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H.R. 2997 — FY 2010 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act Conference Report

BY THE NUMBERS:

In Millions of Dollars

	FY09	FY10 Request	FY10 Committee	Cmte v. Request	Cmte v. FY09
Appropriations	20,456	22,980	23,300	320	2,844
<i>Emergency Approps</i>	7,909	----	----	----	-7,909
Total	28,365	22,980	23,300	320	-5,065

Excluding Emergency Appropriations, the Committee Bill is:

- **\$320 million or 1.4% more than the request**
- **\$2.8 billion or 13.9% more than last year**
- **\$5.2 billion or 28.8% more than FY 2008**

Spending Discussion: The bill provides \$2.8 billion (13.9%) more than FY 2009 for programs under the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee. Compared to FY 2008, the bill is a **\$5.2 billion or 28.8% increase**. Under the Democrats’ 302(b) allocation (which sets the spending plan for the FY 2010 appropriations process), all twelve bills will receive spending increases, with a total spending level of \$1.09 trillion—an increase of \$77 billion or 7.6% compared to last year.

Funding Summaries:

In Thousands

	FY 2009 Enacted	FY 2010 Request	FY 2010 Conf	Conf vs FY 2009	Conf vs Request	Conf vs FY 2009	Conf vs Request
Agriculture Programs							
Office of the Secretary.....	5,174	5,285	5,285	111	----	2.1%	----
Executive Operations.....	58,871	117,866	135,049	76,178	17,183	129.4%	14.6%
Hazardous Materials Management	5,100	5,125	5,125	25	----	0.5%	----
Economic Research Service.....	79,500	82,478	82,478	2,978	----	3.7%	----
Agriculture Research Service.....	1,187,158	1,153,368	1,190,568	3,410	37,200	0.3%	3.2%
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service S and E	881,387	877,135	904,953	23,566	27,818	2.7%	3.2%
Grain Inspection, Packer and Stockyards Admin...	40,342	41,964	41,964	1,622	----	4.0%	----
Food Safety and Inspection Service.....	971,566	1,018,520	1,018,520	46,954	----	4.8%	----
Farm Service Agency, S and E.....	1,170,273	1,253,777	1,253,777	83,504	----	7.1%	----
Risk Management Agency	77,177	80,325	80,325	3,148	----	4.1%	----
Conservation Programs							
Office of the Under Secretary.....	758	895	895	137	----	18.1%	----
Conservation Operations.....	853,400	867,197	887,629	34,229	20,432	4.0%	2.4%
Watershed Surveys and Flood Prevention.....	24,289	----	30,000	5,711	30,000	23.5%	NA
Watershed Rehabilitation.....	40,000	40,161	40,161	161	----	0.4%	----
Resource Conservation.....	50,730	----	50,730	----	50,730	----	NA
Rural Development							
Office of the Under Secretary.....	646	895	895	249	----	38.5%	----
Rental Assistance Program.....	902,500	1,091,430	980,000	77,500	-111,430	8.6%	-10.2%
Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants.....	38,727	38,727	41,864	3,137	3,137	8.1%	8.1%
Rural Housing Assistance Grants.....	41,500	41,500	45,500	4,000	4,000	9.6%	9.6%
Farm Labor Program Account.....	18,269	16,968	19,746	1477	2,788	8.1%	16.4%
Rural Business-Cooperative Service.....	87,385	97,116	97,116	9,731	----	11.1%	----
Rural Development Loan Fund.....	18,888	13,405	13,405	-5,483	----	-29.0%	----
Renewable Energy Programs.....	5,000	68,130	39,340	34,340	-28,790	686.8%	-42.3%
Dist. Learning, Telemedicine, Broadband Loan Auth	400,487	531,699	400,000	-487	-131,699	-1.2%	-24.8%
Dist Learning and Telemedicine Loans Subsidies.....	63,780	81,691	84,691	20,911	3,000	32.8%	3.7%
Domestic Food Programs							
Office of the Undersecretary.....	610	813	813	203	----	33.3%	----
WIC.....	6,860,000	7,777,000	7,252,000	392	-525	5.7%	-6.8%
Commodity Assistance Program.....	230,800	233,388	247,979	17,179	14,591	7.4%	6.3%
Foreign Assistance							
Foreign Agriculture Service.....	170,421	186,832	183,179	12,758	-3,653	7.5%	-2.0%
McGovern-Dole Int'l School Lunch Program.....	100,000	199,500	209,500	109,500	10,000	109.5%	5.0%
PL 480 Program Appropriation.....	1,228,636	1,692,812	1,690,000	461,364	-2,812	37.6%	-0.2%
FDA							
Salaries and Expenses Including Fees.....	2,664,318	3,037,369	3,237,218	572,900	199,849	21.5%	6.6%
Buildings and Facilities.....	12,433	12,433	12,433	----	----	----	----
Other and General Provisions							
Commodity Future Trading Commission.....	146,000	160,600	168,800	22,800	8,200	15.6%	5.1%

Items of Note:

Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): \$7.25 billion—\$392 million or 5.7% above last year, and \$525 million or 6.8% below the request.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA): \$3.24 billion—\$572.9 million or 21.5% above last year. The FDA has previously received spending increases of 7% in FY 2007, 15% in FY 2008, and 18% in FY 2009. With the proposed FY 2010 increase added to that, the FDA will receive a 54% increase compared to just four years ago (when the FDA budget was just under \$2 billion).

Broadband Telecommunication Loans: H.R. 2997 provides an appropriation of \$400 million for this program, which is in addition to \$2.5 billion previously provided in the FY 2009 “stimulus.” Some conservatives may be concerned that this program, in some cases, duplicates services already being provided by the private-sector.

Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS): \$183.2 million—\$12.8 million or 7.5% above last year, and \$3.7 million or 2.0% below the request. The FAS maintains attachés at 97 foreign posts to assist overseas development of markets for U.S. farm commodities—largely through collecting information regarding a foreign government’s policies, market conditions, etc. This function could be performed by the private sector that benefits from such services.

Food for Peace Program (PL 480 Program): \$1.69 billion—\$461.4 million or 37.6% above last year. This funding increase is on top of the \$700 million provided in the FY 2009 supplemental.

Commodities Futures Trading Commission (CFTC): \$168.8 million—\$22.8 million or 15.6% above last year, and \$8.2 million or 5.1% less than the request.

Resource Conservation and Development Program: \$50.7 million—the same as last year, and \$50.7 million above the President’s request (no money was requested for this program). The purpose of the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program is to accelerate the conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources, improve the general level of economic activity, and to enhance the environment and standard of living in designated RC&D areas. Conservation programs are conducted through a number of accounts within the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and current conservation operations within the Department of Agriculture could be better combined and reprioritized.

Commodity Assistance Program: \$248.0 million—\$17.2 million or 7.4% above last year, and \$14.6 million or 6.3% above the request. Previous Bush Administration budgets requested no funding for this program on the argument that the program duplicates two other federal nutrition assistance programs: the WIC program and the Food Stamp program.

Purchase of Cars: The bill allows the Department of Agriculture to purchase up to 204 passenger vehicles.

Earmarks: The [Joint Explanatory Statement](#) lists congressionally-directed earmarks beginning on page 89 of the bill.

Potential Conservative Concerns: Some conservatives may be concerned with various aspects of this legislation, including, but not limited to:

Excess Spending. H.R. 2997 provides a total spending level of \$22.9 billion—a **\$2.8 billion** or **13.9%** increase compared to last year. And compared to FY 2008, this legislation represents a **\$5.2 billion** or **28.8%** increase. In addition, the programs funded by this legislation have also received **\$7.9 billion** of emergency-designated spending during the current fiscal year. Virtually every account in the bill receives an increase compared to last year—no effort was made to prioritize spending, even with our current fiscal challenges. And this bill is just one installment of the Majority’s overall spending plan for FY 2010, which provides a spending increase for *each* of the 12 appropriations bills, and proposes an overall spending increase of \$77 billion (or 7.6%) compared to last year.

Questionable Spending Priorities. Notable spending choices: \$3.2 billion for the **FDA** (the FDA will have received a 54% increase compared to just four years ago under this bill), \$1.69 billion for the **Food for Peace Program** (a \$462 million increase on top of the \$700 million of emergency-designated spending in the FY 2009 supplemental), \$400 million for Broadband Telecommunication Loans (which received **\$2.5 billion** earlier this year as part of the so-called stimulus).

Committee Action: H.R. 2997 was reported out of the House Appropriations Committee as an original measure on June 23, 2009, and passed the House of Representatives by a vote of [266 to 160](#) on July 9, 2009. The Senate passed its version of the legislation on August 4, 2009 by a vote of 80-17.

Cost to Taxpayers: The bill appropriates a total of \$23.3 billion in FY 2010.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: Yes, the bill increases spending for programs in the FY 2010 Agriculture bill by \$2.8 billion or 13.9% over FY 2009.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No CBO score is available listing any possible mandates.

Constitutional Authority: No statement of constitutional authority is available. The House Appropriations Committee, in [House Report 111-181](#), cites Clause 7 of Section 9 of Article I of the Constitution (the power of Congress to appropriate money). The committee did not cite constitutional authority for the various spending items themselves.

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