

# WASHINGTON REPORT

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Lee Van Wychen

## FY 2012 Funding for USDA Programs Nosedives

The House passed its FY 2012 agriculture appropriations bill on June 16, 2011 by a vote of 217-203. The Senate has yet to take action on its version of the FY 2012 agriculture appropriations. Most agencies and programs saw double digit reductions in their FY 2012 appropriations from the House compared to FY 2011. The only bright spot was getting the Regional IPM Centers funding boosted from \$3 million to \$4 million. The House Ag Approps Committee “concur” with the USDA-ARS proposal to close 10 research facilities in the following locations: Fairbanks, Alaska; Shafter, California; Brooksville, Florida; Watkinsville, Georgia; New Orleans, Louisiana; Coshocton, Ohio; Lane, Oklahoma; Clemson, South Carolina; Weslaco, Texas; and Beaver, West Virginia. The Committee provides the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to transfer a closed facility to an 1862, 1890, 1994 or Hispanic-serving agricultural college or university provided the institution agrees to maintain the facility for agricultural and natural resources research for a minimum of 25 years.

<u>USDA Program Description</u>	<u>FY 2010</u>	<u>FY 2011</u>	<u>FY 2012 House</u>	<u>Change 11-12</u>
	Dollars in Thousands			Percent
Agricultural Research Service	\$1,179,639	\$1,133,230	\$993,345	-12.3%
Economic Research Service	\$82,478	\$81,814	\$70,000	-14.4%
National Ag Statistics Service	\$161,830	\$156,447	\$149,500	-4.4%
National Institute of Food Agriculture	\$788,243	\$698,740	\$600,800	-14.0%
- Hatch Act	\$215,000	\$236,334	\$208,000	-12.0%
- Cooperative Forestry Research	\$29,000	\$32,934	\$30,000	-8.9%
- Improved Pest Management & Biological Control	\$16,185	\$16,153	\$14,000	-13.3%
- Ag and Food Research Initiative	\$262,482	\$264,470	\$229,500	-13.2%
- Extension Activities	\$494,923	\$479,132	\$411,200	-14.2%
- Smith Lever	\$297,500	\$293,911	\$259,200	-11.8%
- Integrated Activities	\$60,022	\$36,926	\$8,000	-78.3%
- Section 406	\$45,148	\$29,000	\$8,000	-72.4%
- Regional IPM Centers	\$4,096	\$3,000	\$4,000	33.3%
- FQPA Risk Mitigation (RAMP)	\$4,388	\$0	\$0	0%
- Crops affected by FQPA (CAR)	\$1,365	\$0	\$0	0%
- Methyl Bromide Transitions	\$3,054	\$2,000	\$0	-100%
- Organic Transitions	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	0%
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Serv. (APHIS)	\$904,953	\$863,270	\$790,000	-8.5%

Within the National Institute of Food Agriculture (NIFA), the House Ag Approps Committee “*regrets it cannot provide an increase for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative for fiscal year 2012. While the committee appreciates the work of the dedicated staff of NIFA, especially for their efforts to reorganize the agency and raise the profile of agricultural research as directed by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, it is concerned about some of the research being funded by the agency. For example, the agency recently awarded more than \$23 million in grants to improve regional and local food systems. Over the past few years, numerous reports from Federal agencies and private philanthropic and scientific organizations have highlighted the need for the United States to invest in*

*agricultural research, particularly to ensure productivity growth and to develop and refine sound natural resources management practices for U.S. farmers and ranchers and others around the world. In light of this advice and the nation's serious budget deficit and debt problems, the agency should be focusing its research efforts on only the highest priority, scientifically merited research. While there are many interesting research topics and a multitude of issues that could be researched, the Committee expects the agency to focus on its core mission of agricultural research by setting a very high standard for research funded by the agency and requiring a rigorous peer review."* I hope the Senate Ag Approps Committee shows a little more understanding of the value of agricultural research when they mark up their version of the ag appropriations bill.

### **NPDES Permits- We need your help!**

We need your help to make sure H.R. 872 passes the Senate. H.R. 872 ensures that pesticide applications over or near water are regulated through the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and fixes some misguided court decisions that have resulted in a duplicative and costly National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. On March 31, the House passed H.R. 872 by a vote of 292-130. On June 21, Senate Ag Committee passed H.R. 872 without any amendments. Nineteen of the 21 Senators on the Committee supported the bill. Currently, Sen. Cardin from Maryland has placed a hold on the bill. By placing a hold on the bill, Cardin blocks the measure from coming to the floor for passage under unanimous consent. Under Senate practice, it would take 60 votes to break the hold. This is where you come in! Hopefully you have received an email on this issue from President Barrett. Please ask your Senators to support H.R. 872. Please click here: [Take action on NPDES legislation](#). It only takes a minute!

### **Aquatic Plant Control Research Program**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Civil Works) has proposed to eliminate the Aquatic Plant Control Research Program (APCRP) in the FY 2012 budget. This is the nation's only federally authorized program for research and development of science-based management strategies for invasive aquatic weeds. We are asking the Army Corps of Engineers and Congress to restore funding to \$4 million for FY 2012. The Corps' APCRP expertise and importance was on full display at a recent Congressional field hearing on efforts to control and eradicate giant salvinia. [The June 27<sup>th</sup> field hearing](#) was organized by Rep. John Fleming (LA-04) and held at Louisiana State University in Shreveport. Dr. Michael Grodowitz, Biomangement Team Leader for the Army Corps of Engineers was called on to testify at the hearing. I'd also like to recognize fellow weed scientists, Dr. Randy Westbrook, Dr. Dearl Sanders, and Dr. Damon Waitt for their testimony on behalf of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs, chaired by Rep. Fleming. The Aquatic Plant Control Research Program funds the work of Dr. Michael Grodowitz, along with 18 other aquatic plant management researchers. But with APCRP slated to be zeroed out in FY 2012, we will lose the expertise and institutional knowledge of all of the Army Corps' invasive aquatic plant management researchers. This is simply unacceptable. We understand that the country is in fiscally tough times and everyone has to take some cuts and make some sacrifices. But, we are strongly opposed to eliminating the entire Army Corps Aquatic Plant Control Research Program! I will need your help to convince Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Jo-Ellen Darcy, and Congress about the value of the APCRP. Expect an email from WSSA President Barrett in the near future asking for your support of APCRP.

### **Program of Research on the Economics of Invasive Species (PREISM)**

The 2011 workshop of the USDA Economic Research Service's Program of Research on the Economics of Invasive Species (PREISM) was held on May 17, 2011 in Washington, D.C. The workshop was a

collaboration between USDA-ERS and the Farm Foundation, NFP. The presentations from the workshop are available on the Farm Foundation website at:

<http://www.farmfoundation.org/webcontent/2011-PREISM-Workshop-1740.aspx?a=1740&z=91&>

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](mailto:Lee.VanWychen@wssa.net)  
cell: 202-746-4686  
[www.wssa.net](http://www.wssa.net)