



## DEPARTMENT *of* AGRICULTURE

The President's Budget focuses on the needs of American farmers and ranchers, which is predominantly to get the Federal Government out of their business while supporting the great American food supply. The Department of Agriculture (USDA) is a bloated Washington, D.C. bureaucracy with multiple management layers and many extraneous programs that are irrelevant to supporting an America First agricultural policy. The Budget eliminates programming that does not serve a core mission, such as radical transgender and Green New Scam ideologies, and brings the Agency's resources closer to the rural Americans it serves. The Budget refocuses the Forest Service on active forest management as it continues to be a strong partner to the U.S. Wildland Fire Service.

The Budget requests \$20.8 billion in discretionary budget authority for USDA for 2027, a \$4.9 billion or 19-percent decrease from the 2026 enacted level.

### **THE PRESIDENT'S 2027 BUDGET:**

#### ***Investments***

- **Reaching Rural America (+\$50 million).** The Budget provides funding to continue implementation of USDA's reorganization plan, which would move USDA employees to hubs across the Nation to better serve the farmers and ranchers feeding and clothing America. USDA, in partnership with the General Services Administration, is vacating and privatizing the South Building, the Department's largest headquarters office. Relocating many of USDA's headquarters employees to regional hubs will bring USDA closer to the Americans it serves and eliminate unnecessary bureaucratic layers, honing in on the Administration's priority to increase the efficiency of the Federal Government.
- **Forest and Wildland Fire Management.** The Budget provides funding to implement the President's vision for improved forest management and increased domestic timber production as laid out in Executive Order (E.O.) 14225, "Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production." The Budget also further restores federalism by empowering States to assume a greater role in managing forest lands within their borders. The Budget refocuses the Forest Service on its core land and resource management mission through timber production while addressing wasteful spending on bloated management structures, excessive overhead costs, and underused facilities. The legacy approach to the Federal wildland fire risk mitigation and response program is fractured and leads to significant coordination and cost inefficiencies. These inefficiencies

limit Forest Service capacity to manage America’s national forests and lead to poor overall performance. To fix this, the Budget further implements the President’s important actions to combat the wildfire crisis, consistent with E.O. 14308, “Empowering Commonsense Wildfire Prevention and Response,” by unifying Federal wildland fire management into the U.S. Wildland Fire Service at the Department of the Interior.

### ***Program Cuts and Eliminations:***

- **National Institute of Food and Agriculture Formula Grants (–\$510 million).** The Budget significantly reduces formula grants that act as pre-determined earmarks for university pet projects. USDA research will instead be competitively awarded to projects in the national interest, as opposed to the woke radical left projects these grants previously funded, such as:
  - o “Clothing Needs of Transgender People”;
  - o “Expanding Green Infrastructure as a Response to Environmental Injustice and Climate Change”; and
  - o “Food Insecurity and Health at the Intersection of Disability and Other Socially Disadvantaged Identities in the Intermountain West.”
- **Rural Business Service (RBS) (–\$82 million).** The Budget eliminates these redundant programs, as the Small Business Administration already spends a significant amount supporting rural businesses. These grants have historically funded wasteful activities such as:
  - o Arbitrarily distorting free markets by annually subsidizing specific companies for bath, body, and aromatherapy products such as loofah sponges;
  - o Subsidizing the processing and supplies of soap, which only created a single local job; and
  - o Promoting consumption of sugary soft drinks, contrary to the Administration’s commitment to Make America Healthy Again.
- **Agricultural Marketing Service (–\$61 million).** The Budget strives to support markets and drive down input costs for all farmers by eliminating programs that provide annual, taxpayer-funded carve-outs for the same grantees every year without proper competition. Industry can fund their own marketing efforts without deepening the Federal deficit. The food and agriculture industry has hundreds of millions for self-help grants and research called “check off programs,” which should be used instead of taxpayer handouts. Projects previously funded through these grants include:
  - o A gelato festival in Los Angeles, California;
  - o Dairy Discovery 5K and Fun Run at Willow Bend Farm in Shortsville, New York;
  - o Climate Adaptive Maple Program at Smokey House Center; and
  - o Scaling Up “Green” Production of Maple Syrup in the Central Hardwood Region.
- **McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program (MDFEP) (–\$240 million).** MDFEP is a wasteful and inefficient foreign aid program. Food often takes months to arrive at intended destinations and does so at an extremely high cost. The program also can disrupt local and regional markets when in reality, the aid could often be purchased for less in these markets. Examples of how this program wastes funds include:
  - o Only \$37 million of the \$197 million awarded for MDFEP in 2023 were for purchase of U.S. commodities. The remainder of the funding went toward shipping and distribution of the U.S. commodities and technical assistance for the MDFEP projects.

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- **Community Facilities Grant Earmarks (–\$659 million).** For decades, economically challenged rural communities have benefited from low-cost loans to fund important community facilities, such as ambulances and fire stations. These communities have faithfully paid off their loans to the Government, or they are currently paying them off (balance of \$13 billion) at a low interest rate that makes them affordable, but at the same time at low- or no-cost to the taxpayer. That all started to change in 2022 when the Congress decided to provide \$189 million for hundreds of congressionally-directed non-competitive grants. What was historically a program providing low-cost credit to rural communities has morphed into a pork-barrel spending program for wasteful earmarks to areas that are arguably the least in need. The Budget fixes this, restoring the program to its intended purpose—promoting low-cost lending that is awarded based on objective criteria. The wasteful earmarks funded by this program include:
    - o \$1.6 million for a grant to Waterford, Connecticut, to renovate a theater;
    - o \$1 million for a “food hub” in Nantucket, Massachusetts; and
    - o \$3 million for a playground, playground equipment, and other non-critical grant projects such as a Partnership for the Performing Arts Center in California. 🦅

