget justification funding levels, the most recent Congressional directives or approved funding levels, and the funding levels proposed by the department or agency; and (2) a clear, concise, and informative description/justification. The Committee reminds USDA of notification requirements, also included in Title VII, for all applicable changes.	within 30 days of enactment
OBPA	New Initiatives	House Report 118-124	The Committee directs USDA, no later than 120 days after enactment, to submit an execution plan for each new initiative funded in this Act. This strategy should include, but is not limited to, the steps necessary to make funding available, the timeline thereof, targeted beneficiaries, and expected results. The Committee requests quarterly reports on these initiatives until the initiative has been fully implemented.	no later than 120 days after enactment
OBPA	Status of House and Senate Report Language	House Report 118-124	The Department is directed to include in its fiscal year 2025 Congressional Justification, as a single exhibit, a table listing all deliverables, with a column for due dates if applicable. OBPA is directed to provide updates on the status of House and Senate reports upon request from the Committees.	include in its fiscal year 2025 Congressional Justification
OCFO/OCIO	Digital Infrastructure Service Center (DISC)	House Report 118-124	The Committee strongly supports the 2022 Information Technology Operating Plan developed by the Federal Chief Information Officer (FCIO), OMB, and the General Services Administration (GSA) as required by the Fiscal Year 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 117–103). However, the Committee is concerned that existing Federal programs and assets, such as DISC, have not been incorporated or considered in the plan to address four key priorities, including cybersecurity, IT modernization, digital-first customer experience, and data as a strategic asset. The Committee directs the Secretary to coordinate with FCIO and OMB on the utilization of DISC data centers and services across the whole of government agencies that do not currently use DISC services. Accordingly, within 90 days of enactment of this Act, the Committee directs the Secretary to report on efforts to incorporate the utilization of DISC in IT Operational Plans and efforts to inform agency Chief Information Officers of opportunities to leverage DISC service offerings.	within 90 days of enactment of this Act

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OCFO/OCIO	National Finance Center (NFC)	House Report 118-124 and Senate Report 118-44	The National Finance Center (NFC) is the largest designated Federal Government Payroll Shared Service Provider, and it provides integrated payroll and personnel services for over 640,000 Federal employees. To ensure that thousands of Federal employees' pay and human resources services are not interrupted or adversely impacted by major organizational changes, the Committee continues requirements under current law relating to NFC payroll and shared services operations, missions, personnel, and functions. The Committee also directs USDA to provide quarterly reports on full-time equivalent (FTE) levels for each of the current NFC divisions, operations, and functions, as well as each of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) and Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) divisions, operations, and functions currently co-located with the NFC. The reports also are to include a detailed breakdown of the FTEs for each and any of these same divisions, functions, or operations for the NFC and the co-located OCFO and OCIO functions compared to those during FY 2017 and 2018.	Quarterly Reports
OCIO	Simplified USDA Applications	House Report 118-124	USDA customers are overburdened with complex program applications, contracts, and reporting. The Committee requests a report from USDA describing the barriers to simplifying program applications, contracts, and reporting. The report should also include any plans USDA has to simplify these documents and procedures.	60 days of enactment of this Act
OHRM	Voting-related Activities	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee directs the Secretary to provide to the Committee a briefing, no later than 90 days after enactment of this act, regarding any strategic plans developed by the department since January 20, 2021 outlining the ways the department has promoted voter registration and voter participation.	90 days of enactment of this Act
OSEC	Communications Services for Limited English Proficient Communities.	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee urges the Department to establish uniform communication practices across all mission areas utilizing local digital, television, and radio advertising. The Committee further directs the Department and agencies funded by this Act with annual advertising budgets to submit a report within 30 days of enactment of this Act on expenditures related to local media advertising, including expenditures on local digital, television, and radio advertising. The Committee is supportive of efforts the department is taking to improve communications, which should include mediums such as television and radio, to reach limited English proficient [LEP] communities. However, to improve implementation, the Committee encourages the department to review the communication practices and create uniform applications across all USDA agencies to strengthen communication practices to include digital, television and radio advertising when working with limited English proficient communities. The Committee further directs each Department and agency funded by this Act with annual advertising budgets to include a report on expenditures related to local media advertising to include digital, television and radio no more than 30 days after the passage of this Act. The Committee also mandates that a portion of the advertising expenditures dedicated to LEP communities is dedicated to ethnic media outlets that work with hard-to-reach communities to ensure equity across all media outlets.	no more than 30 days after the passage of this Act
OSEC	Customer Service	House Report 118-124	The Committee continues to support the Department's efforts to improve customer service. The Committee directs the Secretary to develop standards to improve customer service, incorporate the standards into the performance plans required under 31 U.S.C. 1115, and submit a report on these efforts within 60 days of enactment of this Act.	within 60 days of enactment of this Act
<b>Farm Production and Conservation</b>				

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CCC	Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Report	House Report 118-124 and Senate Report 118-44	The Committee directs the Secretary to provide a report on November 15, 2023, and May 15, 2024, on planned uses of funding under the authorities of Section 4 and Section 11 of the CCC Charter Act.	November 15, 2023, and May 15, 2024
CCC	CCC Obligations and Commitments	House Report 118-124 and Senate Report 118-45	The Secretary is directed to notify the Committees in writing 15 days prior to any announcement on the use of funds from the CCC or the obligation or commitment of any emergency funds from the CCC.	As necessary in writing 15 days prior to any announcement
CCC	CRP Wetland Restoration and Wildlife Enhancement	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee notes that agricultural commodity crops, if left unharvested, may help reduce degradation of wetlands and improve sediment trapping, surface and ground water supply, erosion control, and wildlife habitat while providing winter food for waterfowl and other wildlife. The Committee directs CCC, within 60 days of enactment of this act, to amend its program policies and guidelines for CRP conservation practices CP23 and CP23A, to provide that current and future participants are permitted to plant, but not harvest, agricultural commodity crops as wildlife food plots on up to 10 percent of the enrolled land to enhance waterfowl and upland bird food and habitat.	60 days of enactment of this Act
FSA	Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act	House Report 118-124 and Senate Report 118-44	USDA is responsible for monitoring foreign purchases of agricultural land under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) and for assessing penalties on entities that have failed to make disclosures as required. The Committee is concerned that USDA failed to assess penalties for a failure to disclose foreign investments in American agricultural land. The Committee directs the Secretary to report to the Committee within 90 days of enactment of this Act on USDA's efforts to ensure that foreign investments are being accurately disclosed, including an analysis of any barriers USDA faces in conducting oversight of these purchases and planned steps for overcoming these challenges.	90 days of enactment of this Act
FSA	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee recognizes that drought is now the single largest cause of U.S. farm production losses and strongly supports the development of creative solutions to conserve water while maintaining the productive use of farmland. The Committee is concerned that the Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment [PEA] for CRP published in the Federal Register on October 3, 2019 (84 FR52868) ignores the intent of Congress and the urgent threat of drought by immediately dismissing without meaningful consideration the new authorization for CREP drought and water conservation agreements to permit dryland agricultural uses with the adoption of best management practices. The Committee directs the Secretary to revise the PEA to allow dryland agriculture uses on land enrolled in CREP in accordance with section 1231A(e)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831a(e)(2)). The Committee reminds USDA that the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 116-260 directed the Secretary to submit a report to the Committee detailing a full analysis of the new CREP dryland agricultural uses authority and what dryland farming best management practices could make advancements to protect ground water and surface water quality and control soil erosion while enhancing wildlife habitat.	90 days after enactment of the 2022 Appropriations Act 06.13.2022

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FSA	Information Technology	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee remains dedicated to ensuring FSA has reliable and functioning IT systems because it is critical that farmers and ranchers have access to the tools they need to succeed. The Committee has invested significant taxpayer dollars to modernize outdated systems and continues to provide resources above the budget request. The Committee continues statutory language that allows funds for IT to be obligated only after the Secretary meets certain reporting requirements. The Committee has reviewed the third-party IT analysis and expects the agency to follow the recommendations where applicable. FSA is directed to provide timely updates for future IT needs.	120 days of enactment of this Act
FSA	USDA Farm Delivery Systems Modernization / USDA Customer and Producer Farm Delivery Systems Modernization	House Report 118-124 and Senate Report 118-44	The Committee directs the Secretary to submit a plan within 60 days of enactment of this act that accelerates the continued implementation and expansion of the Farmers.gov application and Enterprise Data Analytics Platform and Toolset [EDAPT]. Despite the continued direction and funding provided by Congress in previous fiscal years for these modernization applications, the Committee is aware that the Farm Service Agency, the Farm Production and Conservation Business Center, and the Office of the Chief Information Officer continue to maintain numerous legacy mission support systems that should be decommissioned and transitioned to applications and mission support services systems that are interoperable, facts-based, data driven, and are provided efficiently, effectively, and professionally with a commitment to excellent customer service for USDA customers, including farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners.	60 days of enactment of this Act
FSA	Loan and Grant Programs	House Report 118-124	The Committee directs that if an estimate of loan activity for any program funded in Titles II and III of this bill indicates that a limitation on authority to make commitments for a fiscal year will be reached before the end of that fiscal year, or in any event when 75 percent of the authority to make commitments has been utilized, the Secretary shall promptly notify the Committees through OBPA. The Committee directs the Department, through OBPA, to provide quarterly reports to the Committees on the status of obligations and funds availability for the loan and grant programs provided in this bill.	Quarterly Reports
FSA	Staffing	House Report 118-124	The Committee is concerned about FSA's ability to attract and retain field staff to do FSA's critical work in rural communities. The Committee is also concerned that local FSA offices are often tasked with implementing new programs with little notice. The Committee directs the Secretary to report on a plan to address retention and communication between FSA offices and the national office. Additionally, the Committee encourages FSA to factor in administration of disaster assistance programming when contemplating additional staffing resources needed to successfully carry out its mission.	60 days of enactment of this Act
FSA and NRCS	PFAS	House Report 118-124	The Committee notes that there are previously provided funds related to polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) which remain available. The Committee remains concerned that there are significant knowledge gaps related to PFAS and its impact on agriculture. Therefore, the Committee awaits a plan from USDA and will continue to monitor PFAS.	not later than 90 days after the end of fiscal year 2023 12.30.2023

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NRCS	Feral Hogs	House Report 118-124	The Committee is concerned that the feral hog population is rapidly expanding despite efforts to constrain their spread. To help prevent further damages to agriculture and urban lands, the Committee provides \$3,000,000 for a cost-share program for the construction and repair of perimeter fencing. The Committee encourages NRCS, in conjunction with State soil and water conservation agencies, to develop a strategy to exclude feral hogs from agricultural and urban areas at risk of damage from localized feral hog populations with lessons learned from the existing Feral Hog Eradication Pilot Program. The Committee requests a report on these efforts within 60 days of enactment.	60 days of enactment of this Act
NRCS	Lake Erie Basin	House Report 118-124	The Committee is aware that the Western Lake Erie Basin Initiative (WLEB) is vital to researching and conserving one of our country’s precious freshwater sources, Lake Erie. Increased levels of HABs continue to plague the lake due to shallow depths, increased nitrogen and phosphorus levels, and other contributing factors. The Committee encourages NRCS to work with locally engaged academic institutions that have worked with WLEB to review the work done by WLEB, compare Lake Erie Basin’s water quality, including chemical, physical, and biological characteristics, over the past decade, detail what efforts could and are being made to improve the quality, and study the point of origin of run off into the lake. Further, the Committee directs NRCS to make research done on WLEB publicly available and to provide a briefing on its findings and efforts within 180 days of enactment.	180 days of enactment of this Act
NRCS	Conservation Programs timeline	House Report 118-124	The Committee recognizes the importance of NRCS’s conservation programs and their positive impact on water and soil quality. The Committee also recognizes that these programs must consist of realistic timelines and outcomes as identified by the farmers using them. The Committee encourages NRCS to review all conservation programs to ensure their funding timelines related to conservation planning and program delivery meet legislatively mandated timelines to support farmers in developing their practices and fulfilling the mission of the programs. The Committee directs NRCS to report back on its findings and efforts to improve program funding timelines within 180 days of enactment.	180 days of enactment of this Act
NRCS	Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry	Senate Report 118-44	NRCS received nearly \$19,000,000,000 in additional funding to RCPP, EQIP, CSP and ACEP prior to fiscal year 2024. Within 180 days of enactment of this act, NRCS is directed to submit to the Committee a report outlining how the agency allocated funding to ensure that programmatic goals were met in a timely, optimized, and efficient manner. This report should include consideration of whether priority practice eligibility choices included Western practices to secure water and forestry co-benefits, as well as information on staff hiring, technology systems utilized, contracting strategies, practice eligibility lists, and departmental directives to NRCS.	180 days of enactment of this Act
NRCS	Multiple Benefit Projects	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee continues to support funding for projects that provide multiple benefits, including reduction of drought impact, improvement of water quality, and increased fish or wildlife habitat. NRCS is directed to keep the Committee apprised of streamlining and modernization efforts, and of efforts to coordinate with stakeholders to ensure that this program is utilized in a manner to maximize its effect.	keep the Committee apprised of streamlining and modernization efforts

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NRCS	Western Water and Working Lands	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee welcomes the recently announced Western Water and Working Lands Framework <sup>77</sup> work for Conservation Action and encourages NRCS to dedicate financial and technical assistance resources to support the framework, with a priority on projects with multiple benefits. The Secretary is directed to keep the Committee apprised of progress toward this end, beginning with a briefing 90 days after enactment of this act.	90 days of enactment of this Act
NRCS	Western States Conservation Partnership Initiative	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee recognizes the value of collaborative, locally led conservation practices and remains concerned about the ongoing extreme drought and related water issues in the American West. NRCS is encouraged to explore the creation of a partnership initiative, similar to the recently created Chesapeake Bay States' Partnership Initiative, to allow Western States and partners to leverage financial and technical assistance to address regional water issues and help build resilience to drought. Within 90 days of enactment of this act, NRCS is directed to brief the Committee on the feasibility of such an initiative, as well as efforts undertaken to this end.	90 days of enactment of this Act
NRCS	SNOTEL	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee continues to be concerned by documented changes in winter weather across the country, and the impact of those changes on local ecologies and economies. The Committee continues to fund the NRCS Snow Telemetry Network and looks forward to the forthcoming report on feasibility of expansion to the Northeast.	120 days of enactment of this Act
NRCS	Communication	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee is committed to supporting the mission and values of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, including through critical investments to protect our land, water, and soil. The Committee recognizes that consistent coordination is essential to this end and is frustrated by the current lack of communication between NRCS and the Committee. Within 60 days of enactment of this act, and every 30 days thereafter, NRCS is directed to brief the Committee on ongoing and upcoming initiatives, as well as resources necessary for continued success of the Service.	Within 60 days of enactment of this act, and every 30 days thereafter
RMA	Aquaculture Assistance Programs	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee notes that the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) directed the Board of Directors of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to consider treating the different growth stages of aquaculture species as separate crops for the Whole Farm Diversified Risk Management Insurance Plan. RMA is directed to report to the Committee no later than 90 days after enactment of this act regarding the steps taken by the Board to consider the feasibility of this proposed change to recognize the difference in perils at different phases of growth for aquaculture species.	90 days after enactment of this Act
<b>Food Safety</b>				
FSIS	Humane Methods of Slaughter / Humane Handling Data Set	House Report 118-124	FSIS shall ensure that all inspection personnel conducting humane handling verification procedures receive robust initial training and periodic refresher training on the FSIS humane handling and slaughter regulations and directives. This includes handling of non-ambulatory disabled animals, as well as proper use of the Humane Activities Tracking System to ensure humane handling of animals as they arrive and are offloaded and handled in ante-mortem holding pens, suspect pens, chutes, stunning areas, and on the slaughter line. The Committee directs the agency to continue preparation and online publication of the Humane Handling Quarterly Reports, to include: (1) the number of humane handling verification procedures performed, (2) the number of administrative enforcement actions taken, (3) the time spent on Humane Handling Activities Tracking System activities, and (4) comparisons of these measurements by plant size and FSIS district.	Quarterly Reports

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FSIS	Humane Slaughter	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee directs FSIS to continue to provide annual reports to the Committee on the implementation of objective scoring methods undertaken by FSIS to enforce the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (Public Law 85–765). The Committee also directs FSIS to ensure that personnel hired with funding previously provided specifically for Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (Public Law 85–765) enforcement focus their attention on overseeing compliance with humane handling rules for live animals as they arrive and are offloaded and handled in pens, chutes, and stunning areas and that all inspectors receive robust training.	Annual report
FSIS	Salmonella	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee is concerned about the Salmonella illness rate in the United States, which has not decreased in 25 years, and is supportive of the Department’s efforts to reform the Salmonella food safety regulation for poultry. Within 90 days of enactment of this Act, the Committee requests a report by FSIS that details the actions the agency has initiated for reducing Salmonella illnesses caused by poultry. The Committee directs FSIS to provide a description in the report of any actions under development as well as any completed actions, including proposed and final regulations or policy.	90 days of enactment of this Act
FSIS	Siluriformes Fish	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee is aware that Blue Catfish were first introduced in the Chesapeake Bay region to develop a recreational fishery, but are now considered invasive and can have harmful effects on native species in the region. While the Committee recognizes the use of the commercial market as a population control measure, the Committee reaffirms the need for these fish to go through the required inspection process under the Federal Meat Inspection Act to ensure wild-caught catfish are safe for consumption. Notably, the March 2022 FSIS Data Summary of Siluriformes Fish Testing found that a number of positive residue tests for pesticides and heavy metals came from wild-caught Siluriformes. Therefore, of the funds provided for FSIS, funding may be used for additional residue testing of wild-caught catfish harvested from the Chesapeake Bay region. All wild-caught and farm-raised fish of the order Siluriformes are subject to mandatory FSIS inspection and any exclusion of a particular species of catfish or nature-of-harvest would put the United States in violation of its World Trade Organization commitments with respect to sanitary and phytosanitary measures and international equivalence. The Committee also notes that FSIS has already issued a directive informing processors that FSIS will not bill establishments that process wild-caught catfish that occurs outside of scheduled hours. The Committee directs FSIS to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations in the House and Senate within 180 days of enactment of this Act detailing any barriers and challenges wild caught processors encounter under the FSIS program.	180 days of enactment of this Act
FSIS	Inspection Processes	House Report 118-124	The Committee directs FSIS to provide a report within 90 days of enactment of this Act on how the agency may establish a process for seafood facilities that process multiple species, including wild caught, invasive blue catfish, to seek a waiver from FSIS inspection requirements to process seafood according to their seafood HACCP plan as required by the FDA. The report should include any barriers and challenges these processors encounter under the FSIS program.	90 days of enactment of this Act

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FSIS	Poultry Slaughter Good Commercial Practices	House Report 118-124	The Committee recognizes that the handling of birds at slaughter according to Good Commercial Practices (GCP) improves quality and reduces the occurrence of adulterated poultry products in the marketplace. The Committee directs USDA to brief the Committees on documented instances where establishments were not operating in accordance with GCPs no later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.	180 days of enactment of this Act
<b>Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services</b>				
FNS	SNAP Fraud	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee remains concerned about data discrepancies that allowed retailers to provide benefits to individuals using fraudulent credentials, as outlined in a January 2017 OIG report. The Committee encourages FNS, as part of their work to implement controls to address these problems, to consider how advanced analytics is used to improve analysis across multiple systems mentioned in the report. This could include integrating data mining and machine learning into source systems such as STARS and ALERT, applying computer vision to enhance FNS investigations, and deploying new predictive analytics to help detect emerging fraud schemes. The Committee requests USDA to continue to update Congress on its progress in addressing the issues outlined in the report.	continue to update Congress on its progress
FNS	Cultural Foods	House Report 118-124	The Committee encourages FNS within 180 days of enactment of this Act to make recommendations to include more cultural food options in domestic food programs.	180 days of enactment of this Act
FNS	Tribal Demonstration	House Report 118-124	The Committee encourages FNS to provide a report within 180 days of enactment on establishing a pilot project that allows Indian tribes to directly administer programs funded through USDA's Child Nutrition Programs.	180 days of enactment of this Act
FNS	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	House Report 118-124	For the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Committee provides \$121,995,757,000. The total amount includes \$3,000,000,000 for a contingency reserve to be used only in the event and in the amount necessary. The Committee does not provide the requested \$100,000,000 within mandatory other program costs to establish a new grant program incentivizing State agencies to increase enrollment rates. The Committee is aware that the Basic Allowance for Housing that members of the military receive is not excluded as income when calculating eligibility for SNAP. The Committee encourages FNS to provide a report on the effect of this policy.	60 days of enactment of this Act
FNS	Restaurant Meals Program Report	House Report 118-124	For those unable to store and prepare meals, the Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) is an option to ensure that the most vulnerable low-income individuals have access to food. The Committee encourages FNS to provide a report on the RMP within 90 days of enactment of this Act, including but not limited to best practices and challenges for State participation and inclusion of locally owned small businesses.	90 days of enactment of this Act
FNS	Kosher and Halal Foods in TEFAP	House Report 118-124	USDA was required to implement a plan to increase the purchase of Kosher and Halal food from food manufacturers with a Kosher or Halal certification. Not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Committee directs FNS to brief the Committee on the implementation plan required under 7 U.S.C. 7502(h) and the efforts to increase the number of kosher and halal certified products available beyond the nine products currently available.	60 days of enactment of this Act



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FNS	Territories	House Report 118-124	The Committee recognizes the differences in assistance provided through Nutrition Assistance Program block grant funding for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa, compared to SNAP. The Committee encourages FNS to continue engaging the appropriate stakeholders and directs FNS to provide the Committee with updates on the separate plans and discussions to include these territories in SNAP.	provide the Committee with updates on the separate plans and discussions to include these territories in SNAP
FNS	Seafood Consumption in the National School Lunch Program	Senate Report 118-44	USDA is directed to submit to the Committee, within 120 days of enactment of this Act, a plan developed in coordination with the NOAA, to address factors limiting seafood consumption in school as recommended in GAO report “National School Lunch Program: USDA Could Enhance Assistance to States and Schools in Providing Seafood to Students” [GAO–23–105179].	120 days of enactment of this Act
FNS	Child and Adult Care Food Program [CACFP]	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee encourages FNS to explore utilizing third-party services to deliver meals and snacks through CACFP in a non-congregate setting, particularly in school districts in which the poverty rate is higher than the National average. The Committee directs FNS to provide a report within 90 days of enactment of this act detailing steps taken and potential cost savings to school districts, States, and the Federal Government.	90 days of enactment of this Act
FNS	Summer Food Service Program	Senate Report 118-44	The Fiscal Year 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act Explanatory Statement directed USDA to submit a report to the Committee “within 1 year of enactment of this Act describing the number of Summer Food Service Program grantees, the States in which they operate, the innovative methods of food delivery by non-congregate means and in non-congregate settings, and the number of additional youth served as a result.” The USDA Food and Nutrition Service has not yet completed this report. The Committee directs USDA to submit this report within 30 days of enactment.	30 days after enactment of this Act (was due 1 year after enactment of 2021 Appropriations Act)
<b>Marketing and Regulatory Programs</b>				
AMS	Dairy Sanitary Export Certificate Software	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee is concerned with the USDA dairy sanitary export certificate program software ATLAS has caused US dairy exporters significant export delays and detentions in foreign ports. USDA is directed to report to the Committee on the status of its improvements to the ATLAS program including reporting on the quantity errors in certificates issued by the end of this fiscal year and to include in such report, status of Department and AMS funding from existing and relevant funds, such as CCC funds, and if necessary, inclusion within the Department’s fiscal year 2025 budget request.	120 days of enactment of this Act
AMS	Honey	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee directs the department to provide a report on the necessary resources and authorities needed to ensure a fairer market for domestic honey producers and more transparent market for American consumers. The Department is encouraged to collaborate with Customs and Border Protection, the Food and Drug Administration, and domestic commercial honey producer stakeholders.	120 days of enactment of this Act
AMS	Cattle Contracts Library	House Report 118-124	The Committee directs the Secretary to submit a report within 60 days of enactment of this Act regarding the Cattle Contracts Library pilot program. This report shall include summaries of all stakeholder feedback received by the agency, any applicable economic assessments conducted or received by the agency, and any statutes utilized to develop the regulatory framework to implement the pilot program.	60 days of enactment of this Act

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AMS	Vegetable Promotion	House Report 118-124	The Committee recognizes that specialty crop vegetable growers and value-added processors are under significant pressure from the effects of inflation and increasing imports. The Committee encourages AMS to collaborate with local partners to expand marketing opportunities for domestic specialty crop vegetable growers by increasing promotion activities immediately prior to and during harvest, including for asparagus harvested April to May, carrots harvested August to October, and cucumbers harvested August to September. The Committee directs AMS to report to the Committee on the status of these efforts within 90 days of enactment of this Act.	90 days of enactment of this Act
AMS	National Organic Program (NOP)	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee recognizes that organic regulations are a valuable market development tool for U.S. agriculture and provides \$22,759,000 for the National Organic Program [NOP]. A healthy market for organic products requires a clear product distinction backed by a trusted, verified, and consistently enforced label. The Committee also recognizes that regular updates to the regulations are crucial. The Committee directs USDA to provide all resources needed for the NOP to deliver the strongest possible oversight before allowing the USDA organic seal to be granted to domestic and international operations and products, including a continued focus on proactive risk-based investigations and oversight, enhanced training for certifiers, and practice standards development. In addition, within 60 days of enactment of this act, AMS is directed to provide a full report outlining the breakdown of the National Organic Program's key expenditures such as compliance and enforcement activities, practice standards development, and technology upgrades.	60 days of enactment of this Act
AMS	Organic Data Initiative	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee recognizes that accurate data for the production, pricing, and marketing of organic products is essential to maintaining stable markets, identifying fraud, creating risk management tools, tracking production trends, and increasing exports. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary to require mandatory reporting on an annual basis by accredited certifying agents on aggregate production areas certified by crop and location in order to accurately calculate organic acreage and yield estimates on a country-by-country basis. The Committee provides \$1,000,000 for AMS to coordinate with NASS for activities related to expanding organic price reporting and organic data collection.	Annual basis
AMS	Section 32 Authorities	Senate Report 118-44	Under the authority described in clause 3 of 7 U.S.C. 612c, the Secretary is able to direct funds from the section 32 account to increase the purchasing power of producers. This practice has been used on various occasions to provide direct assistance to producers when market forces or natural conditions adversely affect the financial condition of farmers and ranchers. The Committee notes the importance of the ability of the Secretary to utilize this authority but believes that communication between USDA and Congress should be improved when this practice is used. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary to provide notification to the Committee in advance of any public announcement or release of section 32 funds under the specific authorities cited above.	provide notification to the Committee in advance of any public announcement or release of section 32 funds

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AMS and ERS	USDA Domestic and International Commodity Procurement Review	House Report 118-124	The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting supply chain disruptions revealed fragilities in America's food supply, to the detriment of farmers, producers, and consumers across America. The Committee directs AMS and ERS to review USDA's application and enrollment procedures, required commodity quality, best and most available commodities for purchase regionally, and outreach practices to small and local farmers for all available domestic and international USDA procurement programs. This will help increase understanding of programs and purchasing to elevate fair participation of America's small and local farmers. Within 180 days of enactment of this Act, AMS and ERS shall report back on their findings and efforts on improving small and local farmer procurement for relevant USDA programs.	180 days of enactment of this Act
AMS and ERS	USDA Domestic and International Commodity Procurement Review	House Report 118-124	The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting supply chain disruptions revealed fragilities in America's food supply, to the detriment of farmers, producers, and consumers across America. The Committee directs AMS and ERS to review USDA's application and enrollment procedures, required commodity quality, best and most available commodities for purchase regionally, and outreach practices to small and local farmers for all available domestic and international USDA procurement programs. This will help increase understanding of programs and purchasing to elevate fair participation of America's small and local farmers. Within 180 days of enactment of this Act, AMS and ERS shall report back on their findings and efforts on improving small and local farmer procurement for relevant USDA programs.	180 days of enactment of this Act
APHIS	Agricultural Imports	House Report 118-124	The Committee recognizes that there is a need to update APHIS physical facilities and processes due to the increased volume of agricultural imports. The Committee requests a plan to address the needs of the programs, including steps to collaborate with stakeholders on supplemental inspection and pathogen identification services and to improve the transparency of the importation process.	60 days of enactment of this Act
APHIS	APHIS Inspections of ARS Facilities	House Report 118-124	The funding provided for the Animal Welfare program includes funding to support the agreement between APHIS and ARS, under which APHIS conducts compliance inspections of ARS facilities to ensure compliance with the regulations and standards of the AWA. The Committee directs APHIS to conduct inspections of all such ARS facilities and to post the resulting inspection reports online in their entirety without redactions except signatures. The Committee continues to direct APHIS to transmit to the Committees all inspection reports involving ARS facilities, including pre-compliance inspections.	As necessary
APHIS	Asian Longhorned Tick (ALT)	House Report 118-124	The Committee is concerned about the ongoing spread of ALT, which has been identified in 17 States and represents a growing threat to domestic livestock populations. In addition to monitoring the spread of ALT, APHIS should utilize the resources necessary to enhance collaboration with ARS, NIFA, State partners, and industry stakeholders to improve preparedness, surveillance, and response capabilities. Recognizing that public education and outreach will play an important role in reducing the spread of ALT, the Committee expects APHIS to enhance outreach and education efforts to that end. The Committee directs APHIS to submit a report within 60 days of enactment of this Act outlining the resources which would be required to establish an ALT control program within APHIS.	60 days of enactment of this Act

2025 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES - CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Date Due to Congress
APHIS	Canine Detection and Surveillance	House Report 118-124	The Committee recognizes the important role APHIS' canines program plays in invasive species and disease detection and provides \$3,522,000 to support these efforts. The Committee requests that APHIS keep it apprised of program activities, including how the agency uses funding provided.	keep it apprised of program activities, including how the agency uses funding provided
APHIS	Cattle Health	House Report 118-124	The Committee also notes that large, dense stands of non-native Carrizo cane occupy the banks and floodplains of the Rio Grande River, providing favorable habitat for agriculturally damaging cattle fever ticks and threatening water supplies for agriculture due to its high evapotranspiration capacity. The Committee understands that APHIS has been working with ARS on biological controls and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) for mechanical controls. The Committee maintains the 2023 funding level for APHIS to continue to coordinate with ARS, CBP, Department of the Interior, the International Boundary and Water Commission, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and other stakeholders on control efforts. The Department is requested to keep the Committee apprised of progress made in this regard.	to keep the Committee apprised of progress made in this regard
APHIS	Fruit Fly Exclusion and Detection	House Report 118-124	The Committee provides an increase of \$2,000,000 for exotic fruit fly detection, response, and prevention. The Committee requests a report, in consultation with the Department of Defense, on plans for repairs, improvements, maintenance, and construction of the Sterile Insect Release Facility at Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, California.	60 days of enactment of this Act
APHIS	In- and Out-Bound Market Access Report.	House Report 118-124	The Committee requests that APHIS continue submitting the report on U.S. outbound and foreign in-bound agricultural market access. The report should provide data for the last three years, including the date access was granted and the in-bound and out-bound volumes shipped by country and commodity.	report on U.S. outbound and foreign in-bound agricultural market access
APHIS	Lacey Act Implementation	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee recognizes the importance of the Lacey Act (16 U.S.C. 3371–3378) in addressing trafficking of illegally taken wildlife, fish, and plants, including illegal deforestation activities. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to support the implementation of the Lacey Act within the Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance program. Additionally, APHIS is directed to complete a report within 90 days detailing the status of efforts to expand the Lacey Act declaration requirement to additional commodities	90 days of enactment of this Act
APHIS	Los Alamitos Sterile Insect Release Facility	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee urges APHIS, the Department of Defense, and local and State cooperators to develop a comprehensive plan for much needed facility enhancements at the Sterile Insect Release Facility in Los Alamitos, California.	90 days of enactment of this Act
APHIS	Carrizo Cane and Cattle Fever Ticks	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for cattle fever tick research needs and directs APHIS to coordinate with ARS on the development of its long-term cattle fever tick research program. The Committee directs APHIS to continue to coordinate with ARS, CBP, Department of the Interior, the International Boundary and Water Commission, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation board, and other stakeholders on control efforts to manage non-native Carrizo cane, which is a favorable habitat for the cattle fever tick. The Committee still awaits a report on the progress of this effort.	Within 60 days of enactment 02.27.2023

2025 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES - CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Date Due to Congress
APHIS	Marine Mammals in Captivity	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee is concerned that USDA's handling, care, treatment, and transportation standards for marine mammals in captivity are outdated. Marine mammal science has progressed significantly in the almost 40 years since the most important of these regulations were last updated, and the current standards do not adequately protect the welfare of captive marine mammals. The Committee directs APHIS to prioritize the development and finalization of a humane and science-based rule to modernize its marine mammal regulations and directs the agency to report back within 90 days on its progress in achieving that goal.	90 days of enactment of this Act
APHIS	National Detector Dog Training Center	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee supports the work of the National Detector Dog Training Center in protecting the domestic agriculture sector from invasive pests and diseases. The Committee requests USDA, within 1 year after enactment, to submit a report to Congress regarding the Center's role in protecting the domestic agriculture sector from pests and diseases. The Committee requests that the report include a description of domestic pest and disease programs that use canine detector teams, coordination between APHIS and U.S. Customs and Border Protection on use of canine teams for agricultural quarantine inspections, and the Center's current capacity level.	within 1 year of enactment of this Act
APHIS	Non-lethal Strategies	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee is aware that Wildlife Services has worked with landowners to deploy non-lethal strategies, such as fladry, electric fencing, and livestock guardian dogs, to reduce predator depredation on livestock. The Committee provides \$4,500,000 for Wildlife Services to hire personnel exclusively to promote and implement non-lethal human-predator conflict deterrence techniques in interested States, with a focus on reducing human-wildlife conflicts related to predators and beavers in the Western Region and Great Lakes States and to assist in providing training in these techniques to agricultural producers, landowners, and other agency personnel in collaboration with the National Wildlife Research Center. Additionally, APHIS is directed to provide an annual report within 120 days of the end of the fiscal year, detailing how these additional funds were dispersed; including regional distribution, wild and domestic species impacted, number and size of livestock/agricultural operations impacted, and nonlethal tools and methods implemented and supported.	120 days of enactment of this Act
APHIS	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)	House Report 118-124	The Committee is concerned by the ongoing outbreak of HPAI that has resulted in the loss of over 58 million birds and the correlation to increased egg prices. The Committee recognizes and is sensitive to the effects a voluntary vaccine may have on international trade relationships. However, the Committee is also aware that USDA has used vaccines against low pathogenic avian influenza and that the Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory has conducted substantial research in the development of a vaccine, including a candidate vaccine seed strain for an inactivated vaccine. The Committee directs USDA to report on the status of vaccine development and engage with other relevant agencies to develop a comprehensive HPAI strategy that includes a voluntary vaccine for laying hens only, mitigates concerns of international trade partners, and is in line with applicable international standards and agreements.	60 days of enactment of this Act
APHIS	Twenty-Eight Hour Law	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee is concerned that the regular feeding, watering, and rest required, by 49 U.S.C. 80502, to be provided by animal carriers is not being effectively enforced. The Committee directs APHIS to provide a report within 90 days of enactment of this Act on barriers to successful implementation of this law.	90 days of enactment of this Act

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Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Date Due to Congress
APHIS	Spotted Lanternfly	House Report 118-124	The Committee remains concerned about the recent Spotted Lanternfly outbreak and provides an increase of \$1,000,000 to support efforts to combat this pest. The Committee requests that APHIS keeps it apprised of the program's strategy and progress.	apprised of the program's strategy and progress
APHIS	Agricultural Imports	House Report 118-124	The Committee recognizes that there is a need to update APHIS physical facilities and processes due to the increased volume of agricultural imports. The Committee directs USDA to provide a plan within 60 days of enactment of the Act to address the needs of programs, including steps to collaborate with stakeholders on supplemental inspection and pathogen identification services and to improve the transparency of the importation process.	60 days of enactment of this Act
APHIS	Animal Welfare Act #2	House Report 118-124	The Committee continues to encourage APHIS to use its full enforcement capabilities under the AWA against chronic violators of the AWA. The Committee directs the agency to update the Committee within 60 days of enactment of the Act on AWA enforcement activities, including referring cases to the Office of the General Counsel, the Department of Justice, or both, when appropriate.	60 days of enactment of this Act
APHIS	Animal Welfare Act #1	House Report 118-124	The Committee supports a collaborative approach between APHIS and licensees involving education, training, and outreach to improve the care of animals. The Committee directs APHIS to initiate a scientific evaluation of the impact of "teachable moments" on animal welfare within 90 days of enactment of this Act.	90 days of enactment of this Act
APHIS and Forest Service	Feral Cattle in the Gila National Forest Wilderness Area	Senate Report 118-44	The continued presence of feral cattle in the Gila National Forest Wilderness Area in New Mexico is negatively impacting both the ecosystem and recreational use of the area. The Committee directs the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services and the United States Forest Service to address this issue as expeditiously as feasible. The Services shall provide reports to the Senate Committee on Appropriations and House Committee on Appropriations on their progress in the first and third quarters of the year.	first and third quarters of the year
<b>Research, Education and Economics</b>				
ARS	Animal Research	House Report 118-124	The Committee directs ARS to ensure that each of its facilities housing animals is adhering to the Animal Welfare Act at all times and to submit quarterly reports that include both all violations found by APHIS during that quarter and the specific actions that will be taken to prevent their recurrence.	Quarterly Reports
ARS	Buildings and Facilities	House Report 118-124	The Committee provides an appropriation of \$16,700,000. The Committee requests that ARS provide a report on progress in addressing the backlog of outstanding ARS infrastructure projects as well as future plans to address these challenges.	60 days of enactment of this Act
ARS	Research Facilities	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee understands the important collaboration between ARS and universities and the impact that aging facilities have on new research opportunities. The Committee directs ARS to submit a report that includes information on the current utilization of ARS facilities by universities and cooperators, as well as the extent to which ARS is housed in cooperator facilities.	120 days of enactment of this Act

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Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Date Due to Congress
ARS	Biosafety Level 2 Lab Space	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee recognizes that the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility [NBAF] is an important component of the work that USDA does to protect the agricultural economy of the U.S. and to maintain our position as a global leader in animal health, biodefense, and biosecurity. The Committee is also aware that there exists a need for lab space, especially that meets Biosafety Level 2 standards, to support additional research and scientific work including on adult swine or cattle. Within 120 days of enactment of this act, the Secretary is directed to brief the Committee on its plans to ensure that the country has access to sufficient space to conduct pharmaceutical and biologic safety studies as well as for acclimation of research animals prior to transition to higher containment work. Initial awards should be focused on research on controlled environment agriculture in northern climates, densely populated regions, and small farms.	120 days of enactment of this Act
ARS	Hawaii and U.S. Territories.	House Report 118-124	The Committee requests a report with 180 days of enactment on USDA's efforts to assist Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories in establishing sustainable food production systems and controlling and managing invasive species.	180 days of enactment of this Act
ARS	PFAS Research	House Report 118-124	Though there is some evidence regarding which crops may be more or less prone to take up PFAS from soil, there are still significant knowledge gaps related to PFAS and its impacts on agriculture. The Committee supports further investment in research investigating PFAS movement in soils and water, plant uptake, remediation options, and livestock feed amendments and directs USDA to provide a report within 180 days of enactment identifying knowledge gaps in this space.	180 days of enactment of this Act
ARS	Sustainable Marine Aquaculture / Sustainable Aquaculture	House Report 118-124 and Senate Report 118-44	The Committee provides an increase of \$1,000,000 to support rapid response research on sustainable marine aquaculture for coldwater and warmwater production coastal environments, with special emphasis on workforce education. The Committee requests a report on how the Agriculture Experiment Station model could be applied to support the U.S. aquaculture industry to develop and deploy sustainable production practices and better manage coastal aquaculture resources.	90 days after enactment of this Act
ERS	Agricultural Trade Imports	House Report 118-124	The Committee directs ERS to study and report back within 120 days of enactment its findings on the top 15 nations, within the last five years, from which the U.S. imports agriculture products. The report shall also include the average wages for farmworkers in those countries and a comparison, if possible, of health benefits, safety regulations, and working conditions of their farm labor per commodity to those found in the U.S.	120 days of enactment of this Act
ERS	WIC Retailers	House Report 118-124	The Committee recognizes discrepancies in geographic coverage rates of eligible participants between SNAP and WIC. The Committee directs ERS provide a report within 180 days of enactment that evaluates actionable avenues for improving retailer participation in the WIC program, including the feasibility of establishing a Federal baseline assortment of goods approved for retail participation nationwide without interfering with individual States' roles in administering the WIC program or restricting such States' ability to allow additional product specifications for eligibility within a State's particular assortment.	180 days of enactment of this Act

2025 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES - CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Date Due to Congress
ERS	Agricultural Commodity Trade / Top five agricultural commodity exports and imports	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee recognizes the economic importance of international trade for U.S. agricultural commodities and believes that producers and markets would benefit from having access to additional data on the country of destination or origin of those commodities. Therefore, the Committee directs ERS to report on a quarterly basis the top five agricultural commodity exports and imports by State and to identify the country of destination or origin of those commodities.	Quarterly Reports
ERS	Rural Tract Codes	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee requests an update on the status and publication of the “Difficult Terrain and Access to Urban Area” project, as well as a copy of the report upon its completion. The Committee also requests an update on ERS’ proposed plan to receive, review, and comment on the report.	120 days of enactment of this Act
ERS	Farmworkers	House Report 118-124	Strong working conditions for our farmworkers are critical to the resiliency of the food and agricultural supply chain. The Committee is supportive of USDA’s efforts to improve working conditions for women farmworkers who are vulnerable to exploitation in the workplace. The Committee requests the Department to conduct a study to understand the work conditions and challenges faced by women farmworkers and to develop recommendations on how the Department can promote improvements through its programs and pilots. A report shall be submitted to the Committee on these efforts within 60 days of enactment of this Act.	60 days of enactment of this Act
ERS and NIFA	Regenerative Soil Agriculture Plan	House Report 118-124	The Committee acknowledges the critical impact that regenerative soil policies can have in helping rebuild the soil health of agricultural lands. The Committee encourages USDA to develop a strategic plan for leveraging the various USDA research entities for a unified research and development mission. USDA shall brief the Committee on its efforts to coordinate the soil health agendas of ARS, NIFA, and NRCS to ensure USDA is developing long-term priorities that will invest in soil health and the microbiome as the engine for above-ground resilience, soil carbon storage, and increased productivity.	Briefing 60 days of enactment of this Act
NIFA	Aquaculture Assistance Programs	House Report 118-124	The Committee recognizes the important role the Aquaculture Assistance Programs and NIFA Regional Aquaculture Centers play in aquaculture research, education, and extension. The Committee awaits the report on Regional Aquaculture Centers requested in House Report 117–392.	Within 60 days of enactment 02.27.2023
NIFA	Citrus Disease Research Program	House Report 118-124	The Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program is intended to discover and develop tools for early detection, control, and eradication of diseases and pests that threaten domestic citrus production and processing. The program receives \$25,000,000 per year in mandatory funding through the Specialty Crop Research Initiative. The Committee believes that research projects funded under this authority should be prioritized based on the critical threat of citrus greening and encourages NIFA, to the maximum extent practicable, to follow the recommendations of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Advisory Board’s citrus disease subcommittee and to collaborate with the HLB MAC group. A report shall be submitted to the Committee on these efforts within 60 days of enactment.	60 days of enactment of this Act



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Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Date Due to Congress
NIFA	Minority Outreach / Cooperative Extension System	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee is concerned that extension service resources do not reach minority, socially disadvantaged, and Tribal communities in proportion to their participation in the agricultural sector. All institutions that receive extension funding should seek to ensure that an equitable percentage of their overall extension work reaches minority, socially disadvantaged, and Tribal communities. The Committee directs NIFA to evaluate distribution of extension resources to these three populations and report to the Committee no later than 90 days after enactment of this act.	90 days of enactment of this Act
NIFA	Rural Opioid Addiction Training	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee provides \$5,000,000 for Rural Health and Safety Education Programs [RHSE] for the sole purpose of combatting opioid abuse in rural communities. The Committee reminds USDA of the statutory requirement in the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334) for fiscal years 2019 through 2025 that the Secretary give priority to applications addressing substance use disorder education and treatment and the prevention of substance use disorder. The Committee is still waiting for NIFA to provide a report to the Committee detailing RHSE funding awarded to projects addressing opioid abuse, projects combatting other types of substance abuse, and projects unrelated to substance abuse for the past three fiscal years.	120 days of enactment of this Act
NIFA	Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	Senate Report 118-44	Section 7406 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-234) specifies priority areas within AFRI, including an emphasis on conventional (classical) plant and animal breeding. The Committee strongly supports providing farmers nationwide with greater access to cultivars that are locally and regionally adapted to their soils, climates, and farming systems. The Committee is concerned that insufficient progress is being made in prioritizing this effort. As such, the Committee directs the agency to make regionally adapted, publicly held cultivar development a distinct funding priority within AFRI for fiscal year 2024 and directs the agency to take steps to improve its tracking of public cultivar projects within AFRI and report its progress in meeting this goal.	120 days of enactment of this Act
<b>Rural Development</b>				
RBS	Cloud use	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee remains interested in Rural Development's efforts to modernize the agency's information technology systems in an effort to provide better assistance to the communities it serves. In compliance with the Federal Government's Cloud Smart strategy, RD is directed to provide a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations no later than 180 days after enactment of this act with an assessment of the time, effort and cost of moving off on-prem and transitioning and modernizing in the cloud.	180 days of enactment of this Act
RD	Persistent Poverty Areas #1	House Report 118-124	The Committee supports targeted investments in impoverished areas. The Committee directs the Department to develop and implement measures to increase the share of investments in persistent poverty counties, distressed communities, and other impoverished areas. The Committee directs the Department to submit a report to the Committee that includes the total amount of Federal investments targeted toward such areas; a list of the programs under which the amount of Federal investments to such areas were increased in fiscal year 2024; the percent change in the amount of funds that were targeted to such areas from fiscal year 2023; and to the extent practicable, an assessment of the economic impact of departmental programs in these areas.	Within 60 days of enactment

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Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Date Due to Congress
RD	Persistent Poverty Areas #2	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee supports targeted investments in impoverished areas. The Committee urges USDA to implement measures to increase the share of investments in persistent poverty counties, distressed communities, and any other impoverished areas. The Committee directs USDA to define performance measures, increase capacity to collect and analyze data, evaluate data sets, and develop a report to the Committee on how investments in persistently poor communities have improved economic outcomes.	Within 60 days of enactment
RD	Streamlining Applications	House Report 118-124	The Committee recognizes GAO Report 21-579, which found that HUD, EDA, and USDA have similar requirements for stakeholder engagement, strategic planning, and application requirements other requirements for State and local organizations applying for economic development programs. Per the report, while HUD and EDA have a written agreement to align requirements and issue joint guidance to streamline the application process, USDA does not have such a report. The Committee urges USDA to work with EDA and HUD to evaluate economic development programs and, where feasible, enter into such an interagency agreement. The Committee requests an update on these efforts within 180 days of enactment of this Act.	180 days of enactment of this Act
RD	Information Technology	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee remains concerned about IT systems within Rural Development and directs the Department to continue to update or retire legacy systems. Furthermore, the Committee still awaits the report listing the programs that still require paper applications and the estimated cost to develop online portals, and continues to direct the Department to submit monthly updates on making improvements to the systems listed above and any other IT development.	monthly updates
RD	Loans and Grant Programs	House Report 118-124	The Committee directs that if an estimate of loan activity for any program funded in Titles II and III of this bill indicates that a limitation on authority to make commitments for a fiscal year will be reached before the end of that fiscal year, or in any event when 75 percent of the authority to make commitments has been utilized, the Secretary shall promptly notify the Committees through OBPA. The Committee directs the Department, through OBPA, to provide quarterly reports to the Committees on the status of obligations and funds availability for the loan and grant programs provided in this bill.	Quarterly Reports
RD	Staffing	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee continues to direct the Department to provide a report that breaks out staffing by program, including current levels and end of year goals within 30 days of enactment of this act and monthly reports to the Committee with hiring updates thereafter.	30 days of enactment of this Act then monthly
RHS	Single Family Housing Efficiency Concerns	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee is concerned that there are unnecessary impediments facing individuals who utilize Single Family Housing Direct Loans and the Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program to purchase homes or property in rural areas. The Committee awaits the report on the current appraisal requirements for these homes and whether these requirements are adopted from requirements used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development or the Department of Veterans Affairs.	Within 60 days of enactment 02.27.2023
RHS	Decoupling of Rental Assistance	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee accepts the Department's proposal to decouple the rental assistance program from Section 515 direct loans. This strategy should only be used when all other methods of preservation are exhausted. In implementing this policy, the Committee directs the Department to have strong stakeholder engagement and to provide the Committee with monthly updates on the implementation of this policy.	monthly updates

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Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Date Due to Congress
RHS	Decoupling (of Rental Assistance)	House Report 118-124	The Committee remains interested in the request to decouple rental assistance from Section 515 loans and find effective strategies to protect access to affordable housing for families in rural areas. However, USDA has yet to conduct the three listening sessions as directed in the Explanatory Statement accompanying P.L. 117–328 to determine potential implementation, identify any resident concerns, and examine long-term costs of decoupling. The Committee has also inquired about the scalability of the proposal, potentially selecting those units most in jeopardy of being lost and to test the practice but awaits Department input on identifying a cohort of the port graphic to pilot decoupling.	Within 60 days of enactment 02.27.2023
RHS and RUS	Income-based Matches	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee is concerned that the methodology used to calculate income-based matches for the Community Facilities Grant program and the Water and Wastewater Disposal Grant program inequitably considers State needs. The Committee directs the Department to conduct an analysis of this methodology and develop three alternative methodologies, and to brief the Committees no later than 60 days after enactment of the Act. If warranted, the Department is directed to make changes to its methodology based on this analysis.	60 days of enactment of this Act
RUS	ReConnect	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee provides \$98,000,000 for the ReConnect pilot, which was established in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141), and again reminds USDA that funding should not be used in areas that are already largely served and should be focused in areas where at least 90% of households lack access. In doing so, the Committee intends that USDA should avoid efforts that could duplicate existing or planned broadband networks, including avoiding granting funding in areas where another provider already has received funding from another Federal, State or local funding program to build, has otherwise committed to a government entity to build, or has invested private risk capital to build in an area and has obtained necessary permits to do so, even if construction is not yet complete. To achieve these goals, we urge USDA to continue coordinating closely with the National Telecommunications Information Administration and the Federal Communications Commission in a transparent manner to ensure that there is a common agreement about which areas are currently unserved, to utilize a common map to reach those conclusions that is updated each time a new funding decision is announced, and to have a clear and understandable challenge process. (two paragraphs omitted due to no get-back but has guidance) The Committee also remains concerned that States and territories outside the contiguous United States are having difficulty utilizing this program and directs the agency to report back to the Committee with recommendations to address these concerns.	90 days after enactment of this Act
RUS	Satellite Service	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee still awaits the report on the feasibility and cost of utilizing satellite Internet service under its existing programs. The report must cover a cost comparison of fiber versus satellite costs with a focus on reaching rural areas. Additionally, USDA should report on any statutory barriers that prevent program dollars to go toward satellite Internet access.	Within 90 days of enactment 03.29.2023
RUS	Cost-Benefit Analysis	House Report 118-124	The Committee directs USDA to conduct a cost-benefit analysis on the most efficient and economical means of broadband deployment to connect unserved rural areas. The report shall be submitted to the Committee within 180 days of enactment of this Act.	180 days of enactment of this Act
<b>Trade and Foreign Agriculture Affairs</b>				

2025 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES - CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

Agency	Title	Congressional Source	Description	Date Due to Congress
FAS	Quarterly Reports	Senate Report 118-44	The Secretary is directed, in consultation with the Administrator of USAID, to provide to the Committee a quarterly report on obligations and current balances of Food for Peace Title II grants. This report should also include any supplemental funding.	Quarterly Reports
FAS	Ready-To-Use Therapeutic Foods [RUTF]	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee notes that there has been a global spike in cases of child wasting as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and persisting and emerging humanitarian crises. There is also a significant global deficit in the availability of therapeutic food treatments. RUTF is a proven intervention to address global hunger and childhood malnutrition, and up to 90 percent of children treated with RUTF recover. The Committee directs USDA to work with USAID to support the scale up of U.S. production and procurement of RUTF, and to develop a multi-year strategy to support this effort. The Committee further directs USDA to report on this strategy within 90 days of enactment of this act.	90 days of enactment of this Act
FAS	Ukraine	House Report 118-124	The Committee recognizes that the agriculture network of Ukraine has been severely affected by conflict and that many villages in Ukraine rely on subsistence farmers, the majority of whom are women. The Committee directs FAS to provide a report within 180 days of enactment on the agricultural situation in Ukrainian villages, including challenges in feeding the local populace and the feasibility of shipping seed packets to subsistence farmers.	180 days of enactment of this Act
FAS	Violence Against Women and Girls	House Report 118-124	The Committee recognizes the impact of the ongoing hunger crisis on women and girls and the ways in which acute hunger and violence mutually compound each other. The Committee directs the Administrator to provide a report within 90 days of enactment on steps taken to address the increase in violence and food insecurity, including the feasibility of disaggregating data by sex and age in needs assessments and program reporting.	90 days of enactment of this Act
FAS	Market Access Program [MAP] and Foreign Market Development Program [FMD] Reporting	Senate Report 118-44	The Committee directs the Department to publish an annual report describing the recipients of funds, including the quantity and specific uses of such funding awards, granted through MAP and FMD for the purpose of promoting agricultural sales in Cuba, to ensure compliance with Sec. 3201 of Public Law 115-334.	Annual report