



House committee approves \$75.9 million agricultural research budget

TENTATIVE CONGRESSIONAL approval of a budget of \$75.9 million for federal agricultural research programs for the coming fiscal year is indicative of the strong Congressional interest in this phase of the nation's agriculture. This amount, which has been approved by the House Appropriations Committee, is 10.5% of the \$712.3 million budget approved for over-all operations of the U. S. Department of Agriculture for the year starting July 1.

Other major items in USDA's budget include the Agricultural Conservation program, \$212.0 million; Production and Marketing Administration, \$190.8 million; Forest Service, \$65.4 million; Soil Conservation Service, \$61.3 million; Farmers Home Administration, \$27.6 million; and the Extension Service, \$28.1 million. The remaining \$34 million is allocated to 11 different agencies within USDA.

The \$712.3 million budget approved in committee is 5% below that requested by Mr. Truman but 1.4% above that recommended by the present Administration. It is \$24.3 million less than the budget for the current year.

ARA Sponsors Diverse Research Programs

Most of USDA's research programs are carried on through the Agricultural Research Administration and its constituent agencies, plus cooperative projects with state agricultural experiment stations and other research groups, both public and private. ARA has other functions in addition to research, such as the enforcement of plant and animal quarantines, meat inspection, and the control of diseases and insect pests.

In recommending a budget of \$75.9 million for ARA, the House committee stated that it had devoted considerable attention to the place of agricultural research in the present day economy and the direction in which such research

should be headed. The committee believes that too much research has been centered on the problems on processors, leaving unsolved many problems of producers. More research is needed, the committee feels, to enable the producers of cotton, wool, and dairy products to maintain their competitive positions in the markets which they have been losing. Research should be directed primarily to problems of the farmers on the land.

Approximately one-third, or \$26.7 million, of the entire ARA budget is assigned to the Bureau of Animal Industry. Research programs of this agency are designed primarily to protect and develop the livestock, meat, poultry, and related industries. A substantial part of this budget is also devoted to federal meat inspection programs.

Programs of the Office of Experiment Stations account for the next largest item in ARA's budget, \$14.2 million. These funds are allotted to agricultural experiment stations of the land-grant colleges in the states and territories for agricultural research. The states contribute about \$4 for each \$1 paid by the Federal Government. The House committee stressed the desirability for increased research on animal diseases, production and utilization of forage, irrigation and conservation, mechanization of farm production, use of fertilizers, and insect and plant disease control.

The Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine is being given \$12.2 million to carry out its functions. These consist primarily of research on harmful and beneficial insects, dissemination of information on their control and use, and enforcement of federal plant quarantines and regulatory orders.

The committee recommended that Japanese beetle research be decreased and more emphasis placed in research on weevils, mites, and other stored products insects and on pink bollworm

and on the biological control of insects. The committee has approved expenditures of \$5.3 million for forest pest control activities.

Increased Research on Basic Foods

Almost \$11.8 million was approved by the committee for research and other programs of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. Research activities of this bureau are devoted primarily to developing improved varieties of food, feed, and fiber; improving crop production, fertilizer, soil management, and irrigation practices; and the application of engineering principles to agriculture.

The committee feels that the future increased demand for food and the constant threat to the food supply from new types of diseases make essential increased research on basic food crops. Particular reference was made to diseases affecting citrus crops, wheat, barley, and oats. Increased research on field crops to provide higher yield and greater resistance was also stressed.

The committee approved a budget of \$7.6 million for the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry. This bureau carries out a variety of research projects in the field of chemistry and related physical sciences on the utilization of agricultural commodities, residues, and by-products with the object of improving foods, feeds, drugs, fabrics, industrial chemicals and other non-edible products. The work of this bureau is carried out primarily in its four regional research laboratories and nine smaller field stations.

The loss of large markets to synthetic fibers led the committee to recommend stepped up research on cotton. Another promising line of research, the committee feels, is in the field of food preservation. Over 40% of the research work of this bureau is devoted to projects related to military needs of the Department of Defense.

The remaining \$3 million of ARA's budget is allocated to the Bureau of Dairy Industry and the Bureau of Home Nutrition and Home Economics.

In addition to its research programs to improve the efficiency of dairy cows and the quality of dairy products and to determine nutritional requirements of cattle and feed values, the committee believes that the Bureau of Dairy Industry should place increased emphasis on extending the use of milk and its by-products, particularly butter.

The Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics carries on research relating to food, clothing, shelter, and other items related to family living. The committee feels that the work of this bureau as it relates to dietary and nutritional matters has become increasingly important.