

WASHINGTON REPORT

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FY 2012 USDA Research Funding

The Senate Appropriations Committee passed its version of the FY 2012 Agriculture Appropriations bill on September 7. Unlike the House Ag Approps committee, most agencies and programs in the Senate version of the ag bill saw realistic numbers given their past performance and accomplishments in light of the federal budget crunch. It was disappointing to see Rep. Kingston and his staffers throw out double digit reductions in ag research programs this spring. Kudos to Sen. Kohl and his staff for their foresight and commitment to agriculture and food research. The ag approps bill is part of the first “minibus” appropriations package along with 2 other approps bills. With any luck, we will have a 2012 ag appropriations bill finalized before Thanksgiving

<u>USDA Program Description</u>	<u>FY 2011</u>	<u>FY 2012</u> <u>House</u>	<u>FY 2012</u> <u>Senate</u>	<u>FY 2012</u> <u>Enacted</u>
	Dollars in Thousands			
ARS	\$1,133,230	\$987,581	\$1,094,647	\$1,094,647
ERS	\$81,814	\$69,454	\$77,723	\$77,723
NASS	\$156,447	\$148,340	\$152,616	\$158,616
NIFA	\$698,740	\$591,748	\$709,825	\$705,599
- Hatch Act	\$236,334	\$208,000	\$236,334	\$236,334
- Cooperative Forestry Res.	\$32,934	\$30,000	\$32,934	\$32,934
- Improved Pest Management & Biological Control	\$16,153	\$14,000	\$15,830	\$15,830
- AFRI	\$264,470	\$229,500	\$265,987	\$264,470
- Extension Activities	\$479,132	\$407,993	\$478,179	\$475,183
- Smith Lever	\$293,911	\$259,200	\$295,800	\$294,000
- Integrated Activities	\$36,926	\$8,000	\$25,948	\$21,482
- Section 406	\$29,000	\$8,000	\$17,964	\$14,496
- Regional IPM Centers	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$2,994	\$4,000
- FQPA Risk Mitigation (RAMP)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
- Crops affected by FQPA (CAR)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
- Methyl Bromide Transition	\$2,000	\$0	\$1,996	\$1,996
- Organic Transitions	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$3,992	\$4,000
APHIS	\$863,270	\$783,838	\$820,110	\$816,534

NPDES Permits now Required for Aquatic Applications

Despite having a 2/3's majority support in both the House and Senate, Sen. Barbara Boxer (CA) managed to block H.R. 872 from coming to the Senate floor for a vote. 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 (NPDES) permit.

Thus, on October 31, 2011 EPA issued a final NPDES Pesticide General Permit (PGP) for point source discharges from the application of pesticides to waters of the United States. While the permit requirements must be met as of October 31, applicators will be covered automatically under the PGP without submitting a Notice of Intent (NOI) for any discharges before January 12, 2012. To continue coverage after January 12, 2012, those operators who are required to submit NOIs will need to do so at least 10 days (or 30 days for discharges to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Listed Resources of Concern) prior to January 12. For the first 120 days that the permit is in effect, EPA will focus on providing compliance assistance and education of the permit requirements, rather than on enforcement actions. EPA will host a free webcast on NPDES Permit requirements on Nov. 22 and a second one on Dec. 7. For more information and to register, [please click here](#).

Senate includes \$4 Million for the Corps' Aquatic Plant Control Research Program

The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Jo-Ellen Darcy, made the poorly informed decision to eliminate funding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 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 have asked the Army Corps of Engineers and Congress to restore funding to \$4 million for FY 2012. While our efforts to get the funding restored by the House fell on deaf ears, the Senate Appropriations Committee included that amount in their mark-up of the FY 2012 Energy and Water appropriations bill. We were happy to learn that the Senate version of the Energy and Water appropriations bill will be one the three approps bill in the "2nd minibus" appropriations package.

There is no question that the work conducted by APCRP's 18 research scientists has been effective, efficient, and invaluable in our nation's fight against foreign aquatic invaders. We applaud the Senate Appropriations Committee on Energy and Water for restoring \$4 million for APCRP. It would be a grave mistake by the Corps' to eliminate the expertise and institutional knowledge encompassed by APCRP. There is still a lot of FY 2012 fiscal drama to play out, but we hope that the Senate's version of the Energy and Water approps bill will survive the joint conference committee for the 2nd minibus and become law.



SAVE THE DATE – the next National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) will be held February 26 to March 3, 2012 in Washington DC. A week of activities, briefings, workshops and events focused on strategizing solutions to address invasive species prevention, detection, monitoring, control and management issues at local, state, tribal, regional, national and international scales.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- National Invasive Species Council public meeting
- Grassroots action to prevent and control invasive species – Panel discussions and Webinar
 - Success stories and challenges
 - Cooperative Weed and Invasive Species Management Areas and Tribal efforts
- Capitol Hill Briefings on aquatic invasive species, including quagga and zebra mussels and Asian Carp
- Workshop on invasive species prevention and management in urban areas
- Invasive Species Award Ceremony and Reception
- Kids Invasive Species Awareness Day at the US Botanic Garden
- Invasive Plant Issues and Solutions
- Prevention through outreach and awareness – Experts panel on lessons learned
- Invasive Species Solutions – poster session
- Update by federal agencies on important invasive species issues and initiatives
- State and Local events highlighting invasive species efforts throughout the country!

Check www.nisaw.org for more details and further developments.

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