



COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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FY 2008 OMNIBUS SUMMARY: AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT & FDA SUBCOMMITTEE

Bill Total

2007 Enacted:	\$17.8 billion
President's Request:	\$17.8 billion
Omnibus:	\$18.1 billion – Base Bill
	\$1 billion – Emergency Funds: Drought Relief and WIC

KEY INVESTMENTS

The Department of Agriculture: \$16.3 billion, rejecting the President's \$24 million cut and \$163 million above 2007.

Reinvesting in Rural America

Rural Housing Loans: \$207 million, rejecting \$171 million of the President's cut but still \$21 million below 2007, funding \$5.6 billion in affordable loans to provide housing to low-income families in rural areas with no increase in fees. The President's budget had eliminated direct loans and shifted funding to guaranteed loans, increasing fees, making these loans more expensive and less accessible for low-income families. This will provide approximately 42,000 single family homeownership opportunities.

Homeownership for Rural Families: \$39 million, rejecting the President's \$24 million cut and \$5 million above 2007, for grants to allow low-income families in rural areas to build their own houses.

Rural Community Programs: \$714 million, \$144 million above the President's request, to support community facilities, water and waste disposal systems, and business loans and grants.

Improving Nutrition

Commodity Supplemental Food Program: \$139.7 million, \$32.5 million above 2007 and rejecting the President's proposal to eliminate for food aid for women, infants, children, and the elderly. In 2007, program participation averaged 485,614 monthly.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): \$6 billion (including \$400 million in emergency funds), \$815.6 million above 2007 and \$633.4 million above the President's request, including \$145 million to restore the President's proposed cuts to grants that help states administer the program. 8.55 million Americans are expected to participate in the program this year.

Protecting Public Health

Food Safety and Inspection Service: \$930.1 million, \$38 million above 2007 and matching the President's request, addressing vacancies in federal meat inspector positions.

Food and Drug Administration salaries and expenses: \$1.7 billion, \$145 million above 2007 and \$79 million above the President's request, including increases to begin a transformation of food safety regulation, improve drug safety, monitor prescription drug advertisements and review generic drug applications.

Enhancing Oversight

Crop Insurance: \$11.2 million in new spending, as requested by the President, to detect potential waste, fraud and abuse in crop insurance and farm loan programs.

Livestock Competition: an increase of almost \$1 million to enforce the Packers and Stockyards Act.

Commodity Futures Trading Commission: \$111 million, \$13 million above 2007, for additional enforcement staff and other needs.

Investing in Long-term Goals

Bringing 21st Century Services to Underserved Rural Areas: \$54.6 million, rejecting the President's \$18 million cut and \$5.3 million above 2007, for grants for distance learning, telemedicine, and broadband development in rural areas.

Renewable Energy: \$847 million, \$617 million above 2007 and \$472 million above the President's request, for bio-energy and renewable energy R&D, including loans and grants in rural areas.

Nutrition: \$928 million, \$16 million above 2007 and \$40 million over the President's request, for nutrition programs including the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program, the Simplified Summer Food program to provide nutritious foods to children in low-income families, and specialty crop grants to encourage more fruit and vegetable consumption.

Animal and Plant Health: \$868 million, \$21 million above 2007 and \$78 million below the President's request, to protect American agriculture against animal and plant diseases.

Conservation Programs: \$936.8 million, \$85 million above 2007 and \$112 million above the President's request, for conservation efforts on private lands, increased to accelerate the development and application of new comprehensive nutrient management plans for livestock.

SIGNIFICANT CUTS

Animal Identification: \$9.68 million, \$23.4 million below 2007 and \$23.5 million below the President's request. The budget did not provide adequate justification for the requested increase.

Compare to the [House passed bill](#).