

# WASHINGTON REPORT

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## FY 2013 Ag Research Appropriations

The Senate Appropriations committee passed its version of the FY 2013 Ag Appropriations (S. 2375) on April 26. The House Appropriations Committee has yet to act on the measure. Overall, the Senate numbers are better than the Administration's numbers for APHIS, the Hatch Act, and Smith Lever 3(b) and (c) programs. The Administration proposed \$325 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) which is nearly a 23 percent increase over FY 2012, while the Senate proposed \$298 million for AFRI. The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), which AFRI is part of, would receive \$1.238 billion from both the Senate and Administration. This is a roughly a \$37 million increase over FY 2012. Funding for the USDA-ARS would receive \$1.101 billion, an increase of \$7.2 million. The Senate Appropriations Committee rejected the Administration's request to close six more ARS research facilities after closing twelve during the current fiscal year.

The Senate also rejected the Administration's proposal for consolidating six pest management related programs (highlighted in gray) into a Crop Protection Program. This program would support projects that respond to pest management challenges with coordinated regionwide and national research, education, and extension programs, and would serve as a catalyst for promoting further development and use of integrated pest management approaches. The Administration proposed \$29.056 million for the Crop Protection Program, which reflects combined pest management funding transferred from Research and Education and Extension Activities into the Integrated Activities account under Section 406 Authority. The Senate funded all six pest management related programs at their FY 2012 funding level, and kept them under their respective Research and Education, Extension, and Integrated Accounts within the NIFA budget. The Senate funding for the six programs totals \$29.748 million or \$690,000 more than the Administration's proposal.

The WSSA Science Policy Committee has received a lot of feedback from members both in support and against the Administration's proposed Crop Protection Program. The main point in support of the proposed Crop Protection program, in addition to those mentioned above, is that the consolidated budget number would help USDA protect the smaller IPM programs under this harsh fiscal climate. The main point against the new proposal is that IR-4 and the Extension IPM Coordinators programs would incur indirect cost recovery of approximately 30 percent if they were moved from their respective Research and Education and Extension Activities Account to the Integrated Activities Account. The WSSA has supported all six of the programs in the past and would like to see each of their budgets grow. The Science Policy Committee will continue to vet the new Crop Protection proposal.

<u>USDA Program Description</u>	FY 2011 Appropriated	FY 2012 Appropriated	FY 2013 President	FY 2013 Senate Ag
	(in thousands of dollars)			
APHIS	863,270	816,534	762,418	816,534
ARS	1,133,230	1,094,647	1,102,565	1,101,853
ERS	81,814	77,723	77,397	77,397
NASS	156,447	158,616	179,477	179,477
NIFA	1,214,798	1,202,264	1,238,745	1,238,745
RESEARCH & EDUCATION	698,740	705,599	732,730	738,638
- Hatch Act	236,334	236,334	234,800	236,334
- Cooperative Forestry Research	32,934	32,934	32,934	32,934

- Improved Pest Control	16,153	15,830	0	15,830
Expert IPM System	156	153	0	153
IPM Grants Program	2,410	2362	0	2362
IR-4	12,156	11,913	0	11,913
PMAP	1,431	1402	0	1402
- AFRI	264,470	264,470	325,000	297,956
- Sustainable Ag Res. and Educ.	14,970	14,471	14,471	14,471
EXTENSION ACTIVITIES	479,132	475,183	462,473	475,125
- Smith Lever	293,911	294,000	292,411	294,000
- Extension IPM Coordinators	9,418	9,918	0	9,918
INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES	36,926	21,482	43,542	24,982
- Section 406	29,000	14,496	33,056	14,496
- Regional IPM Centers	3,000	4,000	0	4,000
- CAR	0	0	0	0
- RAMP	0	0	0	0
- Methyl Bromide Transition	2,000	1,996	1,996	1,996
- Organic Transitions	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
- Crop Protection Program*	-----	-----	29,056	0



**National Summit on Strategies to Manage Herbicide Resistant Weeds A Success**

On May 10, 2012 more than 250 policymakers, producers, herbicide manufacturers, social scientists, agronomists and weed scientists participated in a National Summit on Strategies to Manage Herbicide Resistant Weeds at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. The Summit had excellent speakers and panelists throughout the day that provided the scientific underpinnings of the herbicide resistant weed problem which led to excellent discussions about the impediments and incentives needed to move forward in managing herbicide resistant weeds. Two common themes that emerged during the summit was the need for a diversity of weed management tactics and the woefully inadequate federal funding directed to weed science.

The nine member planning committee deserves a ton of credit for the excellent program and speakers. The Summit planning committee was chaired by Dr. Charles J. Arntzen, a member of National Academy of Sciences from Arizona State. WSSA members on the planning committee included Dr. Harold Coble, USDA-ARS; Dr. Jodie Holt, University of California – Riverside; Dr. Mike Owen, Iowa State; Dr. Jill Schroeder, New Mexico State; and Dr. David Shaw, Mississippi State. Other planning committee members included Dr. David Ervin, Dept. of Economics, Portland State; Dr. Terrance Hurley, Dept. of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota; and Dr. Raymond Jussaume Jr, Dept. of Sociology, Michigan State.

The Herbicide Resistant Weeds Summit was organized with generous support from the WSSA, USDA-NIFA, USDA-ERS, the Herbicide Resistant Action Committee, the Iowa Soybean Association, the National Cotton Council, and the United Soybean Board.

All sessions of the Herbicide Resistance Summit were video recorded and will be posted on the NAS website at: [nas-sites.org/hr-weeds-summit/](http://nas-sites.org/hr-weeds-summit/). Later this summer, the Summit Proceedings will be released and posted on the NAS website and disseminated to the press, meeting participants, and stakeholders.

### **Senate Ag Passes Its Version of 2012 Farm Bill**

The Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee passed its version of the 2012 Farm Bill by a vote of 16-5 on April 26. Overall, the bill would cut the nation's deficit by \$23 billion. The legislation would consolidate and eliminate many USDA programs. Conservation programs are among the targets, with 23 existing programs proposed for consolidation into 13 programs.

In the research title, the bill would reauthorize AFRI at \$700 million per year. The Specialty Crop Research Initiative would receive a total of \$200 million over the life of the farm bill and its funding levels are made permanent into future farm bill cycles at \$50 million per year. The Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative would receive \$80 million over the life of the farm bill, or \$16 million per year plus an authorization for \$25 million per year in appropriations. This is 20 percent decrease in current annual funding. Also included in the bill is a provision that requires USDA-NIFA to assess barriers faced by institutions with limited capacity to successfully apply and compete for research grants.

The House Ag Committee is still conducting Farm Bill hearings and plans to mark up its version later this spring. While it's still a possibility that Congress could pass a Farm Bill and get it to the President before the November elections, the more likely scenario is a Farm Bill sometime during next year.

### **Aquatic Plant Control Research Program Under Attack Again**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Aquatic Plant Control Research Program (APCRP) is the nation's only federally authorized program for research and development of science-based management strategies for invasive aquatic weeds. The work conducted by APCRP's 18 research staff has been effective, efficient, and invaluable in our nation's fight against foreign aquatic invaders. Like FY 2012, the Administration and the House Energy and Water Appropriations Committee have not provided any funding for FY 2013, but the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Committee proposed \$4 million in funding for APCRP during their April 26 mark-up. It would be a grave mistake by the Corps' to eliminate the expertise and institutional knowledge encompassed by APCRP. We have once again asked the Army Corps of Engineers and Congress to restore funding to \$4 million for FY 2013.



## **2012 NISAW A Success**

National Invasive Species Awareness Week or NISAW was held from Feb. 26 to March 2, 2012. Over 800 people participated in Kids Invasive Species Day at the U.S. Botanic Garden. State, local, tribal and federal officials as well as representatives of business, environmental groups, and private citizens participated at events held at the Department of Interior, the Department of Agriculture and the Hamilton Crowne Plaza Hotel. Over 100 people from across the U.S. participated. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs, Lori Faeth, Catherine Woteki, USDA Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics, John Goss, White House Council on Environmental Quality's Asian Carp Director, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Lawrence J. Gumbiner provided opening presentations.

The first ever National Invasive Species Awards were presented on behalf of the National Invasive Species Council (NISC), the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) and the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW). The Chief of the USDA Forest Service also gave out invasive species awards. US Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe addressed more than 300 people attending the NISAW/Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies reception about the importance of preventing the introduction of invasive animals. The Defenders of Wildlife hosted a discussion of invasive species topic for the National Environmental Coalition on Invasive Species at their headquarters. More than 140 people attended the Grassroots Invasive Species Forum and Webinar via the internet; and prevention and international cooperation topics were extensively reviewed. In addition, the National Park Service hosted the first ever Urban Invasive Species Forum. Many states and localities hosted their own invasive species events.

WSSA is among the many public and private stakeholders working with NISC to organize the education and awareness events. WSSA hosted a seminar at the House Agriculture Committee featuring Dr. Rod Lym from North Dakota State University (See attached PHOTO). Dr. Lym presented research data on the success of the TEAM Leafy Spurge Project in a talk titled "Invasion Persuasion: TEAM Leafy Spurge, the successful program for defeating a wide-spread invader". TEAM Leafy Spurge was a USDA-ARS 6-year research and demonstration program that was highly effective at developing and demonstrating ecologically based integrated pest management strategies that landowners and land managers could use to achieve effective, affordable and sustainable leafy spurge control. Thanks to the many people, agencies and organizations who made NISAW happen!

## **2,4-D Still Safe After 60 Years**

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) requested that EPA cancel all 2,4-D registrations and revoke all tolerances in a November 2008 petition. This is despite the fact that 2,4-D had just undergone an extensive review in 2005 during the FIFRA re-registration process. After considering new public comments and evaluating all science-based studies, EPA denied the NRDC petition on April 9, 2012. For more information about the EPA review of 2,4-D and a press release on its decision please go to: [http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/cb/csb\\_page/updates/2012/2-4d-petition.html](http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/cb/csb_page/updates/2012/2-4d-petition.html)

## **National Bioeconomy Blueprint Issued by Obama Administration**

The Obama Administration released its National Bioeconomy Blueprint in April. Describing the 'bioeconomy' as an economy based on the use of research and innovation in the biological sciences to create economic activity and public benefit, the White House emphasized its tremendous potential for growth and the many societal benefits it offers.

The Blueprint highlights five strategic objectives that need to be met. The first objective is to invest in R&D in areas that are foundational for the future bioeconomy. To ensure success of this objective, federal

agencies will need to select R&D investments strategically for maximum effect, implement a cross-disciplinary approach to research problems, and create funding procedures that are more flexible.

The government will also strive to develop and reform regulations to reduce barriers, increase the speed and predictability of regulatory processes, and reduce costs while protecting human and environmental health. The report also calls for the identification and support of public-private partnerships and precompetitive collaborations. Potential areas of collaboration include biofuels, food security, and biotheapeutics.

The Bioeconomy Blueprint gives many examples of federal projects already underway that contribute to the bioeconomy. For the full report, visit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/04/26/national-bioeconomy-blueprint-released>

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