



USDA reorganization plan for research units taking shape . . . Effects on \$63 million research program not known

WITH A MAJOR REORGANIZATION taking place in the Department of Agriculture, the future of USDA's research and development programs is of great interest.

Since the last issue of AG AND FOOD appeared there have been further developments as to organization of the research setup. As noted earlier (Oct. 28, page 977), the most significant change is the separation of research and control activities.

The USDA reorganization calls for four major service groups. The Federal-States Relations group will have six major subdivisions, including the Agricultural Research Service. ARS will have five research sections and two control sections, each headed by a director.

The Crop Research section will handle field and horticultural crops and entomology. The Farm and Land Management Research section will be responsible for soil and water conservation, agricultural engineering, production economics, and range management. The Livestock Management Research section will cover animal and dairy husbandry and animal diseases and parasites. The Human Nutrition and Home Economics Research section will do research on human nutrition and home management. The Utilization Research section will include four regional laboratories and one in Washington.

The two control and regulatory sections will handle crops and livestock. The crop section will be responsible for regulations, quarantine, and controls relating to insect and plant diseases. The livestock section will have similar responsibilities with respect to animals and in addition will handle meat inspection.

Some believe that long-range effects will be beneficial; others feel that separation of research and control will make liaison more difficult. Middle-of-the-

readers say that major change will be in names of agencies, not programs. At this stage one guess is as good as another.

Congressional Control of Research

In considering research and development projects, it is well to keep in mind that many of USDA's programs are controlled by Congress and not by USDA. Congress, in making appropriations for research activities, stipulates, at least in a general way, functions for which they can be spent.

With this in mind, it is helpful to look

at the research and development picture in terms of funds appropriated.

An analysis of Budget Bureau data made by the National Science Foundation shortly before Secretary Benson announced his reorganization plan gives a detailed breakdown. This reflects that USDA will spend almost \$63 million this year (July 1953-June 1954) on a wide variety of programs. Details, which appear in the table, show funds assigned on the pre-reorganization basis.

Although USDA expenditures for research and development are only 3% of the total federal research and development budget, USDA leads all nonmilitary agencies. It is the only major nonmilitary agency which received an increase over last year.

As noted in the table, USDA will expend almost \$63 million in fiscal 1954, an increase of almost \$4.5 million over 1953 and \$5.5 million over 1952.

Expenditures, however, which are funds appropriated to take care of obligations previously incurred, tell only one part of the story. Obligational authority, which determines how much USDA can commit subject to future payment, is a better clue as to future trends. Congress has given USDA obligational authority totaling \$67.8 million for research and development in fiscal 1954. This is \$10.7 million greater than 1953 and \$12.1 million above 1952.

Since the lag between obligations and expenditures is generally about nine months, it appears likely that USDA expenditures in fiscal 1955 will be about \$5 million greater than in 1954.

Research and Development USDA

(THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

	OBLIGATIONS			EXPENDITURES		
	1952	1953 ^a	1954 ^a	1952	1953 ^a	1954 ^a
Agri. Res. Adm.						
Off. of Adm.	3764	4071	4037	4456	4491	4117
Off. Expt. Sta.	13076 ^b	13161 ^b	14174 ^b	13146 ^b	13146 ^b	14173 ^b
Bur. Agri. & Ind. Chem.	7536	7500	7725	7350	7462	7575
Bur. of Animal Ind.	3681	4296 ^b	13208 ^c	3116	4145 ^b	8268 ^d
Bur. of Dairy Ind.	1557	1566	1635	1523	1580	1613
Bur. of Ent. & Plant Quarantine	3824	3962	3983	3740	3786	3971
Bur. of Human Nutrition & Home Econ.	1419	1384	1376	1369	1324	1375
Bur. of Plant Ind., Soils & Agri. Engrg.	11173 ^b	11384 ^b	12049 ^b	11866 ^b	12272 ^b	12085 ^b
Total ARA	46030	47324	58187	46566	48206	53177
Bur. of Agri. Econ.	2259	2370	2246	2268	2333	2230
Farm Credit Adm.	275	279	267	313	283	274
Forest Service	5399	5402	5350	5399	5402	5350
Library	203	201	207	198	204	204
Off. of For. Agr. Relations	272	280	310	260	265	289
Prod. & Mkting. Adm.	690	694	669	671	700	674
Soil Conservatn. Service	575	577	577	1447	909	527
Total USDA	55703	57127	67813	57122	58302	62725

^a Estimates.

^b Includes small amounts to expand facilities.

^c Includes \$9,267,000 to expand facilities.

^d Includes \$4,468,000 to expand facilities.

Source: National Science Foundation