



## President's 1955 agricultural budget down 11% . . . More funds recommended for research and development

A STEPPED-UP PROGRAM of agricultural research designed to help the farmer help himself was outlined by President Eisenhower in his budget message to Congress.

The President recommends an increase of nearly \$17 million in the Department of Agriculture's research and development budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1. Strengthening agricultural research and making improved techniques available to the farmer through extension work will contribute to production and marketing efficiency, benefiting both producers and consumers, he believes.

"This will provide the solid foundation for a more prosperous and stable agriculture and ultimately for less reliance on government price support and other financial aids," Mr. Eisenhower says.

During the coming year, gross expenditures for the over-all federal agricultural program are estimated at a whopping \$6.5 billion. This total, however, will be reduced by \$4.1 billion through repayment of loans and the sale of commodities, leaving a net budget expenditure of \$2.4 billion. The proposed figure is almost 11% less than estimated net expenditures in 1954 and 19% less than in 1953.

Biggest single item in the 1955 budget will be funds for stabilizing farm prices

and farm income. The Commodity Credit Corporation accounts for nearly one half of the estimated net budget for the coming year, continuing a trend begun in recent years. According to the President's recommendations, CCC would spend a net total of \$1.1 billion, a decrease of about 50 million from fiscal 1954.

The proposed budget also provides \$71 million for the Soil Conservation Service, a cut of only \$2 million from the 1954 figure. Net expenditures, however, for the agricultural conservation program—a separate item in the budget—are down to \$165 million, 32% less than last year.

### Research Totals Higher

The President's 1955 budget message calls for a 20% increase in funds for research and extension work. The increase will provide for a needed expansion of research, Mr. Eisenhower says, adding that it also will cover greater federal contributions to the extension program, which is done in cooperation with state and other agencies.

Coupled with the recommended increase for research and extension work is a proposed decrease in appropriations for certain regulatory activities carried

on jointly with the states. Under the plan, government contributions for tuberculosis and brucellosis indemnity would be eliminated. Federal quarantine and similar operations in some insect and plant disease programs also would be curtailed.

Research and development expenditures by USDA make up only about 4% of Government's total research and development budget. The department, nevertheless, spends more money for this purpose than any other nonmilitary agency. In addition, it is one of the few nonmilitary agencies recommended for a research budget hike this year.

As indicated in the table, USDA will spend more than \$76 million for research and development in 1955. Most of the total will be accounted for by the Agricultural Research Service, created during USDA's major reorganization last fall. (Figures in table for previous years represent comparable work done by other agencies.)

The ARS budget is spread out over six major research sections. The Crop Research Section develops new and improved plant varieties, seeks to better crop production practices, and develops and tests new chemical pesticide formulations. Among the duties of the Farm and Land Management Section is that of improving fertilizer, soil management, and irrigation practices. Other sections of ARS are devoted to livestock, human nutrition and home economics, utilization of agricultural products, and administration of payments to states, which includes territorial research.

Another sizable increase recommended in the budget message is for the Agricultural Marketing Service, which aims at maintaining and improving quality, reducing costs, and expanding outlets for agricultural products.

More money is earmarked for the Foreign Agricultural Service, which administers programs and policies relating to foreign agriculture. The agency also provides information and assistance to agencies of the Government, farm and industry groups, and the general public on agricultural conditions and trends abroad, and their effect on American agriculture and the economy of the United States.

### Critical Study by Congress

The President's recommendations face critical study in Congress, since several lawmakers already have stated that they are in favor of cutting over-all budget expenditures even further. First action on the budget proposals will be taken by the House Appropriations Committee, headed by Rep. John Taber (R.-N.Y.). The committee submits its own recommendations to the entire House, where additional debate is expected. The same general procedure is followed in the Senate before the budget program is enacted.

### USDA Expenditures for Research and Development

(Millions of dollars)

Group	1953	1954 <sup>a</sup>	1955
Agricultural Research Service	43.8	48.4	63.4
Agricultural Marketing Service	4.2	4.4	5.5
Forest Service	6.1	6.1	6.5
Farmer Cooperative Service	0.3	0.3	0.3
Foreign Agricultural Service	0.3	0.3	0.5
Library	0.2	0.2	0.2
TOTAL	54.9	59.7	76.4

<sup>a</sup> Estimates.