



Office or Committee Name: Executive Director of Science Policy

Officer or Chairperson Name: Lee Van Wychen

Date of Preparation (include year): August 3, 2025

Activities during the year:

- a. The House and Senate are rejecting the President's proposed "skinny budget" for FY 2026 in general. There are also a handful of ag research programs that received funding in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act ([P.L. 119-1](#)). Congress will need to pass a "skinny Farm Bill" by Sep. 30, 2025, or extend it again for the third year in a row.

FY 2026 Appropriations: USDA, Army Corps, USGS						
	FY23 Final	FY 24 Final	FY 25 Estimate	FY26 President	FY26 House	FY26 Senate
	----- \$ Millions -----					
USDA- ARS	1,744	1,788	1,788	1,700	1,791	1,827
USDA- NIFA	1,701	1,679	1,687	1,044	1,654	1,692
Hatch Act: Exp. Stations	259	259	265	0	265	265
Smith-Lever: Extension	325	325	325	175	325	325
AFRI Grants	455	445	445	405	445	445.2
IR-4 Program	15	15	15	15	15	15
CPPM –IPM grants, Ext.	21	21	21	0	21	21
Aquatic Plant Research	7	5	0	0	3	?
USGS Ecosystems Mssn	307	299	299	0	290	?

Ag Research in One Big Beautiful Bill

- **FFAR: \$37 million** for FY 2026
- **Specialty Crops (SCRI): \$175 million** for FY 2026. Reverts to \$80 million in FY 2027
- **Research Facilities Act: \$125 million** in mandatory funding
- **APHIS PPDMDP: \$90 million** in FY 2026. Reverts to \$75 million in FY 2027.

- b. Discussion of the Weed Science Society Presidents' fly-in to D.C. in May.
- c. The new Science Policy Fellows (SPFs) are Aleaha Butler Jones at Cornell working with Lynn Sosnoskie and Matthew "Cole" Woolard at Texas Tech working with Peter Dotray.

- d. The SPF's have been working on a congressional database of contacts both in DC and for local offices. Goal is to be able to invite local Congressional contacts to field days and other education events.
- e. Weed Survey of common and troublesome weeds in broadleaf crops, hemp, and fruits and vegetables closes on September 1, 2025.
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2025WeedSurvey>

Recommendations for Board Action:

- a. Individual comments on USDA Reorganization Plan. Email reorganization@usda.gov.
The comment period is open through August 26, 2025. [Memorandum](#).
- b. Review WSWs appointed representative to the WSSA Science Policy Committee.

Budget Needs:

- a. Reimbursement for airfare & hotel for annual meeting

Name of Person Preparing This Report: Lee Van Wychen