

WASHINGTON REPORT

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Lee Van Wychen

FY 2011 Funding for USDA Programs

With the negotiations finally complete over 6 months into the FY 2011 spending cycle, funding for USDA programs supporting weed science research, education and extension activities was a mixed bag, but not as bad as I originally feared. ‘Congressionally designated spending’ (i.e. earmarks) were for the most part zeroed out in the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) budgets, and accounted for over \$180M in cuts.

On the bright side, several programs did receive increases, albeit small, compared to FY 2010, including the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) grants program, the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research program and Hatch Act funds. The Regional IPM Centers, which were zeroed out in the President’s FY 2011 budget proposal, did receive \$3 million, but the CAR and RAMP research programs were not as fortunate. While AFRI did get a \$2.5 million increase over FY 2010, it’s still a disappointing number since the President’s FY 2011 budget proposal was \$425M and ag appropriations committees initially agreed to \$288M for AFRI, prior to the continuing resolutions and cuts this spring.

<u>USDA Program Description</u>	<u>FY 2010 Enacted</u>	<u>FY 2011 Final</u>
Agricultural Research Service (ARS)	\$1,179,639,000	\$1,135,501,000
Economic Research Service (ERS)	\$82,478,000	\$81,978,000
National Ag Statistics Service (NASS)	\$161,830,000	\$156,751,000
National Institute of Food Agriculture (NIFA)	\$788,243,000	\$700,140,000
- Hatch Act	\$215,000,000	\$236,808,000
- Cooperative Forestry Research	\$29,000,000	\$33,000,000
- Improved Pest Control (7 U.S.C. 450i(c))	\$16,185,000	\$16,185,000
- Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	\$262,482,000	\$265,000,000
- Extension Activities	\$494,923,000	\$480,092,000
- Smith Lever	\$297,500,000	\$294,500,000
- Integrated Activities	\$60,022,000	\$37,000,000
- Section 406	\$45,148,000	\$29,000,000
- Regional IPM Centers	\$4,096,000	\$3,000,000
- FQPA Risk Mitigation (RAMP)	\$4,388,000	\$0
- Crops affected by FQPA (CAR)	\$1,365,000	\$0
- Methyl Bromide Transitions	\$3,054,000	\$2,000,000
- Organic Transitions	\$5,000,000	\$4,000,000
- Competitive International Science and Education grants	\$3,000,000	\$1,000,000
- Food and Ag Defense Initiative	\$9,830,000	\$6,000,000
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)	\$904,953,000	\$865,000,000

NPDES Permits

On March 31, the House passed H.R. 872 by a vote of 292-130. H.R. 872 would prohibit the EPA and states authorized to issue National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits from requiring a permit for pesticide applications already authorized for use under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Under the bill, public and private entities would no longer need to obtain an NPDES permit for FIFRA approved pesticides, except in cases where the application of the

pesticide would not fall under FIFRA, or in cases where the discharge is regulated as a stormwater, municipal, or industrial discharge under the Clean Water Act. If you want to see how your House member voted, Roll Call vote 206 is posted at: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2011/roll206.xml>

On April 4, Senator Pat Roberts (KS) introduced S. 718, which is similar to H.R. 872 in function. The bill currently has 14 co-sponsors: Sen Barrasso (WY), Sen Blunt (MO), Sen Boozman (AR), Sen Burr (NC), Sen Chambliss (GA), Sen Cochran (MS), Sen Crapo (ID), Sen Enzi (WY), Sen Grassley (IA), Sen Johanns (NE), Sen Lugar (IN), Sen Moran (KS), Sen Risch, (ID), and Sen Thune (SD). If your senator is not on that list, contact them and ask them to co-sponsor S. 718.

In a separate episode, the 6th Circuit Court granted EPA an extension of the deadline for when an NPDES permit will be required. The deadline was April 9, 2011, but is now October 31, 2011. Thus, no Clean Water Act NPDES permit will be required until Oct. 31, 2011. And if H.R. 872 or S. 718 becomes law, no NPDES permit will be required after October 31, 2011.

Aquatic Plant Control Research Program

In the FY 2012 budget, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Civil Works) has proposed to eliminate the Aquatic Plant Control Research Program (APCRP). This is the nation's only federally authorized program for research and development of science-based management strategies for invasive aquatic weeds. For over 40 years, the APCRCP has investigated biological, chemical, ecological and integrated approaches to invasive plant management in aquatic ecosystems and is vital to the Army Corps of Engineers' mission of strengthening our Nation's security, energizing the economy, and reducing risks from natural disasters. We are asking that the Army Corp of Engineers and Congress restore funding to \$4 million for FY 2012. The letter to the Army Corp of Engineers and a press release can be found at www.wssa.net

National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW)

A very successful NISAW was held the week of February 28 – March 4, 2011. Many thanks to Lori Williams and the National Invasive Species Council (NISC) staff for their great work in coordinating the week's many invasive species awareness events. A list of planned events and presentations can be found at: www.nisaw.org

As part of the kick-off festivities for NISAW on Monday, February 28, Dr. Richard Mack from Washington State University gave a presentation titled "Waging War on Invasive Grasses: Preventing – Not Just Controlling – Rangeland Fires in the West". Over 70 Congressional staffers and guests attended the presentation hosted by the House Agriculture Committee and organized in conjunction with the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NCFAR) Hill Seminar Series. The program and Dr. Mack's presentation can be found at: www.ncfar.org/Hill_Seminar_Series_2011.asp

Lee Van Wychen, Ph.D.
Science Policy Director
National and Regional Weed Science Societies
900 2nd St. NE, Suite 205
Washington, DC 20002
Lee.VanWychen@wssa.net
cell: 202-746-4686
www.wssa.net