FY2016 Agriculture and Related Agencies Appropriations: In Brief

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In Congress, the House Appropriations Committee reported an FY2016 Agriculture appropriations bill (H.R. 3049) on July 8, 2015, after the subcommittee had approved its draft on June 18. The Senate Appropriations subcommittee reported its version (S. 1800) on July 16, 2015, after the subcommittee approved its draft on July 14. The discretionary allocation for the House Agriculture subcommittee is $20.650 billion, and $20.510 billion for the Senate subcommittee. The discretionary allocation in the House is $175 million less than the comparable amount for FY2015 (-0.8%). The Budget committees have set the overall discretionary caps so as not to trigger sequestration.

Scope of Agriculture Appropriations

The Agriculture appropriations bill funds the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), except for the Forest Service. It also funds the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and, in even-numbered fiscal years, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC). Agriculture appropriations include both mandatory and discretionary spending. But discretionary amounts are the primary focus during the bill’s development, since mandatory amounts generally are set by authorizing laws such as the farm bill.

Though amounts for FY2016 are still in flux and are discussed later in this report, the scope of the appropriation is shown in Figure 1. In FY2015, the largest discretionary spending items in the bill were the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); agricultural research; FDA; rural development; foreign food aid and trade; farm assistance programs; food safety inspection; conservation; and animal and plant health programs.

The main mandatory spending items are the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), child nutrition, crop insurance, and the Commodity Credit Corporation, which pays for the farm commodity and conservation programs.

Figure 1. Agriculture Appropriations
(FY2015 budget authority in billions of dollars)

Source: CRS, compiled from P.L. 113-235. Does not show some agencies under $0.5 billion, including CFTC, AMS, GIPSA, and department administration that together are offset by reductions.

Notes:
CCC = Commodity Credit Corp.; FCIC = Federal Crop Insurance Corp.; SNAP = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; WIC = Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children; CSFP = Commodity Supplemental Food Program; FDA = Food and Drug Admin.; FSA = Farm Service Agency; RMA = Risk Management Agency; FSIS = Food Safety and Inspection Service; APHIS = Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; AMS = Agricultural Marketing Service; GIPSA = Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Admin.

1 Jurisdiction over CFTC appropriations differs between the House and Senate. Since FY2008, CFTC is marked up in the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee and the Senate Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee. The enacted appropriation is carried in Agriculture appropriations in even-numbered fiscal years, and Financial Services appropriations in odd-numbered fiscal years.
Recent Trends in Agriculture Appropriations

For FY2016, the “302(b)” Agriculture subcommittee allocation for discretionary spending is $20.650 billion in the House (H.Rept. 114-118) and $20.510 billion in the Senate (S.Rept. 114-55). The Senate allocation does not need to cover CFTC, which makes it effectively $110 million more than a comparative allocation in the House. The House allocation is a reduction of 0.8% from FY2015 (the line and dots in Figure 2). A FY2016 House bill (H.R. 3049) and Senate bill (S. 1800) have been reported to allocate these amounts (the stacked bars in Figure 2, Table 1).

Last year, the FY2015 Agriculture appropriation was reported in both chambers but not passed on the floor. Enacted in an omnibus appropriation, its discretionary total was $20.825 billion (House basis with CFTC). Mandatory spending carried in the bill totaled $126.49 billion (Figure 1).

The stacked bars in Figure 2 represent the discretionary spending authorized for each title. The total of the positive stacked bars has been higher than the “302(b)” discretionary spending limit (the line) because of the offset offered by the General Provisions title and other scorekeeping adjustments. General provisions are negative mostly because of limits placed on certain mandatory programs, which are scored as “Changes in Mandatory Program Spending (CHIMPS),” and also rescissions (see Table 2 for nominal data and amounts by agency).

Figure 2. Discretionary Agriculture Appropriations, by Title, Since FY2007
Notes: Fiscal year budget authority. Includes only regular annual appropriations; includes CFTC regardless of jurisdiction. To aid graphical comparison at this time, a constant $250 million is assumed for CFTC in FY2016 in the Senate since the Financial Services bill has not yet been reported.

Increases in the use of CHIMPS and other tools to offset discretionary appropriations have ameliorated reductions in budget authority since FY2010. For example, the official “302(b)” discretionary total for the bill declined 10.6% from FY2010 to FY2015 ($23.3 billion to $20.8 billion, Figure 2), while the total of Titles I-VI declined only 6.7% over that same period ($23.6 billion to $22.0 billion).

Figure 3 illustrates a 10-year series of Agriculture appropriations on an inflation-adjusted basis. In constant FY2016 dollars, FY2015 Agriculture appropriations are 18% below their peak in FY2010, but have risen 2.7% above the FY2013 post-sequestration level. The FY2016 House subcommittee allocation would be about 2.4% below the inflation-adjusted amount for FY2015, about equal to the post-sequestration amount in FY2013, and on par with FY2007-FY2008.

Over time, changes by title of the bill generally have been proportionate to changes in the total discretionary Agriculture appropriation, though some areas have sustained real increases while others have declined (separate from the peak in 2010). Agencies with sustained real increases since FY2007 include the Food and Drug Administration and CFTC (Related Agencies), the domestic food programs, and to a lesser extent foreign assistance. Agencies with real decreases since 2007 include rural development, discretionary conservation programs, and general agricultural programs.
Figure 3. Inflation-Adjusted Discretionary Agriculture Appropriations Since FY2007

Source: CRS.
Notes: Fiscal year budget authority, adjusted for inflation by CRS using the GDP price deflator. Includes only regular appropriations; includes CFTC regardless of jurisdiction. To aid graphical comparison, a constant $250 million is assumed for CFTC in FY2016 in the Senate since the Financial Services bill has not yet been reported.
### Table 1. Agriculture and Related Agencies Appropriations, by Title, FY2012-FY2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of Agriculture Appropriations Act</th>
<th>FY2013</th>
<th>FY2014</th>
<th>FY2015</th>
<th>FY2016</th>
<th>Change from FY2015...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>I: Agricultural Programs</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mandatory (M)</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.L. 113-6 post-sequ.</td>
<td>27,938.8</td>
<td>29,938.1</td>
<td>30,446.6</td>
<td>27,401.7</td>
<td>-3,614.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House H.R. 3049</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Senate Compared with House</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Discretionary</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.L. 113-76</td>
<td>21,582.7</td>
<td>23,149.1</td>
<td>23,659.7</td>
<td>20,120.7</td>
<td>-3,539.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate S. 1800</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>II: Conservation Programs</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.L. 113-235</td>
<td>6,356.2</td>
<td>6,789.0</td>
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<td>6,711.2</td>
<td>-75.7</td>
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<td>Senate</td>
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<td><strong>III: Rural Development</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>P.L. 113-76</td>
<td>781.2</td>
<td>825.8</td>
<td>859.3</td>
<td>839.8</td>
<td>-3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate Compared with House</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>IV: Domestic Food Programs</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.L. 113-76</td>
<td>104,098.0</td>
<td>108,585.6</td>
<td>101,909.0</td>
<td>102,348.0</td>
<td>-3,106.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senate S. 1800</td>
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<td><strong>Mandatory (M)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>House H.R. 3049</td>
<td>97,171.9</td>
<td>101,432.9</td>
<td>103,096.7</td>
<td>105,146.4</td>
<td>+31.9</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Discretionary</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Senate</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>V: Foreign Assistance</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>P.L. 113-76</td>
<td>6,926.1</td>
<td>7,152.7</td>
<td>7,094.1</td>
<td>7,016.4</td>
<td>-80.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senate Compared with House</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VI: Food and Drug Administration</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.L. 113-76</td>
<td>2,366.0</td>
<td>2,560.7</td>
<td>2,597.3</td>
<td>2,743.5</td>
<td>+67.7</td>
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<td>Senate</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Commodity Futures Trading Commission</strong></td>
<td>[194.0]</td>
<td>215.0</td>
<td>[250.0]</td>
<td>322.0</td>
<td>-107.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VII: General Provisions: CHIMPS &amp; rescissions</strong></td>
<td>-918.4</td>
<td>-987.0</td>
<td>-802.0</td>
<td>-1,036.0</td>
<td>-832.0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>General Provisions: Other appropriations</strong></td>
<td>132.5</td>
<td>106.6</td>
<td>126.2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scorekeeping adjustments</strong></td>
<td>-129.0</td>
<td>-191.0</td>
<td>-398.0</td>
<td>-331.0</td>
<td>-344.0</td>
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<td>Subtract disaster declaration in this bill</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Discretionary: Senate basis w/o CFTC</strong></td>
<td>19,520.4</td>
<td>[20,665.0]</td>
<td>20,575.0</td>
<td>21,462.2</td>
<td>[20,405.0]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Discretionary: House basis w/ CFTC</strong></td>
<td>[19,714.4]</td>
<td>20,880.0</td>
<td>[20,825.0]</td>
<td>21,784.2</td>
<td>20,650.0</td>
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<td><strong>Mandatory (M)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total: House basis w/ CFTC</strong></td>
<td>118,754.6</td>
<td>124,582.0</td>
<td>126,756.5</td>
<td>125,267.1</td>
<td>123,249.3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scorekeeping adjustments</strong></td>
<td>14,178.0</td>
<td>14,652.0</td>
<td>14,781.5</td>
<td>147,051.3</td>
<td>143,899.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CRS, using appropriations committee and CBO tables. Amounts are nominal budget authority in millions of dollars. Amounts are discretionary authority unless labeled otherwise. Amounts do not include supplemental appropriations outside the annual appropriation. Amounts for FY2013 are at the post-sequestration level from the USDA Operating Plan. [Bracketed amounts] are not in the official totals due to differing House-Senate jurisdiction for CFTC. Amounts for CFTC in the Senate are not yet available for comparison because the FY2016 Senate Financial Services bill has not been reported.
Action on FY2016 Agriculture Appropriations

The White House released its FY2016 budget request on February 2, 2015. USDA concurrently released its budget summary and budget explanatory notes with more programmatic details. The agriculture subcommittees of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees held hearings through the spring with agency officials on the Administration’s budget request.

The House Appropriations Committee reported its “302(b)” allocations that set discretionary spending limits for the subcommittees on April 29, 2015 (H.Rept. 114-97). The discretionary allocation for the Agriculture and related agencies bill is $20.650 billion, which is $175 million less than the comparable amount for FY2015 ($20.825 billion). The House Agriculture appropriations subcommittee approved a draft bill on June 18, 2015, that distributes the allocation across agencies in its jurisdiction (Table 2). The House Appropriations Committee reported the bill on July 8, 2015, by voice vote (H.R. 3049, H.Rept. 114-205).

The subcommittee allocation in the Senate is $20.510 billion (S.Rept. 114-55). Since the Senate allocation does not need to cover CFTC, which is in the jurisdiction of the Financial Services appropriations subcommittee, it is effectively $110 million more than a comparative allocation in the House if CFTC were held constant. The Senate Agriculture appropriations subcommittee approved a draft bill on July 14. The Senate Appropriations Committee reported the bill on July 16, 2015, by a vote of 28-2 (S. 1800, S.Rept. 114-82).

Last year, for FY2015, both of the agriculture subcommittees marked up bills on May 20, 2014, one of the earliest markups by both subcommittees in two decades (Table 3).

For a discussion of policy issues that affected the FY2015 appropriation, see CRS Report R43669, Agriculture and Related Agencies: FY2015 Appropriations.

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2 Office of Management and Budget (OMB), FY2016 Budget of the U.S. Government, at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget. See especially the details in the Appendix, at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/Appendix. Note that the USDA request includes the Forest Service, which is in the Interior appropriations jurisdiction. The request for FDA is in the Appendix for the Department of Health and Human Services, and CFTC is with Other Independent Agencies.


5 Because jurisdiction for CFTC appropriations is different across House and Senate appropriations subcommittees, the enacted FY2015 CFTC appropriation was in the Financial Services and General Government appropriation. Thus, the enacted FY2015 Agriculture appropriation was based on Senate jurisdiction ($20.575 billion) and needs to be increased by the amount of the CFTC appropriation ($250 million) to be comparable for House jurisdiction ($20.825 billion).


Table 2. Agriculture and Related Agencies Appropriations, by Agency, FY2012-FY2016

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title I: Agricultural Programs</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Departmental Administration</td>
<td>531.3</td>
<td>526.1</td>
<td>364.5</td>
<td>456.1</td>
<td>355.4</td>
<td>362.1</td>
<td>-9.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research, Education and Economics</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Research Service</td>
<td>1,016.9</td>
<td>1,122.5</td>
<td>1,177.6</td>
<td>1,397.4</td>
<td>1,167.5</td>
<td>1,136.8</td>
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<td>National Institute of Food &amp; Agriculture</td>
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<td>1,277.1</td>
<td>1,289.5</td>
<td>1,503.1</td>
<td>1,284.5</td>
<td>1,293.7</td>
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<td>National Agricultural Statistics Service</td>
<td>166.6</td>
<td>161.2</td>
<td>172.4</td>
<td>180.3</td>
<td>161.2</td>
<td>168.1</td>
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<td>-4.3</td>
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<td>Economic Research Service</td>
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<td>78.1</td>
<td>85.4</td>
<td>86.0</td>
<td>78.1</td>
<td>85.4</td>
<td>-7.3</td>
<td>+0.0</td>
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<td>Under Secretary, Research, Education, Econ.</td>
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<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>-0.0</td>
<td>+0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing and Regulatory Programs</td>
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<td>Animal &amp; Plant Health Inspection Service</td>
<td>761.4</td>
<td>824.9</td>
<td>874.5</td>
<td>859.0</td>
<td>874.1</td>
<td>879.6</td>
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<td>Agricultural Marketing Service</td>
<td>75.7</td>
<td>81.3</td>
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<td>Section 32 (M)</td>
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<td>1,107.0</td>
<td>1,284.0</td>
<td>1,425.0</td>
<td>1,425.0</td>
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<td>+141.0</td>
<td>+141.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Inspection, Packers &amp; Stockyards</td>
<td>37.3</td>
<td>40.3</td>
<td>43.0</td>
<td>44.1</td>
<td>43.0</td>
<td>43.0</td>
<td>+0.0</td>
<td>+0.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under Secretary, Marketing and Regulatory</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>-0.0</td>
<td>+0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Safety</td>
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<td>Food Safety &amp; Inspection Service</td>
<td>977.3</td>
<td>1,010.7</td>
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<td>1,011.6</td>
<td>1,011.6</td>
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<td>-0.0</td>
<td>+0.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farm and Commodity Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farm Service Agency</td>
<td>1,503.9</td>
<td>1,592.2</td>
<td>1,603.3</td>
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<td>FSA Farm Loans: Loan Authority</td>
<td>4,575.7</td>
<td>5,527.3</td>
<td>6,402.1</td>
<td>6,402.1</td>
<td>6,402.1</td>
<td>6,402.1</td>
<td>+0.0</td>
<td>+0.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Risk Management Agency Salaries &amp; Exp.</td>
<td>69.1</td>
<td>71.5</td>
<td>74.8</td>
<td>76.9</td>
<td>74.0</td>
<td>74.8</td>
<td>-0.8</td>
<td>+0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency or Major Program</td>
<td>FY2013</td>
<td>FY2014</td>
<td>FY2015</td>
<td>FY2016</td>
<td>Change from FY2015...</td>
<td>Senate Compared with House</td>
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<td>Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (M)d</td>
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<td>9,502.9</td>
<td>8,930.5</td>
<td>8,175.2</td>
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<td>8,175.2</td>
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<td>Change from FY2015...</td>
<td>Senate Compared with House</td>
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**Source:** CRS, using appropriations committee tables and unpublished CBO tables.

**Notes:** Amounts are budget authority in millions of dollars and are in nominal dollars. Amounts do not include supplemental appropriations outside the annual appropriation. Amounts are discretionary authority unless labeled otherwise; (M) indicates that the account is mandatory authority (or primarily mandatory authority). [Bracketed amounts] are not in the official totals due to differing House-Senate jurisdiction for CFTC but are shown for comparison.

b. Includes regular FSA salaries and expenses, plus transfers for farm loan program salaries and administrative expenses. Also includes farm loan program loan subsidy, State Mediation Grants, Dairy Indemnity Program (mandatory funding), and Grassroots Source Water Protection Program. Does not include appropriations to the Foreign Agricultural Service for export loans and P.L. 480 administration that are transferred to FSA.

c. Loan authority is the amount of loans that can be made or guaranteed with a loan subsidy; it is not added in the budget authority subtotals or totals.

d. Commodity Credit Corporation and Federal Crop Insurance Corporation each receive an indefinite appropriation (“such sums as necessary”). Estimates for appropriations may not reflect actual outlays.

e. Includes Rural Development salaries and expenses, and transfers from the three rural development agencies for salaries and expenses. Amounts for the agencies thus reflect program funds for loans and grants.

f. Amounts for the Rural Business-Cooperative Service are before the rescission from the Cushion of Credit account, unlike in Appropriations committee tables. The rescission is included with the changes in mandatory program spending (CHIMPS), which allows the RBCS subtotal to remain positive.

g. Jurisdiction for CFTC is in the House agriculture appropriations subcommittee and the Senate financial services appropriations subcommittee. After FY2008, CFTC is carried in enacted Agriculture appropriations in even-numbered fiscal years, always in House Agriculture markup and never in Senate Agriculture markup. [Bracketed amounts] are not in the official totals due to differing House-Senate jurisdiction for CFTC but are shown for comparison. Amounts for CFTC in the Senate are not yet available for comparison because the FY2016 Senate Financial Services bill has not been reported.

h. “Scorekeeping adjustments” are not necessarily appropriated items and may not be shown in appropriations committee tables, but are part of the official CBO score (accounting) of the bill. They predominantly include “negative subsidies” in loan program accounts and adjustments for disaster designations in the bill.
### Table 3. Congressional Action on Agriculture Appropriations Since FY1995

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<th>CRS Report</th>
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Author Contact Information

Jim Monke
Specialist in Agricultural Policy
jmonke@crs.loc.gov, 7-9664

Key Policy Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of Expertise</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural appropriations generally</td>
<td>Jim Monke</td>
<td>7-9664</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jmonke@crs.loc.gov">jmonke@crs.loc.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural Marketing Service</td>
<td>Joel L. Greene</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:jgreene@crs.loc.gov">jgreene@crs.loc.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural trade</td>
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<td>7-2172</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mmcmminimy@crs.loc.gov">mmcmminimy@crs.loc.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal and Plant Health Inspection</td>
<td>Tadlock Cowan</td>
<td>7-7600</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tcowan@crs.loc.gov">tcowan@crs.loc.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commodity Futures Trading Commission</td>
<td>Rena Miller</td>
<td>7-0826</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rsmiller@crs.loc.gov">rsmiller@crs.loc.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation</td>
<td>Megan Stubbs</td>
<td>7-8707</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mstubbs@crs.loc.gov">mstubbs@crs.loc.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crop insurance and farm safety net</td>
<td>Dennis A. Shields</td>
<td>7-9051</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic food assistance</td>
<td>Randy Alison Aussenberg</td>
<td>7-8641</td>
<td><a href="mailto:raussenberg@crs.loc.gov">raussenberg@crs.loc.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Service Agency</td>
<td>Jim Monke</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and Drug Administration</td>
<td>Susan Thaul</td>
<td>7-0562</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stthaul@crs.loc.gov">stthaul@crs.loc.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Food safety, generally</td>
<td>Renée Johnson</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food safety, meat and poultry inspection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign food aid</td>
<td>Randy Schnepf</td>
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</tr>
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Source: CRS.

a. E=Enacted as stand-alone appropriation; O=Omnibus appropriation; Y=Year-long continuing resolution.
b. A procedure that permits a bill to advance if subcommittee members independently agree to move it along.
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<td>Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Admin.</td>
<td>Joel L. Greene</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section 32</td>
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