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Activities and Summary Report on the House Committee on Agriculture: 114th Congress

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REPORT ON ACTIVITIES DURING THE 114TH CONGRESS

(JANUARY 3, 2015 TO DECEMBER 27, 2016)

R E P O R T

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



DECEMBER 27, 2016.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House
on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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LETTER OF SUBMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, D.C., December 27, 2016.

Hon. KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Ms. HAAS: Pursuant to rule XI, clause 1(d), of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I herewith submit to the House a report of the activities of the Committee on Agriculture during the 114th Congress.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

Hon. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman.

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114TH CONGRESS }
2d Session } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT
114-896

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DECEMBER 27, 2016.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State
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Mr. CONAWAY, from the Committee on Agriculture, submitted the
following

R E P O R T

In accordance with rule XI, clause 1(d), of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Agriculture reports herewith on its activities during the 114th Congress.

I. SUMMARY OF ORGANIZATION, JURISDICTION, AND OVERSIGHT PLAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

A. ORGANIZATION

The House of Representatives established the total authorized membership of the Committee on Agriculture for the 114th Congress at 45, with a party division of 26 Republicans and 19 Democrats. Among the committee members were 13 Representatives who were serving their first terms (Allen, Bost, Rouzer, Abraham, Emmer, Moolenaar, Newhouse, Kirkpatrick, Aguilar, Plaskett, Adams, Graham, and Ashford).

The Committee organized on January 22, 2015, into six subcommittees. The six subcommittees were constituted as follows:

SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

(Ratio includes *ex officio* Members.)

(K. Michael Conaway, Chairman, and Collin C. Peterson, Ranking Minority Member, are *ex officio* members of all Subcommittees.)

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMODITY EXCHANGES, ENERGY, AND CREDIT
(RATIO 9-6 (TOTAL 15))

AUSTIN SCOTT, Georgia, *Chairman*

BOB GOODLATTE, Virginia	DAVID SCOTT, Georgia, <i>Ranking Minority Member</i>
FRANK D. LUCAS, Oklahoma	
RANDY NEUGEBAUER, Texas	FILEMON VELA, Texas
MIKE ROGERS, Alabama	SEAN PATRICK MALONEY, New York
DOUG LAMALFA, California	ANN KIRKPATRICK, Arizona
RODNEY DAVIS, Illinois	PETE AGUILAR, California
TOM EMMER, Minnesota †	
TRENT KELLY, Mississippi † ❖	

Jurisdiction: Policies, statutes, and markets relating to commodity exchanges; agricultural credit; rural development; energy; rural electrification.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY
(RATIO 9-6 (TOTAL 15))

GLENN THOMPSON, Pennsylvania, *Chairman*

FRANK D. LUCAS, Oklahoma	MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, New Mexico, <i>Ranking Minority Member</i>
STEVE KING, Iowa	
SCOTT DESJARLAIS, Tennessee	ANN M. KUSTER, New Hampshire
CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON, New York	RICHARD M. NOLAN, Minnesota
DAN BENISHEK, Michigan	SUZAN K. DELBENE, Washington
RICK W. ALLEN, Georgia	ANN KIRKPATRICK, Arizona
MIKE BOST, Illinois	

Jurisdiction: Policies and statutes relating to resource conservation, forestry, and all forests under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NUTRITION
(RATIO 13-9 (TOTAL 24))

JACKIE WALORSKI, Indiana, *Chairwoman*

RANDY NEUGEBAUER, Texas	JAMES P. MCGOVERN, Massachusetts, <i>Ranking Minority Member</i>
GLENN THOMPSON, Pennsylvania	
BOB GIBBS, Ohio	MARCIA L. FUDGE, Ohio
ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD, Arkansas	ALMA S. ADAMS, North Carolina
VICKY HARTZLER, Missouri	MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, New Mexico
DAN BENISHEK, Michigan	PETE AGUILAR, California
RODNEY DAVIS, Illinois	STACEY E. PLASKETT, Virgin Islands
TED S. YOHO, Florida	BRAD ASHFORD, Nebraska
DAVID ROUZER, North Carolina	SUZAN K. DELBENE, Washington
RALPH LEE ABRAHAM, Louisiana	
JOHN R. MOOLENAAR, Michigan	

Jurisdiction: Policies and statutes relating to nutrition, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and domestic commodity distribution and consumer initiatives.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND RISK MANAGEMENT
(RATIO 13–9 (TOTAL 24))

ERIC A. “RICK” CRAWFORD, Arkansas, *Chairman*

FRANK D. LUCAS, Oklahoma	TIMOTHY J. WALZ, Minnesota, <i>Ranking</i>
RANDY NEUGEBAUER, Texas	<i>Minority Member</i>
MIKE ROGERS, Alabama	CHERI BUSTOS, Illinois
BOB GIBBS, Ohio	GWEN GRAHAM, Florida
AUSTIN SCOTT, Georgia	BRAD ASHFORD, Nebraska
JEFF DENHAM, California	DAVID SCOTT, Georgia
DOUG LAMALFA, California	JIM COSTA, California
JACKIE WALORSKI, Indiana	SEAN PATRICK MALONEY, New York
RICK W. ALLEN, Georgia	ANN KIRKPATRICK, Arizona
MIKE BOST, Illinois	
RALPH LEE ABRAHAM, Louisiana	

Jurisdiction: Policies, statutes, and markets relating to commodities including barley, cotton, cottonseed, corn, grain sorghum, honey, mohair, oats, other oilseeds, peanuts, pulse crops, rice, soybeans, sugar, wheat, and wool; the Commodity Credit Corporation; risk management policies and statutes, including Federal Crop Insurance; producer data and privacy issues.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY, HORTICULTURE, AND RESEARCH
(RATIO 9–6 (TOTAL 15))

RODNEY DAVIS, Illinois, *Chairman*

GLENN THOMPSON, Pennsylvania	SUZAN K. DELBENE, Washington, <i>Ranking</i>
AUSTIN SCOTT, Georgia	<i>Minority Member</i>
CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON, New York	MARCIA L. FUDGE, Ohio
JEFF DENHAM, California	JAMES P. MCGOVERN, Massachusetts
TED S. YOHO, Florida	ANN M. KUSTER, New Hampshire
JOHN R. MOOLENAAR, Michigan	GWEN GRAHAM, Florida
DAN NEWHOUSE, Washington	

Jurisdiction: Policies, statutes, and markets relating to horticulture, including fruits, vegetables, nuts, and ornamentals; bees; and organic agriculture; policies and statutes relating to marketing and promotion orders; pest and disease management; bioterrorism; adulteration and quarantine matters; research, education, and extension; and biotechnology.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE
(RATIO 9–6 (TOTAL 15))

DAVID ROUZER, North Carolina, *Chairman*

BOB GOODLATTE, Virginia	JIM COSTA, California, <i>Ranking</i>
STEVE KING, Iowa	<i>Minority Member</i>
SCOTT DESJARLAIS, Tennessee	STACEY E. PLASKETT, Virgin Islands
VICKY HARTZLER, Missouri	FILEMON VELA, Texas
TED S. YOHO, Florida	RICHARD M. NOLAN, Minnesota
TOM EMMER, Minnesota	CHERI BUSTOS, Illinois
DAN NEWHOUSE, Washington †	
TRENT KELLY, Mississippi † ❖	

Jurisdiction: Policies, statutes, and markets relating to all livestock, poultry, dairy, and seafood, including all products thereof; the inspection, marketing, and promotion of such commodities and products; aquaculture; animal welfare; grazing; foreign agricultural assistance and trade promotion.

Section Endnotes

† May 19, 2015—Resigned from Committee.

‡ June 10, 2015—Appointed to Committee.

❖ June 16, 2015—Appointed to Subcommittees.

B. COMMITTEE JURISDICTION

Under Rules adopted by the House of Representatives for the 114th Congress, the Committee on Agriculture's (hereinafter also referred to as Committee) jurisdiction (See Rule X, clause 1 of the Rules of the House of Representatives) extended to—

- (1) Adulteration of seeds, insect pests, and protection of birds and animals in forest reserves.
- (2) Agriculture generally.
- (3) Agricultural and industrial chemistry.
- (4) Agricultural colleges and experiment stations.
- (5) Agricultural economics and research.
- (6) Agricultural education extension services.
- (7) Agricultural production and marketing and stabilization of prices of agricultural products, and commodities (not including distribution outside of the United States).
- (8) Animal industry and diseases of animals.
- (9) Commodity exchanges.
- (10) Crop insurance and soil conservation.
- (11) Dairy industry.
- (12) Entomology and plant quarantine.
- (13) Extension of farm credit and farm security.
- (14) Inspection of livestock, poultry, meat products, and seafood and seafood products.
- (15) Forestry in general, and forest reserves other than those created from the public domain.
- (16) Human nutrition and home economics.
- (17) Plant industry, soils, and agricultural engineering.
- (18) Rural electrification.
- (19) Rural development.
- (20) Water conservation related to activities of the Department of Agriculture.

The revised edition of the Rules and Manual of the House of Representatives for the 114th Congress (House Document No. 113–181) provides the following concerning the Committee on Agriculture:¹

“This Committee was established in 1820 (IV, 4149). In 1880 the subject of forestry was added to its jurisdiction, and the Committee was conferred authority to receive estimates of and to report appropriations (IV, 4149). However, on July 1, 1920, authority to report appropriations for the U.S. Department of Agriculture was transferred to the Committee on Appropriations (VII, 1860).

The basic form of the present jurisdictional statement was made effective January 2, 1947, as a part of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (60 Stat. 812). Subparagraph (7) was altered by the 93d Congress, effective January 3, 1975, to in-

¹References are to the volume and section of *Hinds'* (volumes I–V, e.g., IV, 500) and Cannon's (volumes VI–VIII, e.g., VI, 400) *Precedents of the House of Representatives*, and to the *Congressional Record* by date and page (e.g., January 3, 1953, p. 500).

clude jurisdiction over agricultural commodities (including the Commodity Credit Corporation) while transferring jurisdiction over foreign distribution and nondomestic production of commodities to the Committee on International Relations (H. Res. 988, 93d Cong., Oct 8, 1974, p. 34470). Nevertheless, the Committee has retained a limited jurisdiction over measures to release CCC stocks for such foreign distribution (Sept. 14, 1989, p. 20428). Previously unstated jurisdictions over commodities exchanges and rural development were codified effective January 3, 1975.

The 104th Congress consolidated the Committee's jurisdiction over inspection of livestock and meat products to include inspection of poultry, seafood, and seafood products, and added subparagraph (20) relating to water conservation (sec. 202(a), H. Res. 6, Jan. 4, 1995, p.464). Clerical and stylistic changes were effected when the House recodified its rules in the 106th Congress (H. Res. 5, Jan. 6, 1999, p. 47).

The Committee has had jurisdiction of bills for establishing and regulating the Department of Agriculture (IV, 4150), for inspection of livestock and meat products, regulation of animal industry, diseases of animals (IV, 4154; VII, 1862), adulteration of seeds, insect pests, protection of birds and animals in forest reserves (IV, 4157; VII, 1870), the improvement of the breed of horses, even with the cavalry service in view (IV, 4158; VII, 1865), and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, amending Horse Protection Act to prevent the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, or receiving of horses to be slaughtered for human consumption (July 13, 2006, p. 14304).

The Committee, having charge of the general subject of forestry, has reported bills relating to timber, and forest reserves other than those created from the public domain (IV, 4160). The Committee on Natural Resources, and not this committee, has jurisdiction over a bill to convey land that is part of a National Forest created from the public domain (March 23, 2004, p. 4926). It has also exercised jurisdiction of bills relating to agricultural colleges and experiment stations (IV, 4152), incorporation of agricultural societies (IV, 4159), and establishment of a highway commission (IV, 4153), to discourage fictitious and gambling transactions in farm products (IV, 4161; VII, 1861), to regulate the transportation, sale and handling of dogs and cats intended for use in research and the licensing of animal research facilities (July 29, 1965, p. 18691); and to designate an agricultural research center (May 14, 1995, p.11070). The Committee shares with the Committee on the Judiciary jurisdiction over a bill comprehensively amending the Immigration and Nationality Act and including food stamp eligibility requirements for aliens (Sept. 19, 1995, p. 25533).

The House referred the President's message dealing with the refinancing of farm-mortgage indebtedness to the Committee, thus conferring jurisdiction (April 4, 1933, p. 1209).

The Committee has jurisdiction over a bill relating solely to executive level position in the Department of Agriculture (Mar. 2, 1976, p. 4958) and has jurisdiction over bills to develop land

and water conservation programs on private and non-Federal lands (June 7, 1976, p. 16768).”

Some of the specific areas in which the Committee on Agriculture exercises its jurisdiction or that have been created for the Committee by historical reference include:

- (1) Public Law 480, Eighty-third Congress, the restoration, expansion, and development of foreign markets for United States agricultural products; and the effect of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (and the North American Free Trade Agreement), bilateral free trade agreements, the European Community, and other regional economic agreements and commodity marketing and pricing systems on United States agriculture.
- (2) All matters relating to the establishment and development of an effective Foreign Agricultural Service.
- (3) Matters relating to rural development, including rural telephone companies, farm credit banks, farm rural housing loans, rural water supply, rural flood control and water pollution control programs, and loans for rural firehouses, community facilities, and businesses.
- (4) Production and use of energy from agricultural and forestry resources.
- (5) Matters relating to the development, use, and administration of the National Forests, including, but not limited to, development of a sound program for general public use of the National Forests consistent with watershed protection and sustained-yield timber management, study of the forest fire prevention and control policies and activities of the Forest Service and their relation to coordinated activities of other Federal, State, and private agencies; Forest Service land exchanges; and wilderness and similar use designations applied to National Forest land.
- (6) Price spreads of agricultural commodities between producers and consumers.
- (7) The formulation and development of improved programs for agricultural commodities; matters relating to the inspection, grading, and marketing of such commodities, including seafood; and food safety generally.
- (8) Matters relating to trading in futures contracts for all commodities and similar instruments, including commodity options and commodity leverage contracts.
- (9) The administration and operation of agricultural programs through State and county committees and the administrative policies and procedures relating to the selection, election, and operation of such committees.
- (10) The administration and development of small watershed programs under Public Law 566, Eighty-third Congress, as amended, and the development of resource conservation and development programs for rural areas.
- (11) Programs of food assistance or distribution supported in whole or in part by funds of the Department of Agriculture,

including but not limited to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the commodity distribution program.

- (12) Aquaculture programs of the Department of Agriculture.
- (13) Sugar legislation, including import control programs that stabilize domestic prices.
- (14) All matters relating to pesticides, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended, the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act of 1972, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act Amendments of 1988, and the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996, including, but not limited to, the registration, marketing, and safe use of pesticides, groundwater contamination, and the coordination of the pesticide program under FIFRA with food safety programs.
- (15) Agricultural research programs, including, but not limited to, the authorization of specific research projects and agricultural biotechnology development efforts.
- (16) All matters relating to the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act.
- (17) Legislation relating to the control of the entry into the United States of temporary, nonresident aliens for employment in agricultural production.
- (18) Legislation relating to the general operations and the Organic Act of the Department of Agriculture, the Commodity Credit Corporation, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Farm Credit Administration, Farm Credit System, Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, and Commodity Futures Trading Commission.
- (19) Producer-funded research, promotion, and consumer and industry information programs for agricultural commodities.
- (20) Legislation regarding reclamation water projects where the pricing of water delivered by such projects is affected by whether the water will be used in the production of a crop for which an acreage reduction program is in effect.
- (21) Legislation regarding reclamation water projects for which the Secretary of Agriculture is required to make a determination regarding commodity availability prior to the determination of the price to be charged for the delivery of such project water.
- (22) Legislation establishing the level of fees charged by the Federal Government for the grazing of livestock on Federal lands.
- (23) Legislation governing the Federal regulation of transactions involving swaps contracts, hybrid financial instruments, and derivative securities and financial products.
- (24) Legislation regarding the Federal Reserve Board with respect to its authority to regulate the establishment of appropriate levels of margin on stock index futures contracts.

The Committee also reviews and studies, on a continuing basis, the current and prospective application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of those laws, or parts of laws, the subject matter

of which is within the jurisdiction of the Committee, and the organization and operation of the Federal agencies and entities having responsibilities in or for the administration and execution thereof. In addition, the Committee, along with other standing Committees of the House, has the function of reviewing and studying on a continuing basis the effect or probable effect of tax and other fiscal and monetary policies affecting subjects within their jurisdiction.

C. OVERSIGHT PLAN

The Committee on Agriculture met on January 22, 2015 to also fulfill the General Oversight Responsibility reporting requirements of Rule X 2(d)(1) of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

The following outline was prepared in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member and approved by the Full Committee. It was then forwarded to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration on February 6, 2015:

2014 Farm Bill and Current Agricultural Conditions

- Review the current state of the U.S. farm economy;
- Review the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) implementation of the Agricultural Act of 2014;
- Review programs for waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement;
- Review the state of credit conditions and availability in rural America;
- Review the effect of weather conditions on crop production;
- Review USDA's implementation of the U.S. Warehouse Act;
- Review of market situation, including effect of crop reports and projections;
- Review USDA's implementation of the U.S. Grain Standards Act;
- Review USDA's implementation of the Fair and Equitable Tobacco Reform Act of 2004;
- Review how Administrative PAYGO is affecting Department actions; and
- Review discretionary actions by USDA that are not directly authorized by legislation.

Energy

- Assess energy programs authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014;
- Review administration of the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP);
- Review activities funded by the Biomass Research and Development Act (BRDA) and input from the external BRDA Advisory Board;
- Review availability of agriculture and forestry feedstocks for renewable energy production;
- Review current status of research on energy crops and feedstocks;
- Review Rural Utility Service (RUS) electric loan program;

- Review electricity reliability in rural America;
- Review current provisions in existing law that support agriculture-based energy production and use;
- Review the implementation of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS); and
- Review renewable fuel programs and their effect on agriculture.

Conservation and the Environment

- Review the effect of regulatory activities by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its effect on agriculture productivity;
- Review the effect of regulatory activities carried out pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), or any proposed legislative changes to such Act, on agricultural producers;
- Review the effect of the Administration's regulatory activity relative to methyl bromide on production of agriculture in the U.S.;
- Review budget and program activities of the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS);
- Review implementation of all of USDA's conservation programs;
- Review USDA's implementation of the conservation compliance provisions in the Agricultural Act of 2014;
- Review EPA's jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and its effect on U.S. agriculture;
- Review of potential effects of EPA's Clean Air Act (CAA) regulatory program on U.S. agriculture;
- Review ongoing discussions and potential consequences for American agriculture under the United Nations Climate Change Conference;
- Review EPA's implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and Pesticide Registration Improvement Renewal Act (PRIA 3);
- Review the effect of litigation and rulemaking concerning FIFRA, ESA, CAA, CWA, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) to evaluate these statutes' effects on agricultural operations;
- Review the EPA's regulatory actions in regard to pesticide evaluations;
- Review EPA's regulation of Animal Feeding Operations; and
- Review Total Maximum Daily Load strategies and effects on production agriculture.

Federal Crop Insurance and Risk Management

- Review USDA's implementation of crop insurance provisions of the Agricultural Act of 2014;
- Review the role and effectiveness of Federal Crop Insurance;

- Review USDA's and the Risk Management Agency's (RMA) administration and oversight of Federal Crop Insurance;
- Review the availability of crop insurance as a risk management tool;
- Review the adequacy and availability of risk management tools for the livestock and dairy industries;
- Review USDA's activities established to identify and reduce crop insurance waste, fraud, and abuse;
- Review USDA's crop insurance rating methodology and management of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement (SRA) process;
- Review RMA's yield and revenue protection crop insurance products; and
- Review RMA's progress in approving crop insurance products for under-served commodities.

Implementation of Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act

- In its review of rulemakings required by Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (P.L. 111–203) (Dodd-Frank Act), the Committee will continue to ensure:
 - (1) The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) and U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rule-making process is transparent and that meaningful comment is accepted and appropriately reviewed;
 - (2) An adequate cost-benefit analysis is performed by the CFTC for each proposed or finalized rule;
 - (3) The CFTC and SEC properly coordinate with both domestic and international financial regulators;
 - (4) Past exemptive relief orders, also referred to as “no action letters,” issued by the CFTC and SEC provide the proper relief for market participants; and
 - (5) Any final or proposed regulations have not harmed or adversely effected the U.S. economy or financial markets, including the effect on jobs and competitiveness;
- Examine how Title VII rulemakings have affected U.S. market structure;
- Examine the developing effect of CFTC, SEC, and Prudential Regulator regulations, such as the imposition of new margin and capital requirements, and how they affect the ability of many “end-users” to utilize swaps to hedge against legitimate business risks;
- Examine the level of coordination between U.S. and international regulators for potential effects on U.S. financial institutions compared to their foreign counterparts; and
- Examine the feasibility of timetables established by the Dodd-Frank Act in building the data, technology and connectivity necessary to meet regulatory objectives.

The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission and Oversight of the Derivatives Markets

- Review the operations of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC);
- Review the growing consolidation and internationalization of futures exchange trading;
- Review market machinations for exchange traded energy and agricultural futures products;
- Review enforcement and oversight capabilities of the CFTC both domestically and internationally;
- Continue to examine how the CFTC and futures industry as a whole has addressed the MF Global and PFGBest bankruptcies from both an enforcement and regulatory reform standpoint to ensure that proper remedial action is taken to prevent future losses to segregated funds of customers;
- In light of the Commodity Exchange Act statutory authorization of the CFTC which expired at the end of FY 2013, the Committee will continue to examine all sectors of the U.S. derivatives and futures markets, including, but not limited to: exchange or swap execution facility trading; the roles of dealers, inter-dealer brokers, data repositories, and clearinghouses; trade and price reporting; and proposals aimed at protecting the segregated funds of futures customers;
- Continue to examine the ongoing investigation and enforcement action by the CFTC and other federal regulators with respect to the manipulation of international financial benchmarks; and
- Review all operations of the CFTC, including, but not limited to: a continued examination of whether the cost-benefit analysis required by section 15a of the CEA is adequate with respect to proposed and finalized rules; the efficiency of internal Commission actions; and the enforcement and oversight capabilities of the CFTC both domestically and internationally.

Agriculture Trade and International Food Aid

- Review domestic subsidies and protection currently applied by agricultural product producing countries around the world;
- Review ongoing multilateral, regional, and bilateral trade negotiations (including World Trade Organization (WTO) accession agreements) to assess their potential effect on U.S. agriculture;
- Review implementation of existing trade agreements and commitments as well as proposed trade agreements and commitments to determine:
 - (1) whether they are consistent with current U.S. law;
 - (2) whether they will promote economic development in rural areas of the U.S.;
 - (3) their effect or potential effect on current production of import sensitive agricultural commodities, and on exports of U.S. agricultural products;

- (4) their effect or potential effect on the overall competitiveness of the U.S. agricultural sector, including the production, processing and distribution of agricultural products; and
- (5) whether the agreements provide adequate, enforceable provisions to minimize non-tariff barriers to U.S. exports;
- Monitor existing trade agreements to ensure trading partners are meeting obligations and enforcing trade commitments;
- Review agricultural export programs to determine how well they are promoting the interests of U.S. agriculture and examine proposals to improve, modify or expand such programs;
- Review U.S. food aid programs to determine their effect or potential effect on the reduction of world hunger. In particular, the committee will examine the potential effect of trade negotiations on the effectiveness of U.S. food aid programs;
- Review monitoring and evaluation activities carried out by USDA and USAID; and
- Review sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) barriers and other technical barriers to U.S. agricultural exports and examine USDA efforts to eliminate such barriers.

Agricultural Research and Promotion

- Review implementation of biosecurity protocols at USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) laboratories;
- Review USDA's implementation of research, education and extension programs authorized in the Agricultural Act of 2014;
- Review the administration of the ARS research stations and worksites;
- Review USDA's continuing ability to conduct foreign animal disease research, training and diagnostic programs at the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility following the transfer of the center to the Department of Homeland Security;
- Assess federal efforts to facilitate research and development of aquacultural enterprises, specifically focusing on the activities of the Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture;
- Review USDA's regulation of organic standards;
- Review USDA's collection of organic production and market data;
- Review administration of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA);
- Review the administration of the Agricultural Food Research Initiative and other competitive research, extension and education grants programs;
- Review efforts to leverage Federal research investment with state, local, and private sources of funding;
- Review coordination between ARS, Economic Research Service (ERS), NIFA and action agencies in USDA—such as NRCS and FSA—in order to prevent duplicative research;
- Review operation of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board;

- Review USDA's efforts to expand research and development of pathogen reduction technologies;
- Evaluate the current mix of research funding mechanisms to ensure maximum benefits from these investments to producers, processors and consumers;
- Review administration of USDA's agricultural marketing and promotion programs;
- Review coordination between USDA and DOE on energy research programs;
- Review the sufficiency of research funding under ARS, ERS, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and NIFA;
- Review ARS, ERS, NASS and NIFA national program priorities;
- Conduct oversight of the research grant process, generally, and more specifically to coordinate and prevent overlapping research; and
- Review the potential for research and technology transfer to address the needs of both the biofuels and livestock industries.

Biotechnology

- Review current regulations and research regarding animal and plant biotechnology;
- Review FDA's regulatory activities regarding genetically engineered animals;
- Assess USDA's efforts to develop and promote benefits of biotechnology for increasing agricultural productivity and combating hunger globally;
- Review USDA's management and controls over biotechnology-derived material;
- Review the effect of litigation on USDA's timeliness in resolving petitions to deregulate products of biotechnology; and
- Review effects of state, county and municipal regulation of biotechnology on the free-flow of agricultural products in interstate commerce.

U.S. Forest Service Administration

- Review the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) strategy for dealing with wildfire, including the effect of hazardous fuels management, forest health efforts and fire preparedness;
- Continue to monitor the effectiveness and efficiency of the USFS fire management program;
- Review the effect of fire expenses on other USFS program delivery;
- Assess the USFS strategy for timber harvesting on federal lands;
- Review effects of environmental regulations on National Forest land management;
- Review economic effects of National Forest land management on rural communities; and

- Review USFS efforts to promote utilization of National Forest timber for renewable energy purposes.

Dairy

- Review USDA's implementation of the dairy risk management provisions in the Agricultural Act of 2014;
- Review options to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of dairy programs; and
- Review efficiency of federal market order system.

Outreach and Civil Rights

- Review the operations of the Office of Advocacy and Outreach;
- Monitor USDA's outreach efforts to beginning, small and minority farmers/ranchers;
- Monitor USDA's outreach efforts to military veterans interested in careers in agriculture;
- Review of the operations of the office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights;
- Review USDA's implementation of the receipt for service provisions in the Agricultural Act of 2014;
- Review USDA's process for settling discrimination claims and evaluating individual claims submitted pursuant to such settlements;
- Review the delivery of USDA services and outreach efforts on Indian reservations and Tribal lands;
- Review the current status of the Agricultural Census and efforts to reach undercounted farmers and ranchers; and
- Review participation of minority farmers in FSA County/Local Committees as well as outreach to increase participation in County Committee elections.

USDA General Administration

- Review confidentiality of information provided to USDA by agricultural producers;
- Review USDA's implementation of field office consolidation for the purpose of effectively and efficiently delivering commodity, conservation, energy and rural development programs;
- Review USDA's efforts to modernize its Information Technology (IT) systems; and
- Review the administrative structure of USDA for effectiveness and efficiency.

Farm Credit, Rural Development, and the Rural Economy

- Review the Farm Credit Administration's (FCA) regulatory program and activities regarding the Farm Credit System (FCS) to assure its safety and soundness;
- Review the activities and programs of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (also referred to as Farmer Mac);
- Review FSA's direct and guaranteed loan programs and graduation efforts;
- Review the Rural Electrification Act (REA);

- Review the farm economy and access to credit;
- Review implementation of rural development policies and authorities contained in the Agricultural Act of 2014 and the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act;
- Conduct oversight of the USDA's Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program;
- Review USDA Rural Development's application processes and internal controls related to the farm bill;
- Review the administration of the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program;
- Conduct oversight of the implementation of USDA's Telecommunications Programs;
- Review the status of the Rural Telephone Bank;
- Assess the state of rural water systems and effectiveness of federal funding to build and upgrade those systems;
- Assess the effectiveness of USDA programs targeted toward rural infrastructure and business needs;
- Review agricultural lending practices;
- Review public-private partnerships in lending through guaranteed loans;
- Review the definition of rural under rural development programs; and
- Review rural development loan programs and default rates.

USDA Food and Nutrition Programs

- Review food and nutrition programs including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), fruit and vegetable initiatives, the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), the Food Distribution on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) program and other commodity distribution programs;
- Review participant eligibility criteria for SNAP;
- Review the interaction between SNAP and other low-income assistance programs such as the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and provisions in the Affordable Care Act;
- Review SNAP work pilots and the efficiency and accountability of the SNAP Employment & Training program;
- Review efforts by USDA and the states to combat waste, fraud and abuse within nutrition programs;
- Review efforts by state SNAP administrators to modernize and streamline their programs; and
- Review the Community Food Project Program to ensure cooperative grants are working.

Specialty Crops

- Review implementation of the Specialty Crop Competitiveness Act;
- Review the Specialty Crop Block Grant program to ensure that the grants awarded are enhancing the specialty crop industry;

- Review farmers' market programs;
- Review implementation and effectiveness of cooperative plant health programs, including Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention and the Clean Plant Network; and
- Review the Specialty Crop Research Initiative.

Food Safety

- Review implementation of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act;
- Review implementation of the FDA Egg Safety Rule;
- Review USDA's administration of meat and poultry inspection laws and the FDA's food inspection activities to ensure the development of scientifically sound systems for food safety assurance;
- Review USDA's implementation of the catfish inspection program;
- Review USDA's efforts to educate consumers regarding safe food handling practices and streamline the assessment and approval of food safety technologies;
- Review implementation of new protocols for meat, poultry, eggs, or seafood safety inspection;
- Review USDA's enforcement of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act and humane handling regulations; and
- Review the mechanisms to establish scientifically based international food safety standards.

Plant and Animal Health

- Review enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act;
- Assess federal efforts to reduce threats to human, animal, and plant health due to predatory and invasive species;
- Review efforts of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to manage wildlife conflicts in order to protect public health and safety;
- Assess USDA's Animal Disease Traceability Plan; and
- Review implementation of Sec. 10201 (of the 2008 Farm Bill) regarding plant pest and disease management and disaster prevention.

Livestock Marketing

- Assess the effectiveness of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) in determining market manipulation in the livestock industry;
- Review structural changes in agribusiness and the potential cost and benefits for agricultural producers; and
- Review the USDA's mandatory livestock price reporting system.

Homeland and Agricultural Security

- Oversight of USDA's preparedness against terrorist threats to agriculture production;

- Review cooperative efforts between the Department of Homeland Security and USDA to prevent against foreign animal disease; and
- Review agriculture inspection activities under the Department of Homeland Security.

Miscellaneous

- Review the effects of sequestration on USDA operations and programs;
- Review the effect of transportation infrastructure issues on agriculture and forestry; and
- Review USDA's implementation and enforcement of the country of origin labeling rule including, but not limited to, actions taken by USDA to implement measures necessary to comply with the recommendations and rulings of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body on Certain Country of Origin Labeling Requirements.

Consultation With Other Committees To Reduce Duplication

- With Natural Resources on forestry issues, ESA issues and other public land issues;
- With Science, Space, and Technology on research;
- With Ways and Means and Education and the Workforce on nutrition programs;
- With Ways and Means on trade issues;
- With Homeland Security on importation of animal and plant material and on research related to agroterrorism;
- With Judiciary on immigrant agricultural labor;
- With Energy and Commerce on food safety and biomass energy programs both existing and new;
- With Transportation and Infrastructure on certain CWA compliance issues;
- With Financial Services on Dodd-Frank Act issues;
- With Foreign Affairs on food aid and trade issues;
- With Small Business on addressing economic opportunities for rural America; and

II. COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES DURING THE 114TH CONGRESS

A. MAIN LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

The Committee on Agriculture reported or otherwise considered a variety of bills in the 114th Congress covering many of the diverse areas within its jurisdictional interests.

Some of the major activities of the Committee during the 114th Congress included the following:

Agenda for the House Agriculture Committee

- The Committee approached its business in an open, transparent manner and maintained the strong bipartisan tradition of the Committee. One of the main priorities of the Committee

during this Congress was to provide oversight to the various federal agencies through the hearing process.

- The Committee held 37 full committee hearings and 11 business meetings during the 114th Congress. Various subcommittees held 45 hearings during the 114th Congress.
- The Committee heard testimony from 56 Administration officials, specifically from 38 U.S. Department of Agriculture representatives and 6 officials from the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. Additional testimony heard by the Committee was offered by university researchers, nonprofit organizations, SNAP recipients, derivatives end-users, trade groups, and farmers and ranchers from across the United States for a total of 340 witnesses.
- The Committee successfully drafted and passed out of Committee a total of 7 bills that ultimately became law:
 - P.L. 114–54, Agriculture Reauthorizations Act of 2015, which included the following: H.R. 2088, United States Grain Standards Act Reauthorization Act of 2015, H.R. 2051, Mandatory Livestock Reporting Act, and H.R. 2394, National Forest Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2015;
 - P.L. 114–174, to amend the United States Cotton Futures Act to exclude certain cotton futures contracts from coverage Act;
 - P.L. 114–237, Clarification of Treatment of Electronic Sales of Livestock Act of 2016;
 - P.L. 114–216, The Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015; and
 - P.L. 114–113, Consolidated Appropriations Act, which included H.R. 2393, Country of Origin Labeling Amendments of 2015.
- The Committee held four hearings to examine the statutory reauthorization of the CFTC within the Commodity Exchange Act. The hearings focused on the CFTC’s role and place in overseeing the futures and swaps markets, current issues facing the Commission, current issues facing end-users and market participants, and recent regulatory proposals that were designed to better protect futures customers from unexpected market events.
- The Committee also held four hearings on the implementation of G20’s financial reforms in derivatives, as enacted by Title VIII of Dodd-Frank. The first hearing focused on the broad impact that Title VII has made to derivatives markets, including both improvements and challenges. The three subsequent subcommittee hearings focused on the implementation of the five key reforms called for by the G20, including new rules for reporting, capital, margin, clearing, and execution of certain derivatives transactions.
- The Committee successfully drafted and passed out of Committee bipartisan legislation to reauthorize and improve the operations of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens on end-users. The leg-

islation sought to better protect futures customers, to provide end-users with market certainty, to make basic reforms to ensure transparency and accountability at the Commission, to help farmers, ranchers, and end-users manage risks, and to help keep consumer costs low. The legislation would also clarify the CFTC’s cost-benefit obligations for new rulemakings, as well as address concerns relating to protecting customers from another failure such as MF Global and PFGBest.

- The Committee held 16 educational hearings under the title Past, Present, and Future of SNAP to take a closer look at how SNAP works and examined challenges faced by the recipients. The fifty-three witnesses, including hunger advocates, researchers, USDA officials, and SNAP recipients testified on the significance of employment and training programs; nutrition education; nutrition incentives; and the impact error, fraud, and evidence-based solutions have on program integrity within SNAP.
- H.R. 1314, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, included \$3 billion in harmful cuts to Federal crop insurance. The proposed changes—which threatened private delivery of Federal crop insurance—were reversed in H.R. 2353, the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2015.
- H.R. 2393 repealed country-of-origin labeling requirements for beef, pork, and poultry in response to a World Trade Organization case initiated by Canada and Mexico.

B. STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

(1) *Statistics on bills referred to the Committee on Agriculture*

Number of bills referred:

House bills	211
Senate bills	1
House joint resolutions	0
House concurrent resolutions	7
Senate joint resolutions	0
Senate concurrent resolutions	0
House resolutions	10
Total	229

(2) *Disposition of Bills Containing Items Under the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture*

Bills enacted into law	11
Bills acted on by the Committee included in other bills that became law	3
Bills vetoed	0
Bills acted on by both Houses, but not enacted	0
Bills acted on by the House but not the Senate	12
Concurrent Resolutions approved	0
Bills reported to the House but not considered	1
Bills ordered reported, but not reported	0
Bills defeated in the House	1

(3) *Statistics on hearings and markups*

Full Committee/Subcommittee	Business Meetings	Hearings	Field Hearings
Full Committee on Agriculture	11	39	
Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management		6	
Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit		7	
Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry		7	
Subcommittee on Nutrition		9	
Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research		9	
Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture		7	
Total	11	84	

C. DIGEST OF BILLS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WHICH ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN

1. *Bills Enacted into Law*

P.L. 114–36 (H.R. 2620)

Legislation to Amend the United States Cotton Futures Act

H.R. 2620 was introduced by Representative David Scott on June 2, 2015. The bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture. On June 17, 2015, the Committee ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by voice vote. The bill passed the House under suspension of the rules on June 23, 2015. The Senate passed the legislation by Unanimous Consent on July 9, 2015. The President signed the bill into law on July 20, 2015.

P.L. 114–36 amended the U.S. Cotton Futures Act to allow for a globally sourced and globally delivered cotton futures contract to be listed on a U.S. futures exchange. Before the amendment, the U.S. Cotton Futures Act prohibited the tendering of cotton that was not classed by the USDA to fulfill a delivery obligation for a U.S.-listed cotton futures contract. The new law allows foreign grown cotton to be classed by USDA or any other appropriate classer selected by the exchange.

P.L. 114–54 (H.R. 2051)

Agriculture Reauthorization Act of 2015

This public law reauthorizes and amends laws that address livestock mandatory price reporting requirements, funding for the National Forest Foundation, and procedures for weighing and inspecting grain. The President signed the bill into law on September 30, 2015.

The following bills are included in P.L. 114–54:

H.R. 2051, Mandatory Price Reporting Act of 2015

H.R. 2051 was introduced by Representative K. Michael Conaway on April 28, 2015. The bill was referred to the Agriculture Committee. On April 30, 2015, the Committee ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by a voice vote. On June 9, 2015 the House passed the bill under suspension of the rules by a voice vote.

The Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 (Act of 1999) expires on September 30, 2015. Stakeholders from the livestock and meat industry are generally supportive of livestock mandatory reporting (LMR) and have worked cooperatively to achieve consensus toward reauthorization of the Act for a five year period.

The Act of 1999, which passed as an amendment to the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, established a program of information regarding the marketing of cattle, swine, lambs, and the products

of such livestock. The purpose was to provide information that could be readily understood by producers, improve the price and supply reporting services of USDA, and encourage competition in the marketplace for livestock and livestock products. The statutory authority for the program lapsed on September 30, 2005, not because of controversy over whether the program should continue, but because the House and Senate passed different versions of reauthorization legislation. Ultimately, the Senate passed the House version by unanimous consent the following October.

When authorization lapsed, AMS sent letters to all packers required to report under the Act of 1999 requesting that they continue to submit information voluntarily. About 90 percent of packers cooperated in submitting information during the lapse. Finally, in October 2006, Congress passed the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Reauthorization Act, re-establishing the regulatory authority for the LMR program through September 30, 2010, and separating the reporting requirements for sows and boars from barrows and gilts, among other changes. AMS began re-implementing the regulations right away. The final rules were not completed until May 2008 because AMS had to account for changes to the program.

The 2008 Farm Bill directed the Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary) to conduct a study to determine advantages, drawbacks, and potential implementation issues associated with adopting mandatory wholesale pork reporting. The study concluded that voluntary negotiated wholesale pork price reporting was thin and becoming thinner. It also found some support for moving to mandatory price reporting at every segment of the industry and that the benefits of moving from a voluntary to a mandatory reporting program for wholesale pork would likely exceed the cost. The 2010 Reauthorization Act reauthorized LMR for an additional five years and added a provision for mandatory reporting of wholesale pork cuts. It directed the Secretary to engage in negotiated rulemaking to make required regulatory changes for mandatory wholesale pork reporting. AMS completed the negotiated rulemaking process and implemented mandatory wholesale pork reporting on January 7, 2013.

The LMR program provides the market with information on pricing; contracting for purchase; and supply-and-demand conditions for livestock, livestock production, and livestock products. Consistent with its mission to facilitate marketing, AMS publishes this information to ensure open, transparent price discovery and provide all market participants—large and small—with comparable levels of market information for cattle, swine, pork, sheep, beef, and lamb meat. AMS produces approximately 62 daily reports and 47 weekly reports.

During the Fiscal Year 2014 government shutdown, AMS Market News, including livestock mandatory reporting data, was not available. AMS's inability to deliver the mandatory price information for livestock, meat, and certain dairy products caused a significant disruption to the orderly marketing of these products and generated extensive media coverage. Many stakeholders asked AMS to consider LMR an 'excepted activity' that would continue in the case of another government shutdown.

In order to remain relevant with current marketing practices, AMS regularly meets with industry and trade member associations to discuss LMR and marketing trends. One of the major concerns in the livestock industry is the shrinking negotiated spot market. The number of livestock marketed on a negotiated basis has been declining for years as more processors, producers, and feedlots have entered into formula marketing agreements. Industry members say that some negotiated markets are becoming too thin to be an adequate market basis. At the recent House Appropriations budget hearing, AMS was asked about current reporting methodology for hogs and concerns of price manipulation and volatility in the negotiated hog market. To address this issue, AMS is developing a 5 day rolling average of the daily negotiated hog prices to include in reports. This should help normalize the reported information and mute the volatility.

Livestock industry associations have had under consideration other potential LMR regulatory changes. Some in the industry would like to enhance the reporting requirements to more accurately capture weekly basis information and near-term negotiated formula transactions. The swine industry has expressed an interest in amending report time requirements for barrows and gilts while some in the lamb industry want to lower the reporting threshold requirements, add a definition for committed lambs, and include lamb pelts as a reported commodity.

The legislation reflects a consensus among livestock and meat industry participants working toward reauthorization of the Act. A representative of AMS in attendance at a reauthorization hearing held in the Livestock and Foreign Agriculture Subcommittee was asked generally about reauthorization of the LMR program and the specific requests of industry and responded that USDA supports reauthorization of the program and saw no issues of concern in the bill ultimately presented for Committee consideration. (See also the discussion of the April 22, 2015: Hearing to review reauthorization of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act under “D. Oversight”.)

H.R. 2394, National Forest Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2015

H.R. 2394 was introduced by Representative Glenn Thompson on May 18, 2015. The bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture. On May 20, 2015, the Committee ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by a voice vote. On June 9, 2015, the House passed the bill under suspension of the rules by a voice vote.

The National Forest Foundation was created by Congressional Charter in 1993 with a discretionary authorization of \$1 million per year for a period of five years. The Foundation uses Federal dollars as a match for private donations to restore and enhance our National Forests and Grasslands. Since its charter, the Foundation has been essential in helping meet the challenges the National Forest System faces.

The National Forestry Foundation has been consistently funded through the appropriations process despite an expired authorization. The bill reauthorizes the authority for discretionary funding at \$3 million per year, which is consistent with the funding it has received in recent years.

Under the authority of the National Forest Foundation Act, the Foundation is legally obligated to obtain private contributions to match Federal dollars on a one-to-one basis. Federal funds have been leveraged by additional resources at an overall ratio of 4.3 to 1.

The Foundation uses private and federal dollars to support our nation's great forests in a variety of ways. These include planting trees, preserving wildlife habitat, surveying streams, restoring and maintaining trails, among other activities.

This authority will expire at the end of FY 2018 making the program consistent with most farm bill forestry programs in the Agricultural Act of 2014.

This bill amends the National Forest Foundation Act to reauthorize the Department of Agriculture to provide during FY 2015–FY 2018 matching funds for certain administrative and project expenses incurred by the National Forest Foundation.

H.R. 2088, United States Grain Standards Act Reauthorization Act of 2015

H.R. 2088 was introduced by Representative K. Michael Conaway on April 29, 2015. The bill was referred to the Agriculture Committee. On April 30, 2015, the Committee ordered the bill to be reported by voice vote. On June 9, 2015, the House passed by the bill under suspension of the rules by a voice vote.

The United States Grain Standards Act Reauthorization Act of 2015, H.R. 2088, reauthorizes provisions of the United States Grain Standards Act until September 30, 2020, and provides a safeguard mechanism in the event of an interruption of official inspection services. In addition, H.R. 2088 revises the process for the delegation and designation of authority by the Secretary to provide official inspection services and allows for the review of current delegations. Finally, the legislation amends the United States Grain Standards Act to provide a basis for fees based on export tonnage and for the adjustment of those fees. (Note: See also the discussion of the April 22, 2015: Hearing to review reauthorization of the U.S. Grain Standards Act under “D. Oversight”.

P.L. 114–94 (H.R. 22)

Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act)

H.R. 22 as introduced by Representative Rodney Davis on January 6, 2015. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. The House passed the bill on November 5, 2015 and the conference report on December 3, 2015. The President signed the bill on December 4, 2015.

The Act authorizes spending on federal highway and public transportation programs and surface transportation safety and research activities for five years, through September 30, 2020. The Act also authorizes passenger rail programs for five years, through FY 2020. The Act's authorization totals about \$305 billion for FY 2016 through FY 2020. This includes \$233 billion for highways and highway safety, \$61 billion for public transportation, and more than \$10 billion for Amtrak.

This public law repealed Section 201 in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which forced a renegotiation of the Standard Reinsur-

ance Agreement, forced those negotiations to happen every 5 years going forward, and capped the targeted rate of return on retained premiums for the insurance companies at 8.6%.

The following bill is included in P.L. 114–94:

**H.R. 1847, Swap Data Repository and Clearinghouse
Indemnification Correction Act of 2015**

H.R. 1847 was introduced by Representative Eric A. “Rick” Crawford on April 16, 2015. The bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services. On July 14, 2015, the Committee on Agriculture discharged the legislation. On July 14, 2015, H.R. 1847 passed the House by a voice vote.

H.R. 1847 repeals the indemnification provisions in Sections 725, 728, and 763 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to increase the market transparency, facilitate global regulatory cooperation, and ensure that U.S. regulators have access to necessary swaps data from foreign data repositories, derivatives clearing organizations, and regulators.

P.L. 114–216 (H.R. 1599/S. 764)

The Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015

H.R. 1599 was introduced by Representative Mike Pompeo on March 25, 2015. The bill was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture. On July 14, 2015, the Committee on Agriculture ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by voice vote. On July 23, 2015, the House passed the bill by a vote of 275 yeas to 150 nays.

On June 23, 2016, the Senate Agriculture Committee proposed a bill (S. Amdt. 4937 to S. 764) that would amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to give the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) authority to establish a mandatory “national bioengineered food disclosure standard.” S. 764 would authorize food manufacturers to adopt either text, a symbol, or an electronic/digital link for identifying bioengineered foods. Small food manufacturers would be permitted to use a website or phone number. Very small food manufacturers and restaurants would be exempt from the mandatory disclosure requirement. The Senate passed the labeling bill on July 7 by a vote of 63 yeas to 30 nays. The House approved the Senate bill on July 14, 2016, by a vote of 306 yeas to 117 nays. The President signed the bill into law on July 29, 2016.

The Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015 would ensure national uniformity regarding labeling of foods derived from genetically engineered plants by preventing a patchwork of conflicting state or local labeling laws which inherently interfere with interstate and foreign commerce. This legislation will create a consumer-friendly, science-based, uniform food labeling framework for products produced using genetically engineered ingredients. By ensuring that food labeling is the sole purview of the Federal Government, the bill guarantees that state labeling mandates do not mislead and misinform consumers. Additionally, the bill will prevent the costly price hikes associated with a patchwork of state labeling laws. By creating a national non-GE certification program that is overseen by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), this bill

brings transparency and consistency to an area of food labeling where it is urgently needed. This program mimics the widely popular National Organic Program and will provide those who prefer to buy non-GE foods a reliable means of doing so. Similar to organics, non-GE foods also are a small percentage of the U.S. food market. The USDA Certified Organic program is a successful precedent for labeling the exception rather than the rule.

P.L. 114-245 (H.R. 845)

National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act

H.R. 845 was introduced by Representative Cynthia Lummis on February 10, 2015. The bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources. On September 14, 2016, the Committee ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by a voice vote. On September 26, 2016, the bill was considered under suspension of the rules and passed by a voice vote. The President signed the bill on November 28, 2016.

The United States Forest Service (USFS or Forest Service) is facing a \$500 million backlog in trail maintenance costs of the National Forest Service trail system. In 2013, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report that recognized the importance of volunteers for trail maintenance and recommended taking steps to improve management of volunteers.

This legislation improves the state of Forest Service resources by using volunteers to improve Forest Service trail maintenance.

The bill requires the USFS to produce a national strategy to maximize use of volunteers and partners and eliminates challenges that have prevented increased use of volunteers, such as liability concerns raised by the Forest Service.

The Committee believes that refocusing on volunteers and partners to help the USFS is a commonsense way of making progress on the backlog and opening up these trails to public access. Using volunteers across the nation in the remediation of our deteriorating National Forest Service trails is a cost effective solution.

P.L. 114-275 (S. 3395)

Prescribed Burn Approval Act of 2016

S. 3395 was introduced by Senator John Thune on September 27, 2016. The bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources. The bill passed the Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent on November 18, 2016. On December 5, 2016, the bill was considered under suspension of the rules and passed by a voice vote. The President signed the bill on December 14, 2016.

This bill prohibits the Department of Agriculture, acting through the Forest Service, from authorizing a prescribed burn (*i.e.*, a planned fire intentionally ignited) on Forest Service land if, for the county or contiguous count in which such land is located, the national fire danger rating system is indicating an extreme fire danger level. Nonetheless, the USDA may authorize a prescribed burn under such a condition if it coordinates with the applicable state government and local fire officials.

*P.L. 114–279 (H.R. 875)**Cross Border Trade Enhancement)*

H.R. 875 was introduced by Representative Henry Cuellar on February 11, 2015. The bill was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, Transportation and Infrastructure, Judiciary, Homeland Security and Agriculture. On December 6, 2016, the bill was considered under suspension of the rules and passed by a voice vote. The Senate passed the bill by Unanimous Consent on December 10, 2016. The President signed the bill on December 16, 2016.

H.R. 875 authorizes the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to enter into agreement with certain persons for the CBP to provide customs, agricultural processing, border security, or inspection related immigration services at a land border port of entry, subject to payment of a fee to reimburse the CBP for providing such services.

*P.L. 114–289 (H.R. 4680)**National Park Service Centennial Act*

H.R. 4680 was introduced by Representative Rob Bishop on March 3, 2016. The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Education and the Workforce. On May 19, 2016, the Committee on Agriculture discharged the legislation. The Senate passed the bill by Unanimous Consent on December 10, 2016. The President signed the bill on December 16, 2016.

It is the purpose of this Act to establish a fund in the Treasury to finance signature projects and programs to enhance the National Park System as it approaches its centennial in 2016 and to prepare the parks for another century of conservation, preservation, and enjoyment.

*P.L. 114–322 (S. 612)**Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act*

S. 612 was introduced by Senator John Corny on February 27, 2015. It was referred to the Senate Environment and Public Works and House Transportation and Infrastructure Committees. It passed the Senate by Unanimous Consent on May 21, 2015. The bill passed the House on December 8, 2016 by a vote 360 yeas to 61 nays. The Senate agreed the House amendment by a vote of 78 yeas to 21 nays on December 10, 2016. The President signed the bill on December 16, 2016.

The following bills are included in P.L. 114–322:

H.R. 2898, Western Water and American Food Security Act of 2015

H.R. 2898 was introduced by Representative David Valadao on June 25, 2015. The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture. On July 13, 2015, the Committee on Agriculture discharged the legislation. On July 16, 2015, H.R. 2898 passed the House by a vote of 245 yeas to 176 nays.

H.R. 2898, the Western Water and American Food Security Act of 2015, represents a comprehensive approach aimed at alleviating drought impacts through short-term and long-term measures.

Title I of the bill ensures that changes to operational pumping levels are based on the best and most up-to-date science, while also requiring agencies to use the most accurate survey methods to help determine how these water projects may be maximized without causing significant impacts to the Delta smelt. Only three years of data were used to calculate the incidental take limit (ITL) of Delta smelt in the most recent biological opinion, and the data is up to a decade old (2006–2008). Section 102 of the bill requires Federal agencies to modify the methodology used to calculate the ITLs for the Delta smelt using the best scientific and commercial data available to allow for a more accurate and robust ITL. Section 103 requires the agencies to use real-time data to make informed decisions about operational changes to the pumps and to maximize project operations pumping at a specified level provided there is no harm to Delta smelt. Although the text is not identical, Title I, and Titles II and III, reflect parts of the framework negotiated with the Senate last year.

Title II aims to ease water project pumping restrictions by identifying management actions other than reductions in pumping that can be utilized to better contribute to salmon recovery. Section 202 requires the Federal agencies to evaluate and quantify the benefit to salmon species from reductions in pumping. In addition, the Secretary of Commerce is required to consider alternative measures including barriers to fish entrainment, habitat enhancements and predation control programs. The evaluation of these alternative measures will allow the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to demonstrate the effectiveness of existing reasonable and prudent alternatives (RPAs) and identify potential additional actions to protect species while reducing adverse water impacts to CVP and SWP contractors. Section 203 authorizes a non-federally financed predator fish removal program on the Stanislaus River. This program is designed to remove nonnative striped bass, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, black bass, and other nonnative predator fish species that prey on protected salmonid species.

Title III works within current law to provide Federal agencies the operational flexibility to maximize Delta pumping levels while still satisfying the needs of ESA listed species. It also directs the federal agencies to maximize the amount of water pumped south of the Delta during drought and for two subsequent normal water years. Section 302 requires the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce and the Interior to expeditiously issue all necessary permits for water transfers and the use of temporary barriers or operable gates to improve the quantity and quality of water available to CVP and SWP water users. This section also creates a streamlined project elevation and decision-making process to ensure that decisions related to projects that provide additional water supplies or address emergency drought conditions are made expeditiously. Additional provisions require the Cross Channel gates in the Delta remain open for longer periods of time to prevent water from being lost to the Pacific Ocean. Section 306 requires Federal agencies to increase regular project operations pumping at specific levels if

there is no harm to protected species, and Section 307 authorizes pumping at specific levels to capture water during the first few storms of the year. Section 313 replaces and satisfies the requirements of the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement with a much less expensive warm water fishery.

Title IV requires Reclamation to complete five feasibility studies for storage projects in California by certain timelines. These studies have been ongoing for over 12 years, prompting many to ask when they will be completed to bring about new long-term water supplies. Title V, as amended, includes provisions designed to preserve water rights seniority and to protect the joint operation of the CVP and SWP. Title VI allows artificially-spawned Delta smelt and Chinook salmon to be counted when counting fish populations and requires the Federal Government to develop and implement a plan to replace the 800,000 acre-feet of CVP water, as required by the CVPIA, within 180 days of enactment.

H.R. 3382, Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2015

H.R. 3382 was introduced by Representative Tom McClintock on July 29, 2015. The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Transportation and Infrastructure. On February 1, 2015 the Committee on Agriculture discharged the legislation.

The Lake Tahoe Basin is an administrative unit managed by the U.S. Forest Service. Since its creation in 2000, the forest surrounding the Lake has become overgrown and in an increasingly fire-prone state. The decade between 2000–2010 showed a large increase in forest acres burned compared to previous decades. For example, the 2007 Angora Fire burned 254 residences and 75 commercial buildings and 3,100 acres, an alarming example of the danger that lurks in the forests surrounding Lake Tahoe.

Ash and debris from wildfires ultimately end up in the water, damaging watershed health and aquatic wildlife. This legislation addresses the need for significant active management to reduce the risk of wildfire in this world class setting. The bill addresses many forest health issues by expediting urgently needed forest management through the use of a 3,000 acre categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act.

The bill seeks to enhance visitor experiences by authorizing Lake Tahoe Basin managers to focus on improving recreation opportunities when evaluating management decisions. The bill also seeks to help land managers more efficiently manage the land by authorizing land exchanges to remove a patchwork of ownership that exists. The bill also promotes more coordination with local governments by requiring the Forest Service to consult with localities when evaluating the possible acquisition of new land.

Finally, H.R. 3382 authorizes \$8.7 million in annual supplemental funding from both appropriated dollars and receipts generated within the Basin to augment the existing forest budget. These supplemental funds would be used for active forest management to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, provide for recreation improvements and increase staffing.

Other Laws; Legislative Matters

*Appropriations**P.L. 114–113 (H.R. 2029)**Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016*

H.R. 2029 was introduced by Representative Charles Dent on April 24, 2015. The bill passed the House on April 30, 2015 by a vote of 255 yeas to 163 nays. The bill, as amended, subsequently passed the Senate by a vote of 93 yeas to 0 nays. The legislation was sent back to the House. The House amended the bill and passed it by a vote 316 yeas to 113 nays on December 18, 2015. The Senate agreed to the House amendments to the Senate amendment by a vote of 65 yeas and 33 nays. The President signed the bill on December 18, 2015.

The following bill was included in P.L. 114–113:

H.R. 2393, Country of Origin Labeling Amendments of 2015

H.R. 2392 was introduced by Representative K. Michael Conaway on May 18, 2015. The bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture. On May 20, 2015 the Committee ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by a vote of 38 yeas to 6 nays. On June 10, 2015, the House considered the bill under a Rule and it was passed by 300 yeas to 131 nays.

The Country of Origin Labeling Amendments Act of 2015, H.R. 2393, amends the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to repeal country-of-origin labeling requirements for beef, pork, and chicken.

In 2002, Congress enacted mandatory country-of-origin labeling (COOL) provisions requiring retailers of certain meat products to inform consumers of a product's country-of-origin. Controversial aspects of COOL prompted Congress to revisit the law in the 2008 Farm Bill, which included several amendments to the 2002 statute.

Less than five months after the COOL implementing rule was published in 2008, Canada and Mexico challenged the rule at the WTO, arguing that it had a trade-distorting impact by reducing the value and number of cattle and hogs shipped to the U.S. market.

The process has since progressed through the dispute settlement panel phase (report issued November 2011), and a U.S. appeal to the WTO's Appellate Body (report issued June 2012). In both instances, the WTO found that the way U.S. COOL regulations were implemented violated U.S. WTO obligations by discriminating against imported livestock.

The United States was given until May 2013 to bring its COOL regulations into compliance with the findings of the dispute settlement panel, as modified by the Appellate Body. In response, USDA issued a revised COOL rule in May 2013 which required that production steps—born, raised, and slaughtered, by origin country—be included on meat labels. The revised rule also prohibited the commingling of meat from imported and domestic livestock. Canada and Mexico claimed the revised rule did not bring the United States into compliance, and furthermore they said the revised rule, especially the prohibition on commingling, was more onerous than the original rule. A key criterion of current COOL implementation

is that it requires ‘segregation’ of animals by country-of-origin, which raises the cost of utilizing imported livestock.

At the request of Canada and Mexico, the WTO established a compliance panel to determine if the revised rule brought the United States into compliance with previous rulings. The compliance panel report, released October 20, 2014, upheld the earlier findings of discrimination.

The United States filed to appeal the compliance panel report on November 28, 2014. On May 18, 2015, the WTO rejected the United States’ appeal and found for the fourth and final time that the U.S. COOL requirements for beef and pork are unavoidably discriminatory. The final ruling kick-starts the WTO process to determine the level of retaliatory tariffs Canada and Mexico can now impose of the U.S., which has widely been predicted to have effects in the billions of dollars.

On Wednesday, March 25, the House Agriculture Committee’s Livestock and Foreign Agriculture Subcommittee held a public hearing to examine the implications of potential retaliation against the U.S. Witnesses at the hearing testified as follows:

Canada and Mexico are by far the United States’ largest export markets, and purchased a record \$485 billion in manufactured goods in 2014. Those exports support millions of U.S. jobs. WTO-authorized retaliation by two of the largest U.S. trading partners could result in billions in tariffs affecting multiple sectors of the U.S. economy, threatening the livelihoods of American families.

(See also the discussion of the March 25, 2015: Hearing to examine the implications of potential retaliatory measures taken against the United States in response to meat labeling requirements under “D. Oversight”.)

2. Bills Acted on by the House But Not the Senate

H.R. 1317, To amend the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify how clearing requirements apply to certain affiliate transactions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1317 was introduced by Representative Gwen Moore on March 4, 2015. The bill was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture. On September 30, 2015, the Committee on Agriculture ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by a voice vote. On November 16, 2015, the House passed the bill by a voice vote.

H.R. 1317 would amend the Commodity Exchange Act (CEA) to provide an exemption for certain swaps from the clearing requirements of the Dodd-Frank Act so long as the swap transaction hedges or mitigates the commercial risk of an entity that is not a financial entity.

H.R. 2289, Commodity End-User Relief Act

H.R. 2289 was introduced by Representative K. Michael Conaway on May 13, 2015. The bill was referred to the Agriculture Committee. On May 29, 2015, the Committee ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by a voice vote. On June 9, 2015, the bill

was considered in the House under a rule and passed with 246 yeas to 171 nays.

This legislation reauthorizes the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to better protect futures customers, to provide end-users with market certainty, to make basic reforms to ensure transparency and accountability at the Commission, to help farmers, ranchers, and end-users manage risks, to help keep consumer costs low, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass and makes numerous changes to the CEA to better protect end-users and to reduce regulatory burdens on end-users.

H.R. 2647, Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015

H.R. 2647 was introduced by Representative Bruce Westerman on June 4, 2015. The bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources. On June 11, 2015, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by a vote of 22 yeas to 15 nays. On June 17, 2015, the Committee on Agriculture ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by a voice vote. On July 9, the bill was considered in the House under a rule and passed the House by a vote of 262 yeas to 167 nays.

This legislation attempts to address the core issues facing the Forest Service: lengthy and costly planning processes to complete needed hazardous fuel reduction projects and the threat of litigation forcing the Forest Service and BLM to take an overly cautious approach to forest management. H.R. 2647 addresses these challenges by including categorical exclusions for processes that are routine and have known effects, allowing the agencies to perform forest management activities earlier to save time and taxpayer money. It rewards collaboration, giving all interest groups a seat at the table, and minimizes the threat of litigation of these collaborative projects. H.R. 2647 imposes no new requirements or burdens on the Forest Service or BLM. It expands upon the successes of the 2014 Farm Bill and the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. H.R. 2647 retains many environmental safeguards to ensure the respective land management agencies use these authorities in a reasonable and environmentally safe manner.

3. House Resolutions Considered in the House

None.

4. Bills Reported by the Committee on Agriculture But Not Considered

H.R. 470, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Land Adjustment Act of 2015

H.R. 470 was introduced by Representative Doug Collins on January 22, 2015. The bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture. On September 14, 2016, the Committee ordered the bill to be reported by a voice vote.

Currently, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) owns numerous tracts of land in Georgia that exist as small isolated parcels, disconnected

from the core lands of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest. Intervening growth and development hinders efforts to bridge gaps between the core National Forest and outlying lands and, thus, is the primary reason that many of these tracts no longer warrant Federal ownership. The Committee believes managing these tracts for public benefit and use is a waste of taxpayer money.

At the same time, the USFS has identified critical inholdings, edge-holdings, and connections that if added to National Forest lands, would streamline land management, better protect flora and fauna, and add value to the National Forest as a recreational asset.

H.R. 470, the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Land Adjustment Act of 2015, will allow the sale of these isolated parcels (30 in total; 3,841 acres; as identified as desired disposal by the USFS). The proceeds from the sale of these parcels will go into a Federal account that the USFS may use only to buy critical inholdings from willing sellers. The funds could only be spent inside the existing USFS proclamation boundary in Georgia.

Georgia's lone National Forest is a huge economic generator. Opportunities for hunting, fishing and hiking will improve with the consolidation of Federal lands. H.R. 470 is a pragmatic way to make the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest a better place to recreate.

5. Bills Reported by Other Committees Within the Committee on Agriculture's Jurisdiction But Not Considered

H.R. 37, Promoting Job Creation and Reducing Small Business Burdens Act

H.R. 37 was introduced by Representative Michael Fitzpatrick on January 6, 2015. The bill was referred the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture. On January 14, 2015 the legislation passed the House by a vote of 271 yeas to 154 nays.

H.R. 37 includes several derivatives provisions. Section 201 of H.R. 37 would exempt swaps traded between an affiliate of a non-financial firm and another company from the clearing and exchange-trading requirements. Separately, Title V of H.R. 37, the Swap Data Repository and Clearinghouse Indemnification Corrections, would remove a requirement, added in the Dodd-Frank Act, that foreign regulators indemnify a U.S.-based swap data repository for any expenses arising from litigation related to a request for market data.

H.R. 373, Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act

H.R. 373 was introduced by Representative Joseph Heck on January 14, 2015. The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture. On April 15, 2015, the Committee on Agriculture discharged the legislation. On April 28, 2015, H.R. 373 passed the House by a vote of 413 yeas to 0 nays.

This legislation directs the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to implement a process to provide eligible organizations and individuals expedited access to Federal land to conduct Good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions,

which are searches for one or more missing individuals believed to be deceased at the time that the search is initiated.

H.R. 399, Secure Our Border First Act of 2015

H.R. 399 was introduced by Representative Michael McCaul on January 16, 2015. The bill was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Natural Resources, and Agriculture. On January 27, 2015, the Committee on Agriculture discharged the legislation.

The purpose of H.R. 399 is to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to gain and maintain operational control of the international borders of the United States.

H.R. 894, To extend the authorization of the Highlands Conservation Act

H.R. 894 was introduced by Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen on February 11, 2015. The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture. On April 21, 2015, the Committee on Agriculture discharged the legislation.

The Northeastern Highlands is a geographic region that encompasses over two million acres stretching from western Connecticut across the Lower Hudson River Valley and northern New Jersey into east central Pennsylvania. About 1.4 million people live in the Highlands Region, which is adjacent to one of the most populous metropolitan regions of the nation, and is the source of the region's drinking water.

The purpose of the Highlands Conservation Act (Public Law 108–421) is to promote conservation of natural resources and conservation lands as identified in the U.S. Forest Service's update of the NY–NJ Highlands Regional Study and state open space plans. The bill reauthorizes \$11 million annually for land conservation partnership projects and for technical assistance to private landowners and local communities under this law. The program funds land acquisition by the affected states—not the Federal Government.

H.R. 1214, National Forest Small Tracts Act Amendments Act of 2015

H.R. 1214 was introduced by Representative Mark Amodei on March 3, 2015. The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture. On June 8, 2015, the Committee on Agriculture discharged the legislation. On September 16, 2015, H.R. 1214 passed the House by a vote of 403 yeas to 0 nays.

H.R. 1214 would amend the Small Tracts Act (Public Law 97–465) to allow for the sale of small isolated parcels as well as parcels encumbered with certain special uses such as cemeteries. Proceeds from the sale of National Forest System lands would be deposited in a Sisk Act account and may be used for acquisition of lands for administrative sites or recreational access, to address deferred maintenance for administrative sites or recreational access or to reimburse the agency for administrative costs for preparing the sales.

H.R. 1214 would allow the Forest Service to more efficiently resolve land ownership challenges that exist in virtually every Rang-

er District. The benefits of expanded small parcel conveyance authority include the ability to: (1) sell parcels under 40 acres that are isolated, inaccessible, and are difficult to administer; (2) convey small parcels currently authorized under special use permits of a long-term nature with accompanying potential liability issues, like cemeteries, landfills, and sewage treatment facilities; (3) reduce efforts spent addressing individual legislative proposals needed to address these issues; (4) resolve certain encroachments of permanent, habitable structures which cannot readily be resolved under existing authorities; and (5) retain sale proceeds which can be used for deferred maintenance for recreational access and administrative sites, to acquire lands for recreational access or administrative sites, or to reimburse for administrative costs of preparing competitive sales (acquisitions would be proponent funded for non-competitive sales).

H.R. 1991, Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act Extension Act of 2015

H.R. 1991 was introduced by Rob Bishop on April 23, 2015. The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture. On June 12, 2015, the Committee on Agriculture discharged the legislation.

H.R. 1991 extends the authority of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. The Federal Lands Recreation Act (FLREA), 16 U.S.C. 6809, provides an authority for Federal land management agencies to manage recreation sites with fees received from visitors. Specifically, it allows for the collection of fees for certain types of developed recreation sites and requires that the collected funds be used for operation, maintenance and improvement of those sites. The proposed legislation would allow Federal agencies to continue to implement FLREA for one additional year while a bill to further extend existing authority or provide for permanent authority can be developed.

H.R. 2358, Electricity Reliability and Forest Production Act

H.R. 2358 was introduced by Representative Ryan Zinke on May 15, 2015. The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture. On October 6, 2015, the Committee on Agriculture discharged the legislation.

The purpose of H.R. 2358 is to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to enhance the reliability of the electricity grid and reduce the threat of wildfires to and from electric transmission and distribution facilities on Federal lands by facilitating vegetation management on such lands.

H.R. 2406, Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act (SHARE Act)

H.R. 2406 was introduced by Representative Robert J. Wittman on May 19, 2015. The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Energy and Commerce, Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Judiciary. On December 10, 2015, the Committee on Agriculture

discharged the legislation. On February 26, 2016, the House passed the bill by a vote of 242 yeas to 151 nays.

H.R. 2406, the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2015 (SHARE Act), as amended, aims to protect Second Amendment rights and ensure that future generations of Americans will have ample access to Federal lands to hunt, fish, and recreationally shoot. Reliable access is necessary to sustain our nation's rich outdoor sporting tradition heritage and benefits the men and women that make up the industries that support it. Outdoor sporting activities, including hunting, fishing and recreational shooting, are deeply engrained in the fabric of America's culture and heritage. Much of this activity occurs on America's Federal lands. Federal agencies often prevent or impede access to federal lands for hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting that should otherwise be available for those activities. Since lack of access is one of the key reasons why sportsmen and women may stop participating in traditional outdoor sporting activities, ensuring that the public has reliable access to our nation's Federal lands must remain a priority.

The SHARE Act includes many provisions to accomplish these goals. First, it implements an 'open until closed' management policy on Federal lands to facilitate sustained access for hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting and protects sportsmen and women from arbitrary efforts by the Federal Government to close lands to those activities. However, it does not prioritize hunting and fishing over other multiple uses of Federal lands. The bill also requires Federal agencies to consider the use of volunteers from the hunting community to cull excess animals on Federal lands; prevents the Departments of the Interior and Commerce from restricting recreational or commercial fishing access on marine waters without coordination with and approval of the applicable state or territory; prevents U.S. Forest Service restrictions on hunting, fishing, and shooting in certain National Forests in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi; creates a new cost structure for small film crews operating on Federal lands; adjusts funding limitations to make more funds available to states to establish and maintain recreational shooting ranges; authorizes bows and crossbows to be lawfully transported on National Park System lands with certain restrictions; and allows the National Park Service to establish hunter access corridors through National Park System units that are used to access adjacent Federal land that is open to hunting. The bill also reauthorizes and amends the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act by emphasizing the acquisition of parcels that provide recreational access and providing Federal agencies with the option to use funds generated by land sales for deferred maintenance activities, in addition to the purchase of land.

The bill also protects Second Amendment rights and the use of traditional ammunition and fishing tackle. It protects individuals' Constitutional right to bear arms on lands owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Congress passed legislation allowing citizens to exercise this right on National Parks and other Federal lands, but did not address lands owned by the Corps. The bill also protects the use of traditional ammunition and fishing tackle by reiterating and clarifying existing law that clearly limits the Environmental

Protection Agency's authority to regulate those components under the Toxic Substances Control Act. It also prevents certain Federal agencies from regulating the use of ammunition and fishing tackle based on lead content, but retains the existing prohibition of lead used in waterfowl hunting.

Finally, the bill prevents the regulation of lawfully possessed ivory products and eliminates red tape associated with the importation of hunting trophies. The bill prevents the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from implementing onerous rules banning the domestic sale and trade of lawfully possessed ivory products, including musical instruments, firearms, and antiques that include ivory, and ensures that sport-hunted elephant trophies can be legally imported from countries with sustainable elephant populations. It also allows for the importation of certain already legally-taken polar bear hunting trophies that, through no fault of sportsmen or women, have become trapped in bureaucratic red tape. However, the bill does not open the door to future imports.

H.R. 4894, To repeal title II of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act

H.R. 4894 was introduced by Representative Lynn Westmoreland on April 11, 2016. The bill was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, the Judiciary, and Ways and Means. On May 19, 2016, the Committee on Agriculture discharged the legislation.

H.R. 4894 repeals Title II of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to ensure that taxpayers will not pay the costs of bailing out large financial institutions or their creditors. Title II establishes an Orderly Liquidation Authority (OLA) that grants the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) the authority to resolve certain non-bank financial institutions in the event of their failure and the authority to borrow from the Treasury to capitalize an 'orderly liquidation fund' that it is authorized to be used to pay off the creditors of a failed firm.

H.R. 5346, Securing our Agriculture and Food Act

H.R. 5346 was introduced by Representative David Young on May 26, 2016. The bill was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Agriculture. On September 19, 2016, the Committee on Agriculture was discharged from consideration of the legislation. On September 26, 2016, the bill passed under suspension of the rules by a voice vote.

The purpose of H.R. 5346 is to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Health Affairs responsible for coordinating the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security related to food, agriculture, and veterinary defense against terrorism, and for other purposes.

6. Bills Ordered Reported by the Committee on Agriculture

See the bills listed under "1. Bills Enacted into Law" and "2. Bills Acted on by the House But Not the Senate."

7. *Bills Ordered Reported but Not Reported by Other Committees Within the Committee on Agriculture's Jurisdiction*

P.L. 114–216 (H.R. 1599), Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015

See the discussion of H.R. 1599 under the “1. Bills Enacted into Law.”

8. *Bills Defeated*

H.R. 897, Reducing Regulatory Burden Act of 2015

See the discussion of H.R. 897 under the “2. Bills Acted on by the House But Not the Senate.”

9. *Bills Acted on by the Committee Included in Other Laws Enacted*

H.R. 2394, National Forest Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2015

See the discussion of P.L. 114–54 under the “1. Bills Enacted into Law.”

H.R. 2088, United States Grain Standards Act Reauthorization Act of 2015

See the discussion of P.L. 114–54 under the “1. Bills Enacted into Law.”

H.R. 2393, Country of Origin Labeling Amendments of 2015

See the discussion of P.L. 114–113 under the “1. Bills Enacted into Law.”

10. *Bills Vetoed*

None.

11. *Bills Acted on by Both Houses But Not Enacted*

None.

12. *Concurrent Resolutions Approved*

None.

Other Bills of Interest: Several bills acted on by other committees, but not acted on by the Committee on Agriculture contain provisions relating to matters within the Committee's jurisdiction. The following are abbreviated summaries of these bills.

P.L. 114–74 (H.R. 1314)

Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015

H.R. 1315 was introduced by Representative Patrick Meehan on March 3, 2015, and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. The Committee on Ways and Means ordered the bill reported on March 25, 2015. On April 15, 2015, the bill passed the House by a voice vote. On May 14, 2015, H.R. 1315 subsequently passed the Senate by a vote of 65 yeas to 33 nays. The President signed the bill into law on November 2, 2015.

H.R. 1314, reported by the Committee on Ways and Means, requires the Treasury Secretary to establish procedures under which an organization claiming exemption from tax under section 501(c),

or certain other provisions, of the Internal Revenue Code (the ‘Code’) but receiving an adverse determination as to either initial classification or a continuing classification may request an administrative appeal to the Internal Revenue Service (‘IRS’) Office of Appeals. The bill would be effective for appeals of determinations made after May 19, 2014.

Section 201 in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 forced a renegotiation of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement, forced those negotiations to happen every 5 years going forward, and capped the targeted rate of return on retained premiums for the insurance companies at 8.6%.

P.L. 114–195 (H.R. 1567)

Global Food Security Act of 2015

H.R. 1567 was introduced by Representative Christopher Smith on March 24, 2015. The bill was referred the Committee on Foreign Affairs. On April 12, 2016, the House passed the bill under suspension of the rules by a vote of 370 yeas to 33 nays. On April 20, 2016, the Senate passed the legislation, as amended, by a voice vote. On July 20, 2016, the President signed the bill into law.

This bill requires the President to coordinate the development and implementation of a comprehensive strategy to accomplish the objectives of promoting global food security, resilience, and nutrition consistent with national food security investment plans.

The President must coordinate the efforts of relevant departments and agencies in implementing the Global Food Security Strategy by establishing monitoring and evaluation systems, coherence, and coordination across relevant departments and agencies; and platforms for regular consultation and collaboration with key stakeholders.

By October 1, 2016, the President must submit the strategy to Congress, including a detailed description of how the United States intends to advance the objectives and agency-specific implementation plans.

The bill authorizes the President to provide foreign assistance to implement the strategy and prevent or address food shortages. The President must ensure that assistance to implement the strategy is provided under established parameters for a system to monitor and evaluate the progress and impact of the strategy, including by providing specified reports to Congress and the public.

H.R. 3049, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016

H.R. 3049 was introduced by Representative Robert Aderholt on July 14, 2015 and the Committee on Appropriations subsequently filed H. Rept. 114–205.

The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee has jurisdiction over the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), except for the Forest Service, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), and the Farm Credit Administration (FCA). The Subcommittee’s responsibility covers a vast and diverse group of agencies responsible for such things as promoting

the production of a plentiful food supply; assisting farmers and ranchers across the country with sound production practices; improving the quality-of-life and vitality of communities in rural America; assisting indigent populations in the U.S. and abroad with basic nutritional needs; research and development in agriculture to improve productivity and stability; overseeing commodity markets that provide confidence for businesses, traders, investors, and the public; supporting a safe food supply; and safe and effective drugs and devices. The activities of these agencies impact every American every day of the year.

The Fiscal Year 2016 discretionary spending in this bill totals \$20,650,000,000, which is \$175,000,000 below the Fiscal Year 2015 enacted level and \$1,135,697,000 below the President's budget request for Fiscal Year 2016.

The funding levels provided in this appropriations bill continue to demonstrate how seriously this Committee takes its responsibility to fund the highest priority programs and activities while helping to address the nation's debt, deficit, and economic challenges.

The Committee does not include funding to begin new programs, terminates eight outdated programs, and, except where specifically noted, does not provide additional funding for pay increases. The Committee identified savings of almost \$1 billion at USDA, saves on leasing costs at the CFTC, and reins in regulatory overreach at the FDA.

H.R. 3049 included a provision to allow producers to use commodity certificated in exchange for marketing loan gains and Loan Deficiency Payments which were subjected to the combined \$125,000 payment limit in the Agricultural Act of 2014.

H.R. 1735, National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2016

H.R. 1735 was introduced by Representative Mac Thornberry on April 13, 2015. The bill was referred to the Committee on Armed Services. This legislation contained provisions within the Committee on Agriculture's jurisdiction. The Committee on Agriculture was discharged from consideration of the legislation. On May 15, 2015, the House passed the bill by a vote of 268 yeas to 151 nays. On June 18, 2015, the Senate passed the bill by a vote of 71 yeas to 25 nays. The Conference Report passed the House on October 1, 2015 and subsequently passed the Senate on October 7, 2015. The bill was vetoed by the President on October 22, 2015.

The bill would: (1) Authorize appropriations for Fiscal Year 2016 for procurement and for research, development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E); (2) Authorize appropriations for Fiscal Year 2016 for operation and maintenance (O&M) and for working capital funds; (3) Authorize for Fiscal Year 2016: (a) the personnel strength for each Active Duty component of the military departments; and (b) the personnel strength for the Selected Reserve for each Reserve Component of the Armed Forces; (4) Modify various elements of compensation for military personnel and impose certain requirements and limitations on personnel actions in the defense establishment; (5) Authorize appropriations for Fiscal Year 2016 for military construction and family housing; (6) Authorize appropria-

tions for Overseas Contingency Operations; (7) Authorize appropriations for Fiscal Year 2016 for the Department of Energy national security programs; and (8) Authorize appropriations for Fiscal Year 2016 for the Maritime Administration.

The legislation ended the military's nutritional assistance program for stateside service members. Those households will then exclusively apply for SNAP. Service members stationed abroad would retain their Family Supplemental Subsistence Allowance.

H.R. 5054, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Appropriations Act, 2017

H.R. 5054 was introduced by Representative Robert Aderholt on April 26, 2016. The bill was referred to the Committee on Appropriations. The Committee on Appropriations subsequently filed H. Rept. 114-531.

The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee has jurisdiction over the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), except for the Forest Service, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), and the Farm Credit Administration (FCA). The Subcommittee's responsibility covers a vast and diverse group of agencies responsible for such things as promoting the production of a plentiful food supply; assisting farmers and ranchers across the country with sound production practices; improving the quality-of-life and vitality of communities in rural America; assisting indigent populations in the U.S. and abroad with basic nutritional needs; research and development in agriculture to improve productivity and stability; overseeing commodity markets that provide confidence for businesses, traders, investors, and the public; supporting a safe food supply; and safe and effective drugs and medical devices. The activities of these agencies impact every American every day of the year.

The Fiscal Year 2017 discretionary spending in this bill totals \$21,299,000,000, which is \$451,000,000 below the Fiscal Year 2016 enacted level and \$281,000,000 below the President's budget request for Fiscal Year 2017.

The funding levels provided in this appropriations bill continue to demonstrate how seriously this Committee takes its responsibility to fund the highest priority programs and activities while helping to address the nation's debt, deficit, and economic challenges.

The Committee does not include funding to begin new programs and, except where specifically noted, does not provide additional funding for pay increases. The Committee identifies savings of almost \$1,000,000,000 at USDA, provides relief for excessive leasing costs at the CFTC, and reins in regulatory overreach at the FDA, USDA, and CFTC.

D. OVERSIGHT

The Committee on Agriculture and its subcommittees were active in their oversight functions, holding a number of oversight hearings and activities during the 114th Congress. The hearings related to the application, administration, and effectiveness of laws that lie within the Committee's jurisdiction as well as the organization and

operation of the Department of Agriculture and other federal agencies having responsibility for the administration of such laws. The hearings often result in recommendations for improvements in the administration of the laws, regulations and policies in effect in the Executive Branch as they relate to the Committee's jurisdiction. Information gathered at these hearings was useful in preparing legislation for consideration in the House of Representatives.

As part of its hearings, the Committee and its subcommittees reviewed the way the particular federal agency or department (usually the Department of Agriculture) administered existing laws related to the subject matter of the legislation before, or to be considered by, the Committee. In some cases, legislation favorably reported to the House carries a termination date (a "sunset") to ensure that in the future Congress will again review the effectiveness and the methods with which the Executive Branch of Government has carried out the letter and the spirit of that statute.

In keeping with the objective of the Oversight Plan, as submitted to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and House Administration, and Rule XI, clause 2 of the House of Representatives, the Committee and its subcommittees conducted the following chronological oversight hearings during the 114th Congress (Note: To see a copy of the Oversight Plan as submitted, see "I. Summary of Organization, Jurisdiction, and Oversight Plan of the Committee on Agriculture."):

1. Oversight Hearings

February 11, 2015: *Hearing To Review the State of the Rural Economy.* Full Committee. Serial No. 114-1.

The purpose of this hearing was to examine the state of the rural economy. The sole witness, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, discussed implementation of each of the 12 titles of the farm bill. Members of the Committee asked Secretary Vilsack questions regarding the President's FY 2016 USDA Budget Request, mandatory country-of-origin labeling, the West Coast ports labor dispute, the waters of the U.S. proposed rule, and forest management, among other issues.

February 12, 2015: *Hearing To Review the 2015 Agenda for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.* Full Committee. Serial No. 114-2.

The purpose of this hearing was to review the 2015 agenda for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. The sole witness, Chairman Timothy G. Massad, discussed and answered questions regarding the reauthorization of the CFTC.

February 25, 2015: *Past, Present, and Future of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.* Full Committee. Serial No. 114-3, Part 1.

The purpose of the hearing was to launch the top-to-bottom review of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by examining the past, present, and future of the program. This hearing begins the full-scale review of the SNAP program, so that as the Committee approaches reauthorization, the review will help prepare the Committee to make meaningful improvements to the program. This hearing provided Members of the Committee a brief

history of the program, the current state of the program, and a potential vision for the future.

February 26, 2015: *SNAP Recipient Characteristics and Dynamics*. Subcommittee on Nutrition. Serial No. 114–3, Part 1.

The purpose of this hearing was to better understand the SNAP population through published research on the characteristics and dynamics of participants of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The hearing gave Members an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the SNAP population and various subpopulations. Members discussed with the witnesses various aspects of SNAP enrollment and re-certification, studies on duration of participation in the program, and circumstances in which a household would cycle on and off the program, known as “churn.”

March 17, 2015: *Hearing To Review the Definition of Waters of the United States Proposed Rule and Its Impact on Rural America*. Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry. Serial No. 114–4.

The purpose of this hearing was to examine how the proposed waters of the United States rule will impact rural America. Members of the Subcommittee heard testimony from nine witnesses over two panels. The witnesses were a variety of stakeholders representing rural American interests. Subcommittee Members called for the proposed rule to be pulled and re-proposed after working with states and stakeholders; or, the rule should be reissued, with the changes the Administration has promised, for another round of public comment before finalizing the rule.

March 18, 2015: *The Importance of Trade to U.S. Agriculture*. Full Committee. Serial No. 114–5.

In light of ongoing Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and (T–TTIP) negotiations, the purpose of this hearing was to gather input from industry representatives regarding the general benefits of trade to their individual sectors, as well as their views on the importance of Trade Promotion Authority (TPA). Throughout the hearing, Members and witnesses emphasized the importance of the U.S. working to expand market access while eliminating international barriers to trade—especially considering that 95 percent of the world’s population resides outside of the United States. The witnesses made it clear that passing TPA is key to such an effort.

March 24, 2015: *Examination of the Costs and Impacts of Mandatory Biotechnology Labeling Laws*. Full Committee. Serial No. 114–6.

Members heard from witnesses regarding several current efforts to require labeling of foods containing products derived from biotechnology. These efforts are not driven by evidence that biotechnology is actually dangerous. Indeed, the science is quite clear: crop improvement by the modern molecular techniques of biotechnology is safe. Rather, these initiatives are driven by a variety of factors, ranging from the persistent perception that such foods are somehow “unnatural” and potentially dangerous to the desire to gain competitive advantage by legislating attachment of a label meant to alarm. Another misconception used as a rationale for labeling is that biotech crops are untested. It is the long-standing policy of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that special labeling of a food is required if the absence of the information provided poses a special health or environmental risk. The FDA does

not require labeling of a food based on the specific genetic modification procedure used in the development of its input crops. Legally mandating such a label can only serve to mislead and falsely alarm consumers. Witnesses testified on the need for federal legislation to provide a consistent, uniform standard for labeling of non-bioengineered products and to codify the existing FDA policy concerning mandated labeling.

March 24, 2015: *Reauthorizing the CFTC: End-User Views*. Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit. Serial No. 114–7.

The purpose of this hearing was to examine the impact of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission’s (CFTC) actions on end-users—those businesses that provide our daily goods and services, and which rely on derivatives contracts to manage the risks of their operations. The panel of witnesses expressed concern with CFTC rulemakings that directly impact end-users by adding new regulatory burdens or reducing regulatory certainty; structural changes to the markets that do not reflect how end-users traditionally interact with the markets; and regulatory burdens on financial intermediaries, who are the counterparties to end-users, or the financial agents of end-users.

March 25, 2015: *Reauthorizing the CFTC: Market Participant Views*. Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit. Serial No. 114–7.

In advance of writing legislation to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), the Subcommittee heard from a variety of market participants including representatives of the National Futures Association, the two largest derivatives exchanges, a futures commission merchant, and a swap execution facility. The witnesses described how end-users rely on the providers of market infrastructure—exchanges, the Self-Regulatory Organization (SROs), Futures Commission Merchants (FCMs), and Swap Execution Facilities (SEFs)—to provide organized, safe, and affordable markets to manage their risks in. Furthermore, they testified as to how, over the past several years, the CFTC and other regulators have implemented a complex web of new rulemakings that place additional regulations and burdens on financial intermediaries and exchanges that are ultimately making hedging more expensive for end-users.

March 26, 2015: *Implementing the Agricultural Act of 2014: Commodity Policy and Crop Insurance*. Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management. Serial No. 114–9.

The purpose of this hearing was to examine implementation of Titles I and XI of the Agricultural Act of 2014, which was signed into law February 7, 2014. With implementation nearing completion, much of Act has been implemented satisfactorily by USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA). However, a small number of technical items have the potential to produce many unintended consequences if they are not implemented as Congress intended. Subcommittee Members heard implementation updates from the two witnesses—the RMA Administrator and the FSA Administrator. Subcommittee Members inquired about different outstanding implementation issues, including assignment of yields on generic base acres; use of cover crops

on generic base acres; administrative FSA counties; and among other issues.

April 14, 2015: *A Presentation by National 4-H Conference Participants Concerning the Future of Agriculture in the United States.* Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research. Serial No. 114-10.

This hearing was the first in a series of hearings that will highlight programs and activities which support the potential growth of a rural/urban coalition. While the Committee has always sought to promote policies that ensure access to safe and affordable food, there has been a steady escalation in the number of organizations and individuals questioning the continuing need for these policies. Through these hearings, the Committee intends to continue in its historical role as an advocate for production agriculture interests while likewise improving transparency relating to these production systems so as to understand and effectively address concerns stemming from urban and suburban communities. Members heard from 17 participants in the National 4-H Conference about the importance of a rural/urban coalition in agriculture, the challenges of food and fiber production as it relates to the future of agriculture, and how to best enhance global food security.

April 14, 2015: *Reauthorizing the CFTC: Commissioners' Perspectives.* Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy and Credit. Serial No. 114-7.

The purpose of this hearing was to give subcommittee Members the opportunity to see what has improved at the Commission with the arrival of Chairman Massad and what processes continue to be cause for concern. The hearing also gave the three Commissioners at the CFTC an opportunity to share their views regarding current rulemakings; issues they believe warrant the Committee's attention; and most importantly, what subcommittee Members should prioritize as they work to reauthorize the CFTC.

April 15, 2015: *Past, Present and Future of SNAP: The World of Nutrition and the Role of the Charitable Sector.* Full Committee. Serial No. 114-3, Part 1.

This hearing is a continuation of the full-scale review, of the SNAP program the Agriculture Committee is conducting titled *The Past, Present, and Future of SNAP*. This hearing provided Members of the Committee a big picture view of the world of nutrition to understand that the government is not alone in providing nutrition assistance. Many charitable organizations and non-governmental entities play a critical role in helping families overcome poverty. Our witnesses from the charitable sector discussed the collaboration that must exist between the private-sector and the government to best fight hunger and poverty.

April 29, 2015: *Hearing To Review the National Forest System and Active Forest Management.* Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry. Hearing Serial No. 114-13.

The purpose of this hearing was to review the management of the National Forest System and conduct oversight over implementation of the forestry provisions in the Agricultural Act of 2014. Members heard testimony from U.S. Forest Service Chief Thomas L. Tidwell, as well as stakeholders representing forestry, sportsmen and conservation industries. Several topics were discussed during

questioning, including wildfire prevention and suppression funding; timelines for implementing the final farm bill provisions; the Endangered Species Act recent listings and the impacts on forests; challenges for the U.S. Forest Service; and others.

May 13, 2015: *Hearing To Review the Federal Coordination and Response Regarding Pollinator Health.* Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research. Hearing Serial No. 114–14.

On June 20, 2014, the White House issued a Presidential Memorandum (PM) directing federal agencies to coordinate in developing a national strategy with the Secretary of Agriculture and Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency appointed as co-chairmen. Their report was due December 20, 2014. Unfortunately, while the PM directed coordination between and among agencies, EPA and other agencies of the Department of Interior began moving forward with a political agenda regarding neonicotinoid pesticides without either coordination with USDA or scientific justification for their actions. This hearing focused on activities of EPA and USDA in regards to coordination on the regulation of pesticides and other components of the overall strategy for promoting pollinator health. Subsequent to the hearing, the national strategy document was released for public review. The Subcommittee will engage stakeholders during this review with the goal of ensuring the strategy represents a workable framework for promotion of pollinator health.

May 20, 2015: *Past, Present and Future of SNAP: The World of Nutrition, Government Duplication and Unmet Needs.* Subcommittee on Nutrition. Serial No. 114–3, Part 1.

This hearing provided Members of the Committee a big picture view of the world of government nutrition. It is important for Members to understand that SNAP, while it is the largest, is not the only government program providing nutrition assistance and fighting poverty. There are at least 17 other federally funded nutrition programs helping families overcome poverty, which together account for more than \$100 billion every year in domestic food assistance. Members heard from witnesses suggestions on how to improve coordination among various agencies and programs to reduce duplication and better target unmet needs.

June 2, 2015: *Update on the Financial Health of Farm Country.* Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management. Serial No. 114–15.

The purpose of this hearing was to receive an update on the financial health of farm country. Members heard testimony from a representative of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City presenting a macro view of the status of the farm economy, as well as producers from across the country who presented micro views of the financial conditions they were facing. Several witnesses noted the importance of farm bill programs to their farming operations, as well as the impact that international trade has on U.S. production agriculture. Members were specifically interested in how the current situation compares with the farm crisis of the 1980s; how different regions of the country have responded to the drop in commodity prices; the role that crop insurance plays in the producers' operations; and how international trade impacts agriculture.

June 3, 2015: *Review of Agricultural Subsidies in Foreign Countries*. Full Committee. Hearing Serial No. 114–16.

The purpose of this hearing was to review agricultural subsidies in foreign countries. Members heard testimony from Darren Hudson, Ph.D., a professor at Texas Tech University who compiles and maintains a database of 21 countries' domestic agricultural subsidies, as well as Craig A. Thorn, a consultant whose firm recently authored a report entitled, *Agricultural Subsidies in Key Developing Countries*. Both witnesses described how developing countries' agricultural subsidies and support have increased dramatically in recent years and how subsidies can be market- and production-distorting regardless of a country's developed or developing status. There was discussion on how this fits into the Doha Round of World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations; problems with WTO notifications including: discrepancies, misleading Aggregate Measure of Support (AMS) calculations, and delinquent notifications; and different paths forward to bring countries with market- and production-distorting subsidies into compliance.

June 10, 2015: *Past, Present and Future of SNAP: The Means to Climbing the Economic Ladder*. Full Committee. Serial No. 114–3, Part 1.

This hearing continued upon the Agriculture Committee's review of the Past, Present and Future of SNAP. The focus of this hearing was for Members to better understand the ways individuals move out of poverty and into employment and higher earning jobs. For most individuals, getting an entry-level job is easier than maintaining that job, or improving toward higher paying jobs that can actually support their families. We heard from witnesses who work directly with low-income or unemployed clients about the innovative methods they utilize for helping their clients move out of poverty and up the economic ladder. One witness described his organization's three week attitudinal job prep class for clients with limited work experience. Another witness described conducting comprehensive assessments of clients with medical or mental health barriers to determine what capabilities they do have so they could be match with appropriate work. The panel was consistent that these short-term efforts must be accompanied by long-term case management in order for individuals to achieve overall success.

June 11, 2015: *Implementing the Agricultural Act of 2014: Conservation Programs*. Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry. Serial No. 114–17.

The purpose of this hearing was to review the implementation of the conservation programs in the Agricultural Act of 2014. Members heard testimony from Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief Jason Weller and Farm Service Agency Administrator Val Dolcini. The second panel comprised stakeholders representing conservation districts, commodity organizations, farmland trusts, and sportsmen groups. Members were especially concerned with the implementation of the linkage of conservation to crop insurance premium subsidies, and the requirement of an AD-1026 form to be filed by June 1, 2015. Other topics of discussion were implementation of new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provisions and the new Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

June 24, 2015: *Hearing To Review U.S. International Food Aid Programs.* Full Committee. Serial No. 114–18.

The purpose of this hearing was to begin a review of current international food aid programs implemented by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and USDA. The hearing was the first in a series of hearings that the Committee will hold over the coming years in preparation for food aid discussions that will occur as part of the next farm bill. The witnesses gave an overview of current programs and discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the manner in which they are currently operated. Members made clear their concerns that food aid reforms being developed by USAID—principally a continued shift to less in-kind donations in exchange for additional cash-based assistance—are not being considered in an open and transparent manner, and as result, the agricultural industry—one of the central partners in the 60 year history of U.S. international food aid—is being excluded from the discussion. Members also made clear that the effects of the reforms made in the 2014 Farm Bill should be closely monitored before making additional reforms, and that the next farm bill is the appropriate legislative vehicle for future reforms.

June 25, 2015: *Past, Present and Future of SNAP: How Our Welfare System Can Discourage Work.* Joint hearing of the Subcommittee on Nutrition and the Subcommittee on Human Resources of the Committee on Ways and Means. Serial No. 114–3, Part 2.

This hearing is a continuation of the full-scale review, of the SNAP program the Agriculture Committee is conducting known as the Past, Present, and Future of SNAP. As we have heard through our review, sometimes higher earnings do not necessarily translate to higher total income. Low-income families often receive many types of welfare and tax benefits, such as assistance with food, housing, and day care costs; help with medical costs; or tax refunds to supplement earnings from work. While the goal of these programs is often to support and encourage employment, benefit “phase-out rules”—especially when combined across multiple programs—mean that they may do just the opposite. This hearing provided information on how these program interactions discourage work and possible solutions to address the problem to ensure that work always pays.

June 25, 2015: *Hearing To Review USDA Marketing Programs.* Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research. Serial No. 114–19.

The purpose of this subcommittee hearing was to review the programs of AMS to gain insight into how a national standard for genetic engineering marketing claims might work. The Quality Assessment Division’s (QAD) Audit Services Branch (ASB) within the Agricultural Marketing Service, Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program, provides a family of user-fee-funded, audit based third-party verification programs and services to the agricultural industry under its Quality Systems Verification Programs (QSVP). The QSVP are designed to provide suppliers the opportunity to assure customers of their ability to provide consistent quality products or services. Under a QSVP, a supplier’s documented quality management system is verified through independent third-party audits

conducted by qualified QAD staff. During an audit, a client's documented quality management system is verified to assure customer requirements and marketing points are being adhered to. In order to ensure consistent auditing practices and promote international recognition of audit results, ASB auditors utilize the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 19011:2011 guidelines for quality management systems auditing. Within the umbrella of QSVP, there are three primary audit programs: Process Verified Program, Quality System Assessment Program, and the Accreditation Program.

July 8, 2015: *Energy and the Rural Economy: The Economic Impact of Exporting Crude Oil.* Full Committee. Serial No. 114–20.

The purpose of this hearing was to explore the economic impacts of lifting the export restrictions on crude oil on the rural economy. Members of the Committee heard testimony from several witnesses, including industry professionals, a state regulator, and a director with the Government Accountability Office (GAO). Members were specifically interested in how lifting the export restrictions would impact rural communities and their constituents. Witnesses responded that relaxing the restrictions would likely be beneficial to rural areas—creating jobs and lowering the price of fuel for consumers.

July 9, 2015: *U.S. International Food Aid Programs: Oversight and Accountability.* Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture. Serial No. 114–21.

This hearing was the second in a series to review current international food aid programs implemented by USAID and USDA. Witnesses from the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the USDA and USAID Offices of the Inspector General testified about their work to monitor the implementation of various food aid projects. The Members and witnesses made clear that efforts have only just begun to evaluate the issues that come with shifting to cash-based assistance, and much more attention to the matter is needed in order to strike the proper balance of in-kind and cash-based assistance made available through the next farm bill.

July 15, 2015: *Recognizing the Continuing Contributions of the 1890s Land-Grant Universities on the 125th Anniversary of the Passage of the Second Morrill Act.* Full Committee. Serial No. 114–22.

The purpose of the hearing was to recognize the continuing contributions of the 1890 land-grant universities on the 125th Anniversary of the passage of the Second Morrill Act. The purpose of the land-grant colleges was: 'without excluding other scientific and classical studies and including military tactic, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such manner as the legislatures of the states may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life.' As a network of historically black colleges and universities dedicated to providing educational opportunity for all through innovative scientific research and community-minded extension programs, the 1890 land-grant universities are providing relevant and distinctive teaching programs for a broad spectrum of students, but particularly for first generation college students and those who have limited opportunities; addressing health disparities

and obesity prevention; enhancing capacity, marketability, profitability, sustainability and diversity in agricultural enterprises for small and limited resource operations; engaging young people through leadership development and 4-H and in programs and activities that enhance their understanding and interest in STEM education and careers; developing and expanding national and international access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food; enhancing the resilience of families, individuals and communities for upward social and economic mobility; engaging individuals and communities in environmental stewardship; and conducting cutting-edge research to generate new knowledge and solutions to global challenges.

July 15, 2015: *Past, Present and Future of SNAP: Developing and Using Evidence-Based Solutions.* Subcommittee on Nutrition. Serial No. 114-3, Part 3.

This hearing is a continuation of the full-scale review, of the SNAP program the Agriculture Committee is conducting known as the Past, Present, and Future of SNAP. Evidence-based solutions are determined through program evaluation. It is a robust approach to collecting, analyzing, interpreting, and communicating information about the effectiveness of social programs or intervention, which are the variations or additional services within the program, for the purpose of improving social conditions. Social science research methods have improved greatly reducing the cost, and increasing the timeliness and usability of more sophisticated results that can specifically isolate the positive and negative impacts of interventions. Yet, these advancements have yet to catch on in SNAP. By knowing what works and what doesn't, limited program resources can be better targeted to those interventions that have the greatest impact to ultimately improve the program.

July 22, 2015: *Oversight of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.* Full Committee. Serial No. 114-23.

The purpose of this hearing was to conduct oversight over operations at USDA. The sole witness was Secretary of Agriculture Thomas "Tom" J. Vilsack, and he responded to questions from Members of the Committee on a variety of subjects, including the slow-moving Modernize and Innovate the Delivery of Agricultural Systems (MIDAS) program; questionable practices in the StrikeForce Pilot Program; problems with the Acreage and Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative (ACRSI); program integrity within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); and others.

July 29, 2015: *Dodd-Frank Turns Five: Assessing the Progress of Global Derivatives Reforms.* Full Committee. Serial No. 114-24.

The purpose of this hearing was to assess how the Dodd-Frank Act has and has not helped to achieve the goals developed at the G20 summit in response to the 2008 financial crisis to make derivatives markets safer. Members and witnesses voiced concern that a lack of global coordination and harmonization is jeopardizing the implementation of the promised and widely supported reforms in areas of clearing, margining, electronic execution, data reporting, and capital standards.

July 30, 2015: *Examination of Federal and State Response to Avian Influenza.* Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture. Serial No. 114–25.

The purpose of this hearing was to discuss lessons learned from USDA and the states' response to the recent outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza and how those lessons will be applied if and when there is another outbreak this fall when temperatures begin to drop. Members and witnesses discussed the process of depopulating infected flocks, issues with disposal of the resulting waste, the indemnification process, biosecurity challenges, progress on the development of a vaccine, and trade implications.

September 15, 2015: *Hearing To Review USDA Organization and Program Administration—Part 1.* Full Committee. Serial No. 114–26.

This was the first of two educational hearings to provide Members of the Committee with more information about USDA. The three USDA mission areas focused on during this hearing were: Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services (FFAS); Natural Resources and Environment (NRE); and Research, Education, and Economics (REE). Each mission area's Under Secretary and agency Administrators gave testimony and answered questions from Members.

September 16, 2015: *Hearing To Review USDA Organization and Program Administration—Part 2.* Full Committee. Serial No. 114–26.

This was the second of two educational hearings to provide Members of the Committee with more information about the USDA. The three USDA mission areas focused on during this hearing were: Rural Development (RD); Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP); Food Safety (FS); and Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services (FNCS). Each mission area's Under Secretary and agency Administrators gave testimony and answered questions from Members.

September 29, 2015: *Hearing To Highlight Research Innovations Achieved by Our Nation's Agricultural Colleges and Universities.* Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research. Serial No. 114–27.

Members heard about innovative agricultural research being done at our nation's agricultural colleges and universities, in which many projects are funded through federal research programs. Witnesses discussed the policy challenges facing the research community, such as extension and outreach, mechanisms to leverage federal resources, cooperation between the various institutions, and other issues of importance to the community.

September 30, 2015: *U.S. International Food Aid Programs: Stakeholder Perspectives.* Full Committee. Serial No. 114–28.

The purpose of this hearing was to continue the Committee's review of U.S. international food aid programs by giving private voluntary organizations, commodity groups, and agricultural suppliers an opportunity to share their experiences regarding the strengths and potential weaknesses of the current slate of programs administered by USDA and USAID. The hearing helped Members develop a better understanding of the implementing partners' respective roles in the overall scheme of international food aid, and the witness' input will serve as a valuable guide for future farm bill nego-

tiations through which the Committee will strive to strike the appropriate balance between in-kind and cash-based assistance.

October 7, 2015: *Hearing To Review the development of the 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.* Full Committee. Serial No. 114–29.

This hearing allowed Members to register their concerns about the 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans process with both Secretary Vilsack and Secretary Burwell as the two Departments prepare to release the Guidelines in December 2015. The Committee has no intention to legislate specific recommendations or guidelines, however Committee Members were clear in their demand that the Guidelines be based on sound, consistent, and irrefutable science, as inaccurate and conflicting dietary guidance messages are detrimental to consumer understanding of nutrition and their ability to implement healthy diets. Both Secretary Vilsack and Secretary Burwell indicated that the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee was advisory in nature and expected the final 2015 Guidelines to be similar to 2010. The Secretaries also committed to not venturing into areas of sustainability and tax policy when writing the final Guidelines.

October 8, 2015: *Hearing To Review the 2015 Fire Season and Long-Term Trends.* Committee on Conservation and Forestry. Serial No. 114–30.

The purpose of this hearing was to review the 2015 fire season and the long-term trends of forest fires in our nation, especially in our National Forests. The 2015 fire season was catastrophic over much of the West, and there are several reasons why—including lack of active forest management, a strained Forest Service budget, burdensome environmental processes, and drought, to name a few. Members heard testimony from Forest Service Chief Tidwell on the first panel, and stakeholders affected by wildfire comprised the second panel. Their testimonies included different solutions to alleviate this growing problem. The solutions included: increasing the market for wood products; fixing the fire funding problem; incentivizing collaborations with stakeholders; reducing frivolous litigation; and leveraging resources, among others.

October 21, 2015: *Foreign Subsidies: Jeopardizing Free Trade and Harming American Farmers.* Full Committee. Serial No. 114–31.

This hearing provided additional information on how foreign governments are unfairly using subsidies, tariffs, and nontariff barriers to spur domestic production. At a previous House Agriculture Committee hearing, witnesses noted that as the U.S. further reformed domestic support programs, other countries were introducing and otherwise increasing subsidy regimes, which in most cases violated their WTO commitments. This has resulted in drastic over-production that is depressing world prices and U.S. farm income. The witnesses for this hearing consisted of representatives from different commodity organizations as well as a university professor. They highlighted the injury being done to U.S. farmers and ranchers and reaffirmed the need for sound U.S. farm policy.

October 27, 2015: *Past, Present and Future of SNAP: Breaking the Cycle.* Subcommittee on Nutrition. Serial No. 114–3, Part 3.

This hearing explored the impact that poverty has on children and what factors can help to improve the likelihood of success as an adult. Parents want their children to have a better chance at succeeding than they did—it's the definition of economic mobility and the American Dream. This can be a tough goal to attain if the child grows up in a stressful and unstable environment. Like prior hearings, the importance of a holistic approach to addressing poverty is required in order to help children to break the cycle. Testimony was presented by policy experts and an individual who has first-hand experience breaking the cycle of poverty.

October 28, 2015: *Big Data and Agriculture: Innovation and Implications*. Serial No. 114–32.

This hearing was the first in the series examining Big Data and Agriculture. This hearing introduced Members to the concept of big data and its interaction in agriculture. The witness panel was a variety of stakeholders including farmers, equipment manufacturers, and a university professor. Members heard about opportunities that big data presents to the agricultural community as well as the challenges and work being done to address them. Members were specifically interested in data ownership and security, and ways in which Congress could be helpful and not hinder progress being made in the big data realm.

November 4, 2015: *American Agriculture and Our National Security*. Full Committee. Serial No. 114–33.

The Committee recognizes the challenges faced by American agriculture and the need to build a stronger coalition among rural and urban interests that not only support agriculture policy, but also understand the role U.S. agriculture plays in maintaining a strong U.S. economy and stability around the world. With fewer and fewer Americans connected to production agriculture, many in Congress fail to recognize the importance of sound farm policy to our national security. Members spoke with witnesses about the importance of maintaining a secure food supply for both domestic and global security and stability.

November 17, 2015: *U.S. International Food Aid Programs: Transportation Perspectives*. Joint hearing of the Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture of the Committee on Agriculture and the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Serial No. 114–34.

The purpose of this hearing was to continue the Agriculture Committee's review of U.S. international food aid programs. The hearing provided an opportunity to hear from the maritime industry about its longtime role in the transportation of food aid and how proposed changes to existing food aid programs and cargo preference rules would affect that historic partnership. While the agriculture and maritime communities have worked hand-in-hand to deliver food to hungry people around the world for the past 60 years, the vast majority of government-impelled cargo is military hardware. Now with the volume of military cargo declining, the availability of other government-impelled cargoes has assumed greater significance in sustaining a viable U.S. merchant marine. The hearing explored the intersection between food aid shipping

and sealift capacity, particularly that provided by the Maritime Security Program (MSP).

November 18, 2015: *Past, Present and Future of SNAP: The National Commission on Hunger*. Serial No. 114–3, Part 3.

This hearing featured the Co-Chairs of the National Commission on Hunger who shared their efforts over the last year traveling the country to see and listen to those closest to the issue to better understand the challenges, as well as learn about the successes. The Commission’s final report had been expected prior to the hearing, but instead will be released sometime before the end of 2015. The hearing and testimony focused on their year-long process, general themes, and a limited number of recommendations, including addressing the veteran population, utilizing evidence-based strategies, and collaboration across the public and private sector.

December 2, 2015: *Hearing To Review the Farm Credit System*. Full Committee. Serial No. 114–35.

The primary purpose of this hearing was to highlight the Farm Credit System (FCS) and its century-long mission of providing credit to agriculture and rural America, as well as the role of the Farm Credit Administration (FCA) in ensuring the soundness of the Farm Credit System and its lending practices. This hearing was especially timely as producers across the nation face dwindling crop prices and land values. In particular, the hearing provided a platform for Members to explore how the FCA is working to ensure that the System banks are staying within the bounds of their statutory mandate, especially as it pertains to telecommunications loans and “similar entity lending”.

December 9, 2015: *Commodity in Focus: Stress in Cotton Country*. Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management. Serial No. 114–36.

This hearing examined the current state of the cotton industry. With cotton prices hovering below the average cost of production, cotton producers and communities that depend on cotton to drive the local economy face very hard times ahead. The U.S. cotton industry is at an important crossroads. Although U.S. cotton producers are willing and able to efficiently produce a quality cotton crop, the markets in which they operate are being severely distorted by unfair subsidies and other policies of foreign governments. Witnesses included cotton producers as well as an agricultural lender. Members were especially interested in the National Cotton Council’s (NCC) proposal encouraging Secretary Vilsack to use his authority included in the 2014 Farm Bill to list cottonseed as an “other oilseed” and thus be eligible for ARC and PLC.

December 9, 2015: *Oversight of USDA’s Use of Census of Agriculture Authority To Acquire Farmers’ Personal Financial Information*. Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research. Serial No. 114–37.

In January 2015, the Committee, both Majority and Minority, were contacted by farmers and ranchers concerned that the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) improperly used the Census of Agriculture authority to conduct a survey entitled Tenure, Ownership, and Transition of Agricultural Land (TOTAL). By invoking the Census authority, NASS rendered the TOTAL survey compulsory. The Committee began oversight in Feb-

ruary 2015 by requesting briefings by NASS officials and has since reviewed approximately 49,000 documents sent by USDA. Over the course of the Committee's oversight of the TOTAL survey, it became clear that certain anomalies occurred during the planning and approval phase of the survey. Members heard from the Administrator of NASS and raised concerns and questions about the political motivations for the compulsory nature of the TOTAL survey.

January 12, 2016: *Past, Present and Future of SNAP: Addressing Special Populations*. Subcommittee on Nutrition. Serial No. 114-3, Part 4.

This hearing explored the challenges and barriers faced by low-income seniors, veterans, and active-duty military. These demographics are more vulnerable to disabilities, metabolic illnesses, and mental impairments that impede their ability to be fully independent. As said in prior hearings, the importance of a holistic approach to addressing poverty is required in order to best serve the needs of these special populations. Testimony was presented by advocacy organizations, policy experts, and an individual who has first-hand experience dealing with hunger in a low-income military family.

February 2, 2016: *Opportunities and Challenges in Direct Marketing—A View from the Field*. Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research Hearing. Serial No. 114-38.

This hearing discussed the challenges and opportunities farmers and ranchers face in direct marketing ventures including farmers' markets, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), restaurants and more. While much of the hearing focused on the economic factors that drive participation in direct marketing ventures, the subcommittee also looked at how marketing agricultural products directly to consumers can bridge the disconnect between the farmers and consumers.

February 3, 2016: *Hearing To Review Incentive Programs Aimed At Increasing Low-Income Families' Purchasing Power for Fruits and Vegetables*. Subcommittee on Nutrition. Serial No. 114-39.

This hearing provided Members of the Committee a greater understanding of healthy food incentive programs. The 2014 Farm Bill authorized \$100 million for the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) Grant Program, which supports projects to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables among low-income consumers participating in SNAP by providing incentives at the point of purchase. Members learned how incentives are increasing the consumption of healthier foods; explored the challenges and opportunities in incentives moving forward; and learned about opportunities for the local agriculture economies. Testimony was presented by recipient organizations of the FINI grant, a healthcare professional, and a SNAP recipient.

February 10, 2016: *Hearing To Review the 2016 Agenda for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission*. Full Committee. Serial No. 114-40.

The purpose of this hearing was to hear from Chairman Massad regarding the Commission's priorities for the coming year. Much of the discussion centered around Members' concerns regarding the CFTC's failure to properly account for multi-year leases in agency

financial statements, potentially in violation of the Antideficiency Act. Chairman Massad also responded to questions regarding a variety of issues and rulemakings including the CFTC's underutilized office space, the implication of Regulation Automated Trading, position limits, utilization of swap data, and the recent announcement of a path forward with the EU on clearinghouse equivalence.

February 11, 2016: *Hearing To Consider the Impacts of the Environmental Protection Agency's Actions on the Rural Economy.* Full Committee. Serial No. 114-41.

This hearing examined how actions by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) impact rural America. The sole witness for this hearing was EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. A major topic of concern for Members of the Committee was the final rule that redefined waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) under the Clean Water Act. Many questions pertained to a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, which found that EPA violated federal law by engaging in covert propaganda and grassroots lobbying in the Agency's promotion of the WOTUS rule. Another interest of Committee Members was the different actions EPA have taken on pesticide registrations, including asking a court to vacate a registration. Other topics of interest included: the Clean Power Plan; Renewable Fuel Standard; Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) regulation; Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) regulation; pollinators; and others.

February 11, 2016: *Foot-and-Mouth Disease: Are We Prepared?* Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture. Serial No. 114-42.

The purpose of this hearing was to develop a better understanding of the United States' ability to respond to a potential outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) and the impact that such an outbreak would have on the livestock industry and the economy as a whole. Representatives of the livestock and animal pharmaceutical industries discussed vaccine availability, vaccine stockpiling procedures, and emergency preparedness plans. A major topic of discussion was the potential for a public-private partnership to fund vaccine stockpiling efforts.

February 24, 2016: *Hearing To Review the State of the Rural Economy.* Full Committee. Serial No. 114-43.

This hearing examined the current state of the rural economy. The sole witness was Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack. Net farm income for 2016 is projected to be down 56 percent from three years ago, which is the largest three year percentage drop since the Great Depression. Farmers are challenged with high and rising foreign subsidies, tariffs and non-tariff barriers to trade, coupled with a stronger dollar, which makes U.S. exports less attractive. A major topic of concern among Members of the Committee was the growing crisis in the cotton industry, and USDA's assertion that the Department lacks authority to designate cottonseed as an "other oilseed" for purposes of ARC and PLC. Other topics were mainly topics of interest to Members' home districts, and these included wildfire and the budget for wildfire suppression; the Dairy Margin Protection Program; Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza; biotech labeling; renewable fuels; and conservation programs.

February 25, 2016: *Hearing To Review the G20 Swap Data Reporting Goals.* Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit. Serial No. 114–44.

The broad purpose of this hearing was to examine the efforts of the CFTC to achieve transparency in the swaps markets following the financial crisis. Members expressed concern with the CFTC’s failure to create an effective swap data reporting regime and questioned the CFTC’s ability to fully surveil its markets as mandated by Dodd-Frank. There was also a general concern that a lack of reporting harmonization and the potential for regulators to demand more information than needed could pose needless costs on market participants, especially end-users.

March 1, 2016: *Voluntary Conservation: Utilizing Innovation and Technology.* Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry. Serial No. 114–45.

This hearing highlighted the unique and innovative conservation practices farmers and ranchers are voluntarily utilizing to conserve and protect natural resources, while also maintaining profitable production on their land. Members of the subcommittee heard from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Chief Jason Weller on the first panel, while stakeholders composed the second panel. Chief Weller discussed the next level in science, tools and partnerships to increase conservation benefits. The producers and stakeholders on the second panel spoke to the varying natural resource concerns they are facing and the different voluntary, incentive-based programs, as well as new technology and methods, they are utilizing to protect and restore water quantity and quality, air quality, and wildlife habitat.

March 2, 2016: *Past, Present and Future of SNAP: Examining State Options.* Subcommittee on Nutrition. Serial No. 114–3, Part 4.

This hearing specifically looked into the various flexibilities states have when implementing SNAP. Understanding what options states have within this program allow for a more holistic understanding of the program and how to best leverage the relationship between states and local communities to better serve recipients and utilize taxpayer dollars. The hearing and testimony highlighted how states are using Federal funds to implement SNAP including Broad Based Categorical Eligibility, work requirements, and program integrity measures. Testimony was presented by a state representative and researchers focusing on state implementation.

March 15, 2016: *Defending American Agriculture Against Foreign Pests and Diseases.* Joint Hearing of the Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research and the Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture. Serial No. 114–46.

This hearing continued the Agriculture Committee’s national security series, highlighting the importance of agriculture and sound agricultural policies in preserving our nation. This hearing examined the considerable work and collaborative efforts of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Agriculture Program in protecting U.S. agriculture and safeguarding

animal and plant health. Members and witnesses focused on plant and animal health risks and how they are mitigated by our current biosecurity systems.

March 17, 2016: *Hearing To Examine USDA Organization and Program Administration*—Part 1. Full Committee. Serial No. 114–47.

This was the first of two educational hearings to provide Members of the Committee with more information about USDA and the agencies comprising the Department. The three USDA mission areas focused on during this hearing were: Food, Nutrition and Consumer Sciences (FNCS); Food Safety (FS); and Rural Development (RD). Each mission area’s Under Secretary and agency Administrators gave testimony and answered questions from Members.

March 18, 2016: *Hearing To Examine USDA Organization and Program Administration*—Part 2. Full Committee. Serial No. 114–47.

This was the second of two educational hearings to provide Members of the Committee with more information about USDA and the agencies comprising the Department. The four USDA mission areas focused on during this hearing were: Natural Resources and Environment (NRE); Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services (FFAS); Research, Education, and Economics (REE); and Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP). Each mission area’s Under Secretary and agency Administrators gave testimony and answered questions from Members

April 13, 2016: *Energy and the Rural Economy: The Impacts of Oil and Gas Production*. Full Committee. Serial No. 114–48.

This hearing examined the oil and gas industry’s impact on rural America, specifically upstream oil and gas production and the associated economic effects. The oil and gas industry employs thousands of Americans in good-paying jobs at every skill and education level. Additionally, oil and gas development provides significant tax revenues, which enable rural communities to fund needed investments in schools, roads, hospitals, and other public services. Members heard from a panel of three witnesses who testified about how their rural communities and livelihoods are directly impacted by oil and gas production.

April 14, 2016: *Focus on the Farm Economy: Growing Farm Financial Pressure*. Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management. Serial No. 114–49.

This was the first hearing in the Focus on the Farm Economy series to examine growing pressures in rural America from the perspective of each subcommittee. Over the past three years, net farm income has fallen by 56 percent, the largest three year percentage decline in net farm income since the Great Depression. This is due largely to sinking commodity prices, with most analyses predicting no relief in sight. Witnesses spoke broadly about the factors that are driving current market conditions, the bleak outlook going forward, and the impact that both are having and could continue to have on our nation’s farmers and ranchers, going forward. They also spoke to the vital role that farm policy and crop insurance are playing in helping absorb some of the shock, and they stressed the

devastating impact that further reductions to these vital tools could have.

April 19, 2016: *Focus on the Farm Economy: Tightening Credit Conditions.* Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit. Serial No. 114–49.

This is the second hearing in the Focus on the Farm Economy series to examine growing pressures in rural America from the perspective of each subcommittee. Members heard from a series of witnesses who explained the impact the collapse in net farm income is having on the availability of credit, financial stress on both producers and credit providers, and the value of key producer assets such as land.

April 27, 2016: *Focus on the Farm Economy: Factors Impacting Cost of Production.* Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research. Serial No. 114–49.

As part of the Focus on the Farm Economy series, this hearing examined the cause and effect of the collapse in net farm income and sinking commodity prices. Low prices are also leading to a significant reduction in equipment purchases, changes in food prices for consumers, serious impacts on creditors and their ability to finance producers, pressure to reduce voluntary conservation efforts to save money, reductions in the use of cutting edge technology, growing impacts of regulatory overreach on farm profitability, and increased damage from disproportionately large foreign agricultural subsidies. The hearing also highlighted programs and policies impacting farm efficiency, productivity and profitability.

April 28, 2016: *Hearing To Review the Impact of Capital and Margin Requirements on End-Users.* Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit. Serial No. 114–50.

Through this hearing, the Committee sought to understand the impacts of the new rules for capital and margin on derivatives markets and market participants, especially end-users. Although most of the new capital rules apply to prudentially regulated banks, they impact bank derivatives activity, and consequently will have an impact on the health of markets regulated by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC”). Closely related to the capital rules are the new rules governing margin for swaps that are not cleared at a clearinghouse (*i.e.*, uncleared). The CFTC and the Prudential Regulators recently finalized their uncleared margin rules. In a separate, supplemental rulemaking, the CFTC has proposed new rules for how to apply those requirements across international borders. Although Congress has exempted end-users from requirements to post margin to their counterparties, margin rules could impact end-users in unintended ways, including through increased transaction costs and fewer counterparties.

April 28, 2016: *Focus on the Farm Economy: Food Prices and the Consumer.* Subcommittee on Nutrition. Serial No. 114–49.

This was the fourth hearing in a series titled Focus on the Farm Economy where each of the six subcommittees examined growing pressure in rural America from the perspective of the subcommittee. The purpose of this hearing was to connect the farm economy with the consumer’s grocery basket. The hearing looked at how U.S. farm policy contributes to not only an abundant food supply, but also the relative stability of food prices for Americans. Wit-

nesses also discussed what goes into the dollars that are spent on food, the share that goes to each segment of the food supply chain, and the potential impacts of shifts in food prices on consumers.

May 12, 2016: *Past, Present and Future of SNAP: The Retailer Perspective.* Full Committee. Serial No. 114–3, Part 4.

In this hearing Members heard from retailers about the various opportunities and challenges they experience as they execute SNAP. Some of the topics included: how retailers become authorized to accept SNAP benefits, initiatives taking place within stores to promote healthy eating, food deserts, the various challenges facing rural communities, and the opportunities with technology to improve program integrity. Testimony was presented by representatives of various types of store formats including convenience stores, truck stops, a single store operators, and a large grocery store chain.

May 17, 2016: *Focus on the Farm Economy: Impacts of Environmental Regulations and Voluntary Conservation Solutions.* Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry. Serial No. 114–49.

This is the fifth hearing in a series titled Focus on the Farm Economy where each of the six subcommittees examine growing pressure in rural America from the perspective of the subcommittee. With farmers facing a sharp decline in commodity prices, this hearing examined the regulatory challenges imposed on farmers and ranchers by the Federal Government. Witnesses provided testimony about how regulations such as the EPA's Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule, Endangered Species Act (ESA), and Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) impact their ability to run their business and manage their resources. Acknowledging the challenges to our natural resources, the second panel focused on voluntary, locally-led conservation programs that provide a more flexible alternative to achieve environmental goals. Testimony included proven results from locally-led initiatives that utilized cutting-edge technology.

May 18, 2016: *Service in the Field: Veteran Contributions to National Food Security.* Full Committee. Serial No. 114–51.

This hearing examined the effectiveness of provisions authorized in the farm bill that provide incentives for veterans to take up farming. Veterans-turned-farmers testified about their transition into farming as well as instances of food insecurity they witnessed during their service. Members of the Committee discussed the challenges faced by veterans wishing to return to the farm, and how farm bill provisions can better serve their needs. Provisions discussed include the AgrAbility program, EQIP, CRP, and beginning farmer and rancher training programs.

May 24, 2016: *Focus on the Farm Economy: A View from the Barnyard.* Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture. Serial No. 114–49.

This hearing was the final hearing in a series titled Focus on the Farm Economy. The hearing focused primarily on the market outlook for the livestock, dairy and poultry sectors. This year, farmers have faced a steep decline in commodity prices not seen since the Great Depression. Farmers have dealt with razor tight margins, making them even more vulnerable to any additional economic burden. Witnesses raised concerns with pressures associated with re-

cent and proposed regulations, as well as pest and disease incursions.

May 25, 2016: *Food Waste from Field to Table*. Full Committee. Serial No. 114-52.

In this hearing Members were introduced to the issue of food waste and how food waste occurs at every part of the food system. The topics included what programs have already been put in place by public- and private-sector organizations to mitigate food waste, how food is able to be diverted from the landfill through donations, composting, and anaerobic digestion, and what can continue to be done to reduce the amount of food wasted. Testimony was presented by Representative Chellie Pingree from Maine, representatives of various organizations representing producers, nonprofits, manufacturers, as well as researchers who were able to speak holistically on the issue.

June 14, 2016: *Hearing To Review the Impact of G20 Clearing and Trade Execution Requirements*. Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit. Serial No. 114-53.

Through this hearing, the Committee sought to review the clearing ecosystem, learn about the new systemic challenges associated with the significant expansion of cleared transactions, and better understand the impacts of mandatory execution rules.

June 22, 2016: *Past, Present and Future of SNAP: Evaluating Effectiveness and Outcomes in Nutrition Education*. Full Committee. Serial No. 114-3, Part 4.

In this hearing Members heard from representatives of organizations receiving SNAP-Ed funding about the various ways SNAP-Ed funding is used to educate SNAP recipients on how to prepare nutritious meals at home. The goal of SNAP-Ed is to improve the likelihood that persons eligible for SNAP will make healthy choices within a limited budget and choose active lifestyles consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Testimony was presented by grantees and administrators of SNAP-Ed funding from across the country who spoke specifically on what programs they have seen run successfully and the evaluation metrics utilized to measure success in individual programs.

June 23, 2016: *Big Data and Agriculture: Innovation in the Air*. Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management. Serial No. 114-54.

This hearing was the second in the series examining Big Data and Agriculture, and it focused on the innovation in agricultural imagery. Witnesses represented a variety of imagery technologies, including manned aircraft imagery, Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) or drone imagery, and satellite imagery. Members heard about the usefulness of each type of imagery to agriculture along with recent innovations made in gathering and distributing imagery information to the agricultural community. Members were specifically interested Part 107 of the UAS regulations regarding commercial operations of UAS, which was released two days prior to the hearing.

July 6, 2016: *Past, Present and Future of SNAP: Evaluating Error Rates and Anti-Fraud Measures to Enhance Program Integrity*. Full Committee. Serial No. 114-3, Part 4.

In this hearing Members learned what distinguishes an error rate from a fraud rate, what factors determine the reported rate, and how these measures impact program integrity. Error rates are mainly calculated as under- or over-payments to a recipient and are unintentional administrative errors. Fraud can happen at the retailer or individual level and is an intentional misuse of federal SNAP dollars. Witnesses discussed what the states' and Federal Government, respectively, are in charge of, what program integrity measures are currently in place to prevent fraud, and what is being done at the federal level to track and calculate state error reports.

July 7, 2016: *Agriculture and National Security: On-the-Ground Experiences of Former Military Leaders*. Full Committee. Serial No. 114-55.

During this hearing, witnesses drew direct connections between agricultural policy and national security. Former military, including two retired major generals, leaders testified on the importance of U.S. investment in transportation and infrastructure, agricultural research and innovation, and risk management tools for farmers have all led to a vibrant and stable agricultural sector in the United States—which is inextricably linked to our national security. The witnesses spoke about specific examples where an insufficient focus on agriculture has had a detrimental impact on the security and stability of countries around the world and how Agribusiness Development Teams were deployed to help stabilize regions of importance to national security.

July 13, 2016: *Examining the CFTC's Proposed Rule: Regulation Automated Trading*. Full Committee. Serial No. 114-56.

Through this hearing, the Committee sought to understand the potential impacts of Regulation Automated Trading. The Committee examined which market participants would be subject to the proposed rule; how the floor trader definition is utilized to further new registration system; the mechanics of the source code retention and access requirements; and the scope of new reporting mandates.

September 13, 2016: *Past, Present, and Future of SNAP: Improving Innovation and Success in Employment and Training Programs*. Subcommittee on Nutrition. Serial No. 114-3, Part 4.

In this hearing Members heard from representatives to discuss the initiatives by states to further improve their SNAP Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) programs better assist recipients into the workforce or in attaining additional skills to increase earnings. The purpose of the program is to help recipients meet work requirements, and to gain the skills, training, or experience to increase their ability to obtain regular employment. Testimony was presented by state agencies on their efforts to improve the Employment and Training programs in their communities.

September 14, 2016: *American Agricultural Trade with Cuba*. Full Committee. Serial No. 114-57

Since Cuba's revolutionary government took power, the U.S. and Cuba have gone from major agricultural trading partners to having agricultural trade relations almost completely disappear once the Cuban embargo took full effect. Since then, Congress has passed legislation codifying the embargo. One piece of legislation, the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act (TSRA), authorized certain sales of food, medicines, and medical equipment to

Cuba subject to various restrictions, including strict financing rules. Shortly after it was signed into law, TSRA quickly led to the reestablishment of U.S. agricultural exports to Cuba, but exports have been modest. This Congress, Rep. Crawford introduced the Cuba Agricultural Exports Act (H.R. 3687), which would ease some of the TSRA restrictions on U.S.-Cuba agricultural trade with the hopes of increasing market share for ag products in Cuba.

This hearing examined the potential for expanding agricultural trade between the U.S. and Cuba, with much of the discussion centered around H.R. 3687. The witness panel comprised representatives from a producer organization, an export association, a lending institution, a human rights and democracy advocacy group, and a university professor. Members were specifically interested in what meaningful progress could be made in normalizing trade relations with Cuba, while also preventing human rights abuses.

September 22, 2016: *Rehabilitation of the Chesapeake Bay: Healing the Bay the Voluntary Way.* Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry. Serial No. 114-58

In this hearing witnesses highlighted the effectiveness of the voluntary conservation model applied to the specific area of the Chesapeake Bay. Farmers, ranchers, and foresters have been adopting voluntary conservation measures to reduce runoff into the Bay, and results are being seen. NRCS announced that since 2009 their targeted voluntary approach to conservation in the Chesapeake Bay watershed has shown positive trends in water quality, habitat, and key aquatic species. This hearing emphasized the importance of the relationships NRCS builds with producers in the Chesapeake Bay, and around the nation, and how those relationships have yielded real conservation results.

November 16, 2016: *Past, Present, and Future of SNAP: Opportunities for Improving Access to Food.* Full Committee. Serial No. 114-3, Part 4.

In this hearing Members heard from representatives to discuss how innovative strategies are being used to improve access to food and to incentivize healthy food purchases. The discussion focused on the potential of online retailing, explored the challenges and opportunities in these strategies to increase access, and examined how technology plays a role in incentivizing healthier purchases. Testimony was presented by organizations that are working creatively to increase the capacity of their organizations to provide nutritious food to low income individuals in low access areas.

December 7, 2015: *1890 Land-Grant Institutions: Recruitment Challenges and Scholarship Opportunities.* Full Committee. Serial No. 114-59

This hearing explored the recruitment challenges and scholarship opportunities at 1890 Land-Grant Universities (1890s). The Committee invited leaders of the 1890s to share the challenges they have faced in recruiting African American students to careers in agriculture as well as their suggestions for moving forward. The hearing built on the committee's July 15, 2015, hearing that recognized the continuing contributions that those universities make to agriculture. The members also heard from three cosponsors of H.R. 6020: Funding for Student Scholarships for the 1890 Land-Grant African American Colleges and Universities Act. The bill would al-

locate scholarships to 1890s for students interested in food and agricultural sciences.

2. Legislative Hearings

March 25, 2015: *Hearing To Examine the Implications of Potential Retaliatory Measures Taken Against the United States in Response to Meat Labeling Requirements.* Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture. Hearing Serial No. 114–8.

The purpose of this hearing was to give industry stakeholders a chance to share their views regarding the implications of potential retaliatory measures that were likely to be taken by Canada and Mexico absent legislative action to alter or repeal mandatory country-of-origin labeling (COOL) requirements for beef, pork, and chicken. Members and witnesses expressed concern that the U.S. would lose its last and final appeal in the World Trade Organization (WTO) case in which the WTO had previously ruled against the U.S., finding that the COOL rule violates WTO obligations by discriminating against imported livestock. Such a ruling would ultimately subject the U.S. to retaliatory sanctions which the witnesses expected to impact a variety of industries beyond agriculture. The witnesses explained how even the threat of such measures were already costing their respective industries. None of the witnesses offered specific suggestions for changes to the COOL rule that would bring the U.S. into compliance with its WTO obligations. Instead, the panel of witnesses nearly unanimously called for a repeal of country-of-origin labeling requirements in order to avoid retaliation.

April 22, 2015: *Hearing To Review Reauthorization of the U.S. Grain Standards Act.* Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management. Hearing Serial No. 114–11.

The purpose of this hearing was to review the state of the grain industry in preparation of drafting legislation to reauthorize the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA). Authorization for several provisions within the USGSA expires on September 30, 2015. Members heard from three witnesses representing the grain industry and other stakeholders regarding the state of the industry as well as their insight to what changes the industry would like to see incorporated into the reauthorization bill. Members were especially concerned with the interruption in grain inspection and weighing services that happened in Washington State during the summer of 2014. Members and stakeholders affirmed that they want a safeguard mechanism in the reauthorization bill that would prevent this type of interruption from happening again.

April 22, 2015: *Hearing To Review Reauthorization of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act.* Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture. Hearing Serial No. 114–12.

The purpose of this hearing was to begin the legislative process of reauthorizing the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act by hearing from representatives of the affected livestock organizations, as well as a representative of the packers' trade association, the North American Meat Institute. The witnesses shared their proposals and identified areas of concern as well as areas of consensus.

E. PUBLISHED HEARINGS

- 114-01 HEARING TO REVIEW THE STATE OF THE RURAL ECONOMY—Full Committee—Wednesday, February 11, 2015.
- 114-02 HEARING TO REVIEW THE 2015 AGENDA FOR THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION—Full Committee—Thursday, February 12, 2015.
- 114-03, pt. 1 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM—PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM—Full Committee—Wednesday, February 25, 2015.
- 114-03, pt. 1 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM—SNAP RECIPIENT CHARACTERISTICS AND DYNAMICS—Subcommittee on Nutrition—Thursday, February 26, 2015
- 114-03, pt. 1 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM—THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF SNAP: THE WORLD OF NUTRITION AND THE ROLE OF THE CHARITABLE SECTOR—Full Committee—Wednesday, April 15, 2015.
- 114-03, pt. 1 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM—THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF SNAP: THE WORLD OF NUTRITION, GOVERNMENT DUPLICATION AND UNMET NEEDS—Subcommittee on Nutrition—Wednesday, May 20, 2015.
- 114-03, pt. 1 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF SNAP: THE MEANS TO CLIMBING THE ECONOMIC LADDER—Full Committee—Wednesday, June 10, 2015.
- 114-03, pt. 2² SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF SNAP: HOW OUR WELFARE SYSTEM CAN DISCOURAGE WORK—Subcommittee on Nutrition, Committee on Agriculture and Subcommittee on Human Resources, Committee on Ways and Means—Thursday, June 25, 2015.
- 114-03, pt. 3 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM—THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF SNAP: DEVELOPING AND USING EVIDENCE-BASED SOLUTIONS—Subcommittee on Nutrition—Wednesday, July 15, 2015.
- 114-03, pt. 3 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF SNAP: BREAKING THE CYCLE—Subcommittee on Nutrition—Tuesday, October 27, 2015.
- 114-03, pt. 3 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF SNAP: THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON HUNGER—Full Committee—Wednesday, November 18, 2015.
- 114-03, pt. 4 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF SNAP: ADDRESSING SPECIAL POPULATIONS—Subcommittee on Nutrition—Tuesday, January 12, 2016.

²**Note:** this hearing is part 2 of the *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—Past, Present, and Future of SNAP* series. The House Committee on Ways and Means took the lead and published, consequently the title is not reflective of the complete series. **Also note:** that there was an *Errata* sheet published to correct the misnamed Subcommittee on Nutrition of the House Agriculture Committee.

- 114-03, pt. 4 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF SNAP: EXAMINING STATE OPTIONS—Full Committee—Wednesday, March 2, 2016.
- 114-03, pt. 4 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF SNAP: THE RETAILER PERSPECTIVE—Full Committee—Thursday, May 12, 2016.
- 114-03, pt. 4 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF SNAP: EVALUATING EFFECTIVENESS AND OUTCOMES IN NUTRITION EDUCATION—Full Committee—Wednesday, June 22, 2016.
- 114-03, pt. 4 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF SNAP: EVALUATING ERROR RATES AND ANTI-FRAUD MEASURES TO ENHANCE PROGRAM INTEGRITY—Full Committee—Wednesday, July 6, 2016.
- 114-03, pt. 4 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF SNAP: IMPROVING INNOVATION AND SUCCESS IN EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMS—Subcommittee on Nutrition—Tuesday, September 13, 2016.
- 114-03, pt. 4 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF SNAP: OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVING ACCESS TO FOOD—Full Committee—Wednesday, November 16, 2016.
- 114-04 HEARING TO REVIEW THE DEFINITION OF *WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES* PROPOSED RULE AND ITS IMPACT ON RURAL AMERICA—Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry—Tuesday, March 17, 2015.
- 114-05 THE IMPORTANCE OF TRADE TO U.S. AGRICULTURE—Full Committee—Wednesday, March 18, 2015.
- 114-06 EXAMINATION OF THE COSTS AND IMPACTS OF MANDATORY BIOTECHNOLOGY LABELING LAWS—Full Committee—Tuesday, March 24, 2015.
- 114-07 REAUTHORIZING THE CFTC—END-USER VIEWS—Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit—Tuesday, March 24, 2015.
- 114-07 REAUTHORIZING THE CFTC—MARKET PARTICIPANT VIEWS—Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit—Wednesday, March 25, 2015.
- 114-07 REAUTHORIZING THE CFTC—COMMISSIONERS' PERSPECTIVES—Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit—Tuesday, April 14, 2015.
- 114-08 HEARING TO EXAMINE THE IMPLICATIONS OF POTENTIAL RETALIATORY MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST THE UNITED STATES IN RESPONSE TO MEAT LABELING REQUIREMENTS—Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture—Wednesday, March 25, 2015.
- 114-09 IMPLEMENTING THE AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 2014: COMMODITY POLICY AND CROP INSURANCE—Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management—Thursday, March 26, 2015.

- 114-10 A PRESENTATION BY NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE IN THE UNITED STATES—Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research—Tuesday, April 14, 2015.
- 114-11 HEARING TO REVIEW REAUTHORIZATION OF THE U.S. GRAIN STANDARDS ACT—Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management—Wednesday, April 22, 2015
- 114-12 HEARING TO REVIEW REAUTHORIZATION OF THE LIVESTOCK MANDATORY REPORTING ACT—Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture—Wednesday, April 22, 2015.
- 114-13 HEARING TO REVIEW THE NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM AND ACTIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT—Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry—Wednesday, April 29, 2015.
- 114-14 HEARING TO REVIEW THE FEDERAL COORDINATION AND RESPONSE REGARDING POLLINATOR HEALTH—Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research—Wednesday, May 13, 2015.
- 114-15 UPDATE ON THE FINANCIAL HEALTH OF FARM COUNTRY—Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management—Tuesday, June 2, 2015.
- 114-16 HEARING TO REVIEW AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDIES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES—Full Committee—Wednesday, June 3, 2015.
- 114-17 IMPLEMENTING THE AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 2014: CONSERVATION PROGRAMS—Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry—Thursday, June 11, 2015.
- 114-18 HEARING TO REVIEW U.S. INTERNATIONAL FOOD AID PROGRAMS—Full Committee—Wednesday, June 24, 2015.
- 114-19 HEARING TO REVIEW USDA MARKETING PROGRAMS—Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research—Thursday, June 25, 2015.
- 114-20 ENERGY AND THE RURAL ECONOMY: THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF EXPORTING CRUDE OIL—Full Committee—Wednesday, July 8, 2015.
- 114-21 U.S. INTERNATIONAL FOOD AID PROGRAMS: OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY—Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture—Thursday, July 9, 2015.
- 114-22 RECOGNIZING THE CONTINUING CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE 1890S LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES ON THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE OF THE SECOND MORRILL ACT—Full Committee—Wednesday, July 15, 2015.
- 114-23 OVERSIGHT OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE—Full Committee—Wednesday, July 22, 2015.
- 114-24 DODD-FRANK TURNS FIVE: ASSESSING THE PROGRESS OF GLOBAL DERIVATIVES REFORMS—Full Committee—Wednesday, July 29, 2015.
- 114-25 EXAMINATION OF FEDERAL AND STATE RESPONSE TO AVIAN INFLUENZA—Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture—Thursday, July 30, 2015.
- 114-26 HEARING TO REVIEW USDA ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION—Part 1—Full Committee—Tuesday, September 15, 2015.

- 114-26 HEARING TO REVIEW USDA ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION—Part 2—Full Committee—Wednesday, September 16, 2015.
- 114-27 HEARING TO HIGHLIGHT RESEARCH INNOVATIONS ACHIEVED BY OUR NATION’S AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES—Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research—Tuesday, September 29, 2015.
- 114-28 U.S. INTERNATIONAL FOOD AID PROGRAMS: STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES—Full Committee—Wednesday, September 30, 2015.
- 114-29 HEARING TO REVIEW THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2015 *DIETARY GUIDELINES FOR AMERICANS*—Full Committee—Wednesday, October 7, 2015.
- 114-30 HEARING TO REVIEW THE 2015 FIRE SEASON AND LONG-TERM TRENDS—Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry—Thursday, October 8, 2015.
- 114-31 FOREIGN SUBSIDIES: JEOPARDIZING FREE TRADE AND HARMING AMERICAN FARMERS—Full Committee—Wednesday, October 21, 2015.
- 114-32 BIG DATA AND AGRICULTURE: INNOVATION AND IMPLICATIONS—Full Committee—Wednesday, October 28, 2015.
- 114-33 AMERICAN AGRICULTURE AND OUR NATIONAL SECURITY—Full Committee—Wednesday, November 4, 2015.
- 114-34 U.S. INTERNATIONAL FOOD AID PROGRAMS: TRANSPORTATION PERSPECTIVES—Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture, Committee on Agriculture; Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure—Tuesday, November 17, 2015.
- 114-35 HEARING TO REVIEW THE FARM CREDIT SYSTEM—Full Committee—Wednesday, December 2, 2015.
- 114-36 COMMODITY IN FOCUS: STRESS IN COTTON COUNTRY—Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management—Wednesday, December 9, 2015.
- 114-37 OVERSIGHT OF USDA’S USE OF CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE FARMERS’ PERSONAL FINANCIAL—Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research—Wednesday, December 9, 2015.
- 114-38 OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN DIRECT MARKETING—A VIEW FROM THE FIELD—Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research—Tuesday, February 2, 2016
- 114-39 HEARING TO REVIEW INCENTIVE PROGRAMS AIMED AT INCREASING LOW-INCOME FAMILIES’ PURCHASING POWER FOR FRUITS AND VEGETABLES—Subcommittee on Nutrition—Wednesday, February 3, 2016.
- 114-40 HEARING TO REVIEW THE 2016 AGENDA FOR THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION—Full Committee—Wednesday, February 10, 2016.
- 114-41 HEARING TO CONSIDER THE IMPACTS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY’S ACTIONS ON THE RURAL ECONOMY—Full Committee—Thursday, February 11, 2016.

- 114-42 FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE: ARE WE PREPARED?—Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture—Thursday, February 11, 2016.
- 114-43 HEARING TO REVIEW THE STATE OF THE RURAL ECONOMY—Full Committee—Wednesday, February 24, 2016.
- 114-44 HEARING TO REVIEW THE G20 SWAP DATA REPORTING GOALS—Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit—Thursday, February 25, 2016.
- 114-45 VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION: UTILIZING INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY—Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry—Tuesday, March 1, 2016.
- 114-46 DEFENDING AMERICAN AGRICULTURE AGAINST FOREIGN PESTS AND DISEASES—Subcommittees on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture and Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research—Tuesday, March 15, 2016.
- 114-47 HEARING TO EXAMINE USDA ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION—Part 1—Full Committee—Thursday, March 17, 2016.
- 114-47 HEARING TO EXAMINE USDA ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION—Part 2—Full Committee—Friday, March 18, 2016.
- 114-48 ENERGY AND THE RURAL ECONOMY: THE IMPACTS OF OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION—Full Committee—Wednesday, April 13, 2016.
- 114-49 FOCUS ON THE FARM ECONOMY: GROWING FARM FINANCIAL PRESSURE—Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management—Thursday, April 14, 2016.
- 114-49 FOCUS ON THE FARM ECONOMY: TIGHTENING CREDIT CONDITIONS—Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit—Tuesday, April 19, 2016.
- 114-49 FOCUS ON THE FARM ECONOMY: FACTORS IMPACTING THE COST OF PRODUCTION—Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research—Wednesday, April 27, 2016.
- 114-49 FOCUS ON THE FARM ECONOMY: FOOD PRICES AND THE CONSUMER—Subcommittee on Nutrition—Thursday, April 28, 2016.
- 114-49 FOCUS ON THE FARM ECONOMY: IMPACTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS AND VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION SOLUTIONS—Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry—Tuesday, May 17, 2016.
- 114-49 FOCUS ON THE FARM ECONOMY: A VIEW FROM THE BARNYARD—Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture—Tuesday, May 24, 2016.
- 114-50 HEARING TO REVIEW THE IMPACT OF CAPITAL AND MARGIN REQUIREMENTS ON END-USERS—Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit—Thursday, April 28, 2016.
- 114-51 SERVICE IN THE FIELD: VETERAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY—Full Committee—Wednesday, May 18, 2016.
- 114-52 FOOD WASTE FROM FIELD TO TABLE—Full Committee—Wednesday, May 25, 2016.

- 114-53 HEARING TO REVIEW THE IMPACT OF G20 CLEARING AND TRADE EXECUTION REQUIREMENTS—Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit—Tuesday, June 14, 2016.
- 114-54 BIG DATA AND AGRICULTURE: INNOVATION IN THE AIR—Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management—Thursday, June 23, 2016.
- 114-55 AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL SECURITY: ON-THE-GROUND EXPERIENCES OF FORMER MILITARY LEADERS—Full Committee—Thursday, July 7, 2016.
- 114-56 EXAMINING THE CFTC'S PROPOSED RULE: REGULATION AUTOMATED TRADING—Full Committee—Wednesday, July 13, 2016.
- 114-57 AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL TRADE WITH CUBA—Full Committee—Wednesday, September 14, 2016.
- 114-58 REHABILITATION OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY: HEALING THE BAY THE VOLUNTARY WAY—Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry—Thursday, September 22, 2016.
- 114-59 1890 LAND-GRANT INSTITUTIONS: RECRUITMENT CHALLENGES AND SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES—Full Committee—Wednesday, December 7, 2016.

F. MEETINGS NOT PUBLISHED

January 22, 2015—Full Committee open business meeting. Organizational meeting for the 114th Congress. Approval of the Committee Rules, Committee staff assignments, and the Oversight Plan for the 114th Congress by voice vote.

February 12, 2015—Full Committee open business meeting. Approval of the Budget Views and Estimate Letter and en bloc amendment to revise the Committee Rules for the 114th Congress by voice vote.

March 19, 2015—Full Committee open business meeting. Approval of H.R. 897, the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2015, by voice vote.

April 30, 2015—Full Committee open business meeting. Approval of H.R. 2051, the Mandatory Livestock Reporting Act of 2015, and H.R. 2088, the United States Grain Standards Act Reauthorization Act of 2015, by voice vote.

May 14, 2015—Full Committee open business meeting. Approval of H.R. 2289, Commodity End-User Relief Act, by voice vote.

May 20, 2015—Full Committee open business meeting. Approval of H.R. 2394, The National Forest Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2015, by voice vote. Approval of H.R. 2393, Country of Origin Labeling Amendments Act of 2015, by a recorded vote of 38 yeas to 6 nays.

June 17, 2015—Full Committee open business meeting. Approval of H.R. 2647, The Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015, and H.R. 2620, legislation to amend the United States Cotton Futures Act, by voice vote.

July 14, 2015—Full Committee open business meeting. Approval of H.R. 1599, Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015, by voice vote.

September 30, 2015—Full Committee open business meeting. Approval of H.R. 1317, legislation to amend the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, by voice vote.

February 2, 2016—Full Committee open business meeting. Approval by of the Budget View and Estimates Letter for FY 2017, by voice vote.

September 14, 2016—Full Committee open business meeting. Approval of H.R. 470, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Land Adjustment Act of 2015, H.R. 845, National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act, and H.R. 5883, Technical and Clarifying Amendments to the Packers and Stockyards Act of 2016, by voice vote.

G. COMMITTEE PRINTS

Committee on Agriculture Rules. Adopted January 22, 2015; Revised February 12, 2015. Print No. 114–1.

A Ceremony Unveiling the Portrait of the Honorable Frank D. Lucas. Tuesday, June 23, 2015. Print No. 114–2.

H. WATERSHEDS

None.

III. APPENDIX

A. EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Note: In April 2013 the Parliamentarian’s office altered its procedures concerning the referral of Executive Communications. In prior Congresses the Communications concerning pesticide tolerances submitted from the Environmental Protection Agency were referred to the Committee on Agriculture; however, beginning in August 2013 this type of Communication was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The Parliamentarian’s office was notified of this discrepancy on November 24, 2014. The following is a list of the Executive Communication’s numbers along with the date of publication in the *Congressional Record* ((entries marked with an asterisk (*)) are for Communications concerning an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance (when in reference to a pesticide) which were also historically referred to the Committee on Agriculture):

January 28, 2015: 244, 245.
February 11, 2015: 415, 416.
February 20, 2015: 490.
February 24, 2015: * 521, 522, 523, * 526.
March 6, 2015: 684.
March 13, 2015: 742, 744.
March 26, 2015: 874, 878.
April 13, 2015: 941, 954.
April 27, 2015: 1261, 1264.
April 30, 2015: 1318.
May 8, 2015: * 1402, *1403, 1404.
May 11, 2015: * 1429.
May 18, 2015: * 1496, 1497.
May 29, 2015: 1628, 1629.
June 25, 2015: 1950.
June 16, 2015: 1849.
July 7, 2015: 2008.
July 8, 2015: 2078.

December 18, 2015: 3821, 3822, 3823, 3824.
January 25, 2016: * 4072, * 4074, 4075.
February 3, 2016: 4208.
February 12, 2016: 4333.
February 23, 2016: 4380.
February 24, 2016: 4429, 4430.
February 26, 2016: 4487.
March 3, 2016: 4557, 4559, 4561.
March 10, 2016: 4605.
April 11, 2016: 4806, 4818, 4824.
April 15, 2016: 5045.
April 25, 2016: 5137.
April 28, 2016: 5194.
May 6, 2016: 5270, 5272, 5273, 5274, 5279, 5281.
June 3, 2016: 5555, 5556.
June 14, 2016: 5677, 5678.
July 6, 2016: * 5905.

July 23, 2015: 2278.
July 31, 2015: 2333, 2335, 2336, 2338.
July 4, 2015: 2396.
September 15, 2015: 2733, 2735.
September 8, 2015: 2476, 2477, 2500, 2506.
September 18, 2015: 2850, 2851.
September 24, 2015: 2928, 2929.
October 20, 2015: 3180.
October 29, 2015: 3328, 3330.
November 16, 2015: 3432.
November 2, 2015: 3339, 3345.
November 18, 2015: 3488.
November 30, 2015: 3540.
December 7, 2015: 3668, 3669.
December 11, 2015: 3753, 3757, *3758.
December 17, 2015: 3800, 3801.

July 21, 2016: 6208, *6209.
July 25, 2016: 6280.
September 6, 2016: 6421, 6435, 6436, 6451, 6456.
September 12, 2016: 6780.
September 13, 2016: 6804.
September 22, 2016: 6946.
September 27, 2016: 6992, 16993.
November 14, 2016: 7124, 7125, *7141, 7144, 7155, 7158, 7167, 7168, 7171.
November 17, 2016: 7488.
November 18, 2016: 7514, 7517, 7520.
November 30, 2016: 7662, 7666.
December 5, 2016: 7733, 7736, 7737, 7738.
December 16, 2016: 7882.
December 23, 2016: 7981, 7990.

E.C. 8—Jan. 9, 2015: A letter from the Administrator, Rural Business—Cooperative Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's Major final rule—Subpart B—Rural Energy for America Program (RIN: 0570-AA76) received January 7, 2015.

E.C. 120—Jan. 26, 2015: A letter from the FSA Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Marketing Assistance Loans, Loan Deficiency Payments, and Sugar Loans (RIN: 0560-AI28) received January 15, 2015.

E.C. 235—Jan. 28, 2015: A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Age in Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance From the U.S. Department of Agriculture (RIN: 0503-AA57) received January 14, 2015.

E.C. 273—Feb. 2, 2015: A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's Agency Financial Report for FY 2014.

E.C. 274—Feb. 2, 2015: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's withdrawal of interim rule—Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia; Interstate Movement and Import Restrictions on Certain Live Fish [Doc. No.: APHIS-2007-0038] (RIN: 0579-AC74) received January 20, 2015.

E.C. 275—Feb. 2, 2015: A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Sulfoxaflor; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0643; FRL-9920-45] received January 23, 2015.

E.C. 333—Feb. 5, 2015: A letter from the Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (HSACU) (RIN: 0524-AA39) received January 28, 2015.

E.C. 353—Feb. 9, 2015: A letter from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Animal Welfare; Retail Pet Stores and Licensing Exemptions; Technical Amendment [Doc. No.: APHIS-2011-0003] (RIN: 0579-AD57) received January 27, 2015.

E.C. 373—Feb. 10, 2015: A letter from the Management Analyst, Forest Service, ORMS, D and R, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) (RIN: 0596–AD21) received January 27, 2015.

E.C. 374—Feb. 10, 2015: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Commuted Traveltime; Correction [Doc. No.: APHIS–2004–0108] received February 3, 2015.

E.C. 375—Feb. 10, 2015: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Brucellosis Class Free States and Certified Brucellosis-Free Herds; Revisions to Testing and Certification Requirements [Doc. No.: APHIS–2009–0083] (RIN: 0579–AD22) received February 3, 2015.

E.C. 376—Feb. 10, 2015: A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Forest Service, ORMS, D and R, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Use By Over-Snow Vehicles (Travel Management Rule) (RIN: 0596–AD17) received February 3, 2015.

E.C. 400—Feb. 10, 2015: A letter from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Agency's fiscal year 2016 proposed budget and performance plan; jointly to the Committees on Agriculture and Oversight and Government Reform.

E.C. 403—Feb. 11, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule—Irish Potatoes Grown in Colorado; Relaxation of the Handling Regulation for Area No. 3 [Doc. No.: AMS–FV–14–0092; FV15–948–1 IR] received February 4, 2015.

E.C. 404—Feb. 11, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule—Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 3 (Native) Spearmint Oil for the 2014–2015 Marketing Year [Doc. No.: AMS–FV–13–0087; FV14–985–1B IR] received February 4, 2015.

E.C. 405—Feb. 11, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS–FV–14–0054; FV14–906–3 FIR] received February 4, 2015.

E.C. 406—Feb. 11, 2015: A letter from the Under Secretary, Rural Development, Rural Business—Cooperative Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Rural Development Regulations—Update to FmHA References and to Census References (RIN: 0570–AA30) received February 4, 2015.

E.C. 437—Feb. 12, 2015: A letter from the Management Analyst, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Suspension of Flock Delivery and Stages of Poultry Production (RIN: 0580–AB23) received February 6, 2015.

E.C. 511—Feb. 20, 2015: A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional and Public Affairs, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting a corrected copy of the Administration's Fiscal Year 2016 proposed budget and performance plan; jointly to the Committees on Agriculture and Oversight and Government Reform.

E.C. 537—Feb. 25, 2015: A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clothianidin; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0253; FRL-9919-59] received February 24, 2015.

E.C. 670—Mar. 6, 2015: A letter from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Cattle Fever Tick; Importation Requirements for Ruminants From Mexico [Doc. No.: APHIS-2012-0073] (RIN: 0579-AD91) received March 3, 2015.

E.C. 671—Mar. 6, 2015: A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's proposed rule—Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation General Provisions; Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation Governance; Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation Risk Management; Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation Disclosure and Reporting; Farmer Mac Corporate Governance and Standards of Conduct (RIN: 3052-AC89) received March 3, 2015

E.C. 724—Mar. 13, 2015: A letter from the Administrator, Rural Business—Cooperative Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's direct final rule—Rural Development Loan Servicing (RIN: 0570-AA88) received March 6, 2015.

E.C. 725—Mar. 13, 2015: A letter from the Board Chair and CEO, Office of General Counsel, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Disclosure to Shareholders; Pension Benefit Disclosures (RIN: 3052-AD02) received March 9, 2015.

E.C. 785—Mar. 17, 2015: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule—Gypsy Moth Generally Infested Areas; Additions in Minnesota, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin [Doc. No.: APHIS-2014-0023] received March 16, 2015.

E.C. 786—Mar. 17, 2015: A letter from the Administrator, FSA Regulatory Review Group, Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Biomass Crop Assistance Program (RIN: 0560-AI27) received March 16, 2015.

E.C. 825—Mar. 23, 2015: A letter from the Administrator, Rural Business—Cooperative Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim final rule—Rural Business Development Grant (RIN: 0570-AA92) received March 19, 2015.

E.C. 928—Apr. 13, 2015: A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final

rule—Residual Interest Deadline for Futures Commission Merchants (RIN: 3038–AE22) received.³

E.C. 929—Apr. 13, 2015: A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Organization and Functions; Field Office Locations (RIN: 3052–AD05) received April 2, 2015.

E.C. 1117—Apr. 15, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule—Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 3 (Native) Spearmint Oil for the 2014–2015 Marketing Year [Doc. No.: AMS–FV–13–0087; FV14–985–1C IR] received April 13, 2015.

E.C. 1118—Apr. 15, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 1 (Scotch) Spearmint Oil for the 2014–2015 Marketing Year [Doc. No.: AMS–FV–13–0087; FV14–985–1A FIR] received April 13, 2015.

E.C. 1119—Apr. 15, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule—Fruit, Vegetable, and Specialty Crops-Import Regulations; Changes to Reporting Requirements To Add Electronic Form Filing Option [Doc. No.: AMS–FV–14–0093; FV15–944/980/999–1 IR] received April 13, 2015.

E.C. 1377—May 5, 2015: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Importation of Apples From China [Doc. No.: APHIS–2014–0003] (RIN: 0579–AD89) received April 28, 2015.

E.C. 1378—May 5, 2015: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Importation of Papayas From Peru [Doc. No.: APHIS–2012–0014] (RIN: 0579–AD68) received April 28, 2015.

E.C. 1379—May 5, 2015: A letter from the Administrator, Farm Service Agency, Regulatory Review Group, Office of the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule—Conservation Compliance (RIN: 0560–AI26) received May 4, 2015.

E.C. 1394—May 8, 2015: A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Paleontological Resources Preservation (RIN: 0596–AC95) received May 1, 2015.

E.C. 1419—May 12, 2015: A letter from the Administrator, Rural Business—Cooperative Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Subpart J—Value-Added Producer Grant Program (RIN: 0570–AA79) received May 6, 2015.

³Date received not printed in the Congressional Record.

E.C. 1455—May 13, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Irish Potatoes Grown in Colorado and Imported Irish Potatoes; Relaxation of the Handling Regulation for Area No. 2 and Import Regulations [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-13-0073; FV13-948-3 FR] received May 12, 2015.

E.C. 1456—May 13, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's affirmation of interim rule as final rule—Avocados Grown in South Florida and Imported Avocados; Change in Maturity Requirements [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-14-0051; FV14-915-1 FIR] received May 12, 2015.

E.C. 1457—May 13, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule—Irish Potatoes Grown in Southeastern States; Suspension of Marketing Order Provisions [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-14-0011; FV14-953-1 IR] received May 12, 2015.

E.C. 1458—May 13, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Program, Promotion and Economics Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Honey Packers and Importers Research, Promotion, Consumer Education and Information Order; Assessment Rate Increase [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-14-0045] received May 12, 2015.

E.C. 1471—May 15, 2015: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Viruses, Serums, Toxins, and Analogous Products; Exemptions from Preparation Pursuant to an Unsuspended and Unrevoked License [Doc. No.: APHIS-2011-0048] (RIN: 0579-AD66) received May 13, 2015.

E.C. 1491—May 18, 2015: A letter from the Under Secretary, Rural Development, Rural Business—Cooperative Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule—Strategic Economic and Community Development (RIN: 0570-AA94) received May 15, 2015.

E.C. 1736—Jun. 8, 2015: A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the “Biennial Report to Congress on the Food Safety and Food Defense Research Plan”, pursuant to Sec. 110(g) of the FDA Food Safety and Modernization Act, Pub. L. 111-353; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Agriculture.

E.C. 1803—Jun. 11, 2015: A letter from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Organization; Institution Stockholder Voting Procedures (RIN: 3052-AC85) received June 10, 2015.

E.C. 1804—Jun. 11, 2015: A letter from the Director, Issuances Staff, Office of Policy and Program Development, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Descriptive Designation for Needle- or

Blade-Tenderized (Mechanically Tenderized) Beef Products [Doc. No.: FSIS-2008-0017] (RIN: 0583-AD45) received June 10, 2015.

E.C. 1852—Jun. 17, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's affirmation of interim rule as final rule—Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 3 (Native) Spearmint Oil for the 2014–2015 Marketing Year [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-13-0087; FV14-985-1B FIR] received June 15, 2015.

E.C. 1853—Jun. 17, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, et al.; Free and Restricted Percentages for the 2014–15 Crop Year for Tart Cherries [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-14-0077; FV14-930-2 FR] received June 15, 2015.

E.C. 1854—Jun. 17, 2015: A letter from the Finance and Loan Analyst, Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Reserve Account (RIN: 0575-AC99) received June 15, 2015.

E.C. 1855—Jun. 17, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's affirmation of interim rule as final rule—Irish Potatoes Grown in Colorado; Relaxation of the Handling Regulation for Area No. 3 [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-14-0092; FV15-948-1 FIR] received June 15, 2015.

E.C. 1863—Jun. 18, 2015: A letter from the Secretary, Office of the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Proceedings before the Commodity Futures Trading Commission; Rules Relating to Suspension or Disbarment from Appearance and Practice (RIN: 3038-AE21) received June 16, 2015.

E.C. 1864—Jun. 18, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Grapes Grown in a Designated Area of Southeastern California; Increased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-14-0106; FV15-925-2 FR] received June 16, 2015.

E.C. 1901—Jun. 24, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Salable Quantities and Allotment Percentages for the 2015–2016 Marketing Year [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-14-0096; FV15-985-1 FR] received June 22, 2015.

E.C. 1902—Jun. 24, 2015: A letter from the Administrator, Rural Business—Cooperative Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim final rule—Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program (RIN: 0570-AA73) received June 22, 2015.

E.C. 1981—Jul. 7, 2015: A letter from the Program Manager, BioPreferred Program, DM/OPPM/EMD, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Voluntary Labeling Program for Biobased Products (RIN: 0599-AA22) received June 24, 2015.

E.C. 2062—Jul. 8, 2015: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Importation of Beef From a Region in Argentina [Doc. No.: APHIS-2014-0032] (RIN: 0579-AD92) received July 7, 2015.

E.C. 2063—Jul. 8, 2015: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Importation of Beef From a Region in Brazil [Doc. No.: APHIS-2009-0017] (RIN: 0579-AD41) received July 7, 2015.

E.C. 2064—Jul. 8, 2015: A letter from the Program Manager, BioPreferred Program, Office of Procurement and Property Management, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Guidelines for Designating Biobased Products for Federal Procurement (RIN: 0599-AA23) received July 1, 2015.

E.C. 2165—Jul. 15, 2015: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Viruses, Serums, Toxins, and Analogous Products; Single Label Claim for Veterinary Biological Products [Doc. No.: APHIS-2011-0049] (RIN: 0579-AD64) received July 13, 2015.⁴

E.C. 2186—Jul. 16, 2015: A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule—Novaluron; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0232; FRL-9929-57] received July 15, 2015.

E.C. 2187—Jul. 16, 2015: A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule—Thiabendazole; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0396; FRL-9929-95] received July 15, 2015.

E.C. 2244—Jul. 21, 2015: A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule—Organization and Functions; Field Office Locations (RIN: 3052-AD07) received July 20, 2015.

E.C. 2262—Jul. 22, 2015: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s interim rule—Emerald Ash Borer; Quarantined Areas [Doc. No.: APHIS-2015-0028] received July 21, 2015.

E.C. 2263—Jul. 22, 2015: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Khapra Beetle; New Regulated Countries and Regulated Articles [Doc. No.: APHIS-2013-0079] received July 21, 2015.

E.C. 2292—Jul. 27, 2015: A letter from the Farm Service Agency Regulatory Review Director, Department of Agriculture, transmit-

⁴ Editor’s note: the Parliamentarian’s office altered its statutory referral listing from “pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A)” to include “added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251”.

ting the Department's interim rule—Conservation Reserve Program (RIN: 0560–AI30) received July 23, 2015.

E.C. 2423—Sep. 8, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Clarification of United States Antitrust Laws, Immunity, and Liability Under Marketing Order Programs [Doc. No.: AMS–FV–14–0072; FV14–900–2 FR] received August 20, 2015.

E.C. 2424—Sep. 8, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Cranberries Grown in States of Massachusetts, et al.; Revising Determination of Sales History [Doc. No.: AMS–FV–14–0091; FV15–929–1 FR] received August 20, 2015.

E.C. 2425—Sep. 8, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Fruit, Vegetable, and Specialty Crops—Import Regulations; Changes to Reporting Requirements To Add Electronic Form Filing Option [Doc. No.: AMS–FV–14–0093; FV15–944/980/999–1 FIR] received August 20, 2015.

E.C. 2426—Sep. 8, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Olives Grown in California; Increased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS–FV–14–0105; FV15–932–1 FR] received August 20, 2015.

E.C. 2427—Sep. 8, 2015: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule—Amendment of Asian Longhorned Beetle Quarantine Areas in Massachusetts and New York [Doc. No.: APHIS–2015–0016] received August 11, 2015.

E.C. 2428—Sep. 8, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Cotton and Tobacco Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Cotton Research and Promotion Program: Procedures for Conduct of Sign-up Period [AMS–CN–12–0059] received August 20, 2015.

E.C. 2429—Sep. 8, 2015: A letter from the Board Chairman and CEO, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's Major final rule—Loans in Areas Having Special Flood Hazards (RIN: 3052–AC93) received August 13, 2015.

E.C. 2654—Sep. 10, 2015: A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Organization; Mergers, Consolidations, and Charter Amendments of Banks or Associations (RIN: 3052–AC72) received August 28, 2015.

E.C. 2692—Sep. 11, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Processed Raspberry Promotion, Research, and Information Order; Late Payment and Interest Charges on Past Due Assessments [Doc. No.: AMS–FV–14–0042] received August 28, 2015.

E.C. 2722—Sep. 15, 2015: A letter from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's affirmation of interim rule as final rule—Gypsy Moth Generally Infested Areas; Additions in Minnesota, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin [Doc. No.: APHIS–2014–0023] received September 8, 2015.

E.C. 2843—Sep. 18, 2015: A letter from the Director, Budget and Performance Management, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's proposed rule—Changes to Fees and Payment Methods (RIN: 0518–AA05) received September 15, 2015.

E.C. 2880—Sep. 22, 2015: A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Membership in a Registered Futures Association (RIN: 3038–AE09) received September 21, 2015.

E.C. 2921—Sep. 24, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Blueberry Promotion, Research and Information Order; Expanding the Membership of the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council and Other Changes [Doc. No.: AMS–FV–14–0089] received September 24, 2015.

E.C. 2922—Sep. 24, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule—Onions Grown in Certain Designated Counties in Idaho, and Malheur County, Oregon; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS–FV–15–0027; FV15–958–1 IR] received September 24, 2015.

E.C. 2923—Sep. 24, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Apricots Grown in Designated Counties in Washington; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS–FV–15–0033; FV15–922–1 IR] received September 24, 2015.

E.C. 2924—Sep. 24, 2015: A letter from the Director, Issuances Staff, Office of Policy and Program Development, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Eligibility of Lithuania to Export Meat and Meat Products to the United States [Doc. No.: FSIS–2014–0040] (RIN: 0583–AD57) received September 24, 2015.

E.C. 2925—Sep. 24, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's affirmation of interim rule as final rule—Irish Potatoes Grown in Southeastern States; Suspension of Marketing Order Provisions [Doc. No.: AMS–FV–14–0011; FV14–953–1 FIR] received September 24, 2015.

E.C. 2949—Sep. 25, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's affirmation of interim rule as final rule—Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 3 (Native) Spearmint Oil for the 2014–2015 Marketing Year [Doc. No.: AMS–FV–13–0087; FV14–985–1C FIR] received September 24, 2015.

E.C. 2961—Sep. 29, 2015: A letter from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Importation of Kiwi From Chile Into the United States [Doc. No.: APHIS-2014-0002] (RIN: 0579-AD98) received September 28, 2015.

E.C. 2965—Sep. 29, 2015: A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's 2014 annual report on activities under the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative and the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998, in accordance with Sec. 614 of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act (7 U.S.C. 1738m); Sec. 710 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2430i); and Sec. 813 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2431k), as amended; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Agriculture.

E.C. 2966—Sep. 30, 2015: A letter from the Acting Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule—Rural Broadband Access Loans and Loan Guarantees (RIN: 0572-AC34) received September 29, 2015.

E.C. 3016—Oct. 2, 2015: A letter from the Acting Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Section 306D Water Systems for Rural and Native Villages in Alaska (RIN: 0572-AC28) received October 1, 2015.

E.C. 3107—Oct. 8, 2015: A letter from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Fee Increases for Overtime Services [Doc. No.: APHIS-2009-0047] received October 5, 2015.

E.C. 3108—Oct. 8, 2015: A letter from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule—Golden Nematode; Removal of Regulated Areas in Orleans, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties, New York [Doc. No.: APHIS-2015-0040] received October 5, 2015.

E.C. 3109—Oct. 8, 2015: A letter from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Importation of Tomato Plantlets in Approved Growing Media From Mexico [Doc. No.: APHIS-2014-0099] (RIN: 0579-AE06) received October 5, 2015.

E.C. 3149—Oct. 16, 2015: A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Pesticides; Agricultural Worker Protection Standard Revisions [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0184; FRL-9931-81] (RIN: 2070-AJ22) received October 9, 2015.

E.C. 3216—Oct. 21, 2015: A letter from the Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-formula Federal Assistance Programs—Specific Administrative Provisions for the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Grants Program (RIN: 0524-AA65) received October 19, 2015.

E.C. 3231—Oct. 23, 2015: A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Repeal of the Exempt Commercial Market and Exempt Board of Trade Exemptions (RIN: 3038-AE10) received October 21, 2015.

E.C. 3232—Oct. 23, 2015: A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's notification of its 2015 compensation program adjustments, including the Agency's current salary range structure and the performance-based merit pay matrix, in accordance with Sec. 1206 of the Financial Institutions, Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989.

E.C. 3288—Oct. 28, 2015: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Importation of Fresh Peppers From Ecuador Into the United States [Doc. No.: APHIS-2014-0086] (RIN: 0579-AE07) received October 26, 2015.

E.C. 3332—Nov. 2, 2015: A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Rimsulfuron; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0035; FRL-9912-31] received October 29, 2015.

E.C. 3333—Nov. 2, 2015: A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Nicosulfuron; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0034; FRL-9912-40] received October 29, 2015.

E.C. 3380—Nov. 5, 2015: A letter from the Regulatory Review Group, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Agriculture Priorities and Allocations System (RIN: 0560-AH68) received November 4, 2015.

E.C. 3418—Nov. 16, 2015: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Importation of Two Hybrids of Unshu Orange From the Republic of Korea Into the Continental United States [Doc. No.: APHIS-2013-0085] (RIN: 0579-AD87) received November 9, 2015.

E.C. 3553—Nov. 30, 2015: A letter from the Acting Legislative Director, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—NRCS Procedures for Granting Equitable Relief (RIN: 0578-AA57) received November 19, 2015.⁵

E.C. 3590—Dec. 2, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule—Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-15-0035; FV15-906-1 IR] received December 1, 2015.

E.C. 3591—Dec. 2, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Pro-

⁵ Editor's note: the Parliamentarian's office altered its statutory referral listing from "pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251" to include "(110 Stat. 868)".

grams, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule—Domestic Dates Produced or Packed in Riverside County, California; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-15-0034; FV15-987-1 IFR] received December 1, 2015.

E.C. 3592—Dec. 2, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Walnuts Grown in California; Increased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-15-0026; FV15-984-1 FR] received December 1, 2015.

E.C. 3593—Dec. 2, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Soybean Promotion and Research: Amend the Order To Adjust Representation on the United Soybean Board [Doc. No.: AMS-LPS-15-0016] received December 1, 2015.

E.C. 3594—Dec. 2, 2015: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's Major final rule—User Fees for Agricultural Quarantine and Inspection Services [Doc. No.: APHIS-2013-0021] (RIN: 0579-AD77) received December 1, 2015.

E.C. 3595—Dec. 2, 2015: A letter from the Associate Administrator, Specialty Crops Program, Promotion and Economics Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's termination of proceeding—Hardwood Lumber and Hardwood Plywood Promotion, Research and Information Order; Termination of Rulemaking Proceeding [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-11-0074; PR-A1, A2, B and B2] received December 1, 2015.

E.C. 3732—Dec. 9, 2015: A letter from the Director, Issuance Staff, Office of Policy and Program Development, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's Major final rule—Mandatory Inspection of Fish of the Order Siluriformes and Products Derived From Such Fish [Doc. No.: FSIS-2008-0031] (RIN: 0583-AD36) received December 8, 2015.

E.C. 3740—Dec. 10, 2015: A letter from the Director, Issuances Staff, Office of Policy and Program Development, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Mandatory Inspection of Fish of the Order Siluriformes and Products Derived From Such Fish [Doc. No.: FSIS-2008-0031] (RIN: 0583-AD36) received December 8, 2015.

E.C. 3764—Dec. 15, 2015: A letter from the Administrator, Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Area Risk Protection Insurance (ARPI) Regulations; ARPI Basic Provisions and ARPI Forage Crop Insurance Provisions [Doc. No.: FCIC-15-0003] (RIN: 0563-AC49) received December 11, 2015.

E.C. 4001—Jan. 12, 2016: A letter from the Regulatory Review Group, Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Payment Limitation and Payment Eligibility; Actively Engaged in Farming (RIN: 0560-AI31) received January 5, 2016.

E.C. 4030—Jan. 13, 2016: A letter from the Co-Chairs, National Commission on Hunger, transmitting the Commission’s report entitled “Freedom from Hunger: An Achievable Goal for the United States of America” for 2015, pursuant to Public Law 113–76, div. A, title VII, Sec. 743(a)(3); (128 Stat. 40).

E.C. 4031—Jan. 13, 2016: A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s notice of final directive—Ski Area Water Clause (RIN: 0596–AD14) received January 11, 2016.

E.C. 4122—Jan. 28, 2016: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Exportation of Live Animals, Hatching Eggs, and Animal Germplasm From the United States [Doc. No.: APHIS–2012–0049] (RIN: 0579–AE00) received January 20, 2016.

E.C. 4123—Jan. 28, 2016: A letter from the Administrator, Rural Housing Service, Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grants (RIN: 0575–AD02) received January 15, 2016.

E.C. 4164—Feb. 2, 2016: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s direct final rule—Black Stem Rust; Additions of Rust-Resistant Species and Varieties [Doc. No.: APHIS–2015–0079] received January 28, 2016.

E.C. 4165—Feb. 2, 2016: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s affirmation of interim final rule—Lacey Act Implementation Plan; Definitions for Exempt and Regulated Articles [Doc. No.: APHIS–2009–0018] (RIN: 0579–AD11) received January 28, 2016.

E.C. 4166—Feb. 2, 2016: A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, ORMS, D&R, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Stewardship End Result Contracting Projects (RIN: 0596–AD25) received January 28, 2016.

E.C. 4203—Feb. 3, 2016: A letter from the Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (HSACU) (RIN: 0524–AA39) received January 29, 2016.

E.C. 4204—Feb. 3, 2016: A letter from the Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-formula Federal Assistance Programs—General Award Administrative Provisions and Specific Administrative Provisions (RIN: 0524–AA58) received February 1, 2016.

E.C. 4205—Feb. 3, 2016: A letter from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration’s proposed rule—Organization; Funding and Fiscal Affairs, Loan Policies and Operations, and Funding Operations; Farmer Mac Investment Eligibility (RIN: 3052–AC86) received January 29, 2016.

E.C. 4222—Feb. 4, 2016: A letter from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Highly Fractionated Indian Land (HFIL) Loan Program (RIN: 0560-AI32) received February 3, 2016.

E.C. 4254—Feb. 8, 2016: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Importation of Orchids in Growing Media From Taiwan [Doc. No.: APHIS-2014-0041] (RIN: 0579-AE01) received February 5, 2016.

E.C. 4351—Feb. 23, 2016: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule—Conditions for Payment of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Indemnity Claims [Doc. No.: APHIS-2015-0061] (RIN: 0579-AE14) received February 10, 2016.

E.C. 4352—Feb. 23, 2016: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Importation of *Phalaenopsis* Spp. Plants for Planting in Approved Growing Media From China to the Continental United States [Doc. No.: APHIS-2014-0106] (RIN: 0579-AE10) received February 16, 2016.

E.C. 4353—Feb. 23, 2016: A letter from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Direct Farm Ownership Microloan (RIN: 0560-AI33) received February 12, 2016.

E.C. 4354—Feb. 23, 2016: A letter from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Direct Farm Ownership Microloan (RIN: 0560-AI33) received February 12, 2016.

E.C. 4421—Feb. 23, 2016: A letter from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's proposed fiscal year 2017 budget, pursuant to Public Law 92-181; jointly to the Committees on Agriculture and Oversight and Government Reform.

E.C. 4478—Feb. 26, 2016: A letter from the Director, BPMS, Agricultural Research Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Changes to Fees and Payment Methods (RIN: 0518-AA05) received February 25, 2016.

E.C. 4479—Feb. 26, 2016: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's affirmation of interim rule as final rule—Golden Nematode; Removal of Regulated Areas in Orleans, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties, New York [Doc. No.: APHIS-2015-0040] received February 25, 2016.

E.C. 4507—Mar. 1, 2016: A letter from the Director, Transparency and Accountability Reporting Division, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (RIN: 0505-AA15) received February 26, 2016.

E.C. 4508—Mar. 1, 2016: A letter from the Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Water and Environmental Programs,

Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Environmental Policies and Procedures (RIN: 0575-AC56) received February 26, 2016.

E.C. 4632—Mar. 14, 2016: A letter from the Acting Director, Legislative Affairs, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's Major final rule—Conservation Stewardship Program [Doc. No.: NRCS-2014-0008] (RIN: 0578-AA63) received March 10, 2016.

E.C. 4714—Mar. 23, 2016: A letter from the Regulatory Review Group, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's correcting amendments—Direct Farm Ownership Microloan; Correction (RIN: 0560-AI33) received March 21, 2016.

E.C. 4758—Apr. 11, 2016: A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Trade Options (RIN: 3038-AE26) received March 29, 2016.

E.C. 4759—Apr. 11, 2016: A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Alternative to Fingerprinting Requirement for Foreign Natural Persons (RIN: 3038-AE16) received April 7, 2016.

E.C. 4760—Apr. 11, 2016: A letter from the PRAO Branch Chief, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Grant Program [FNS: 2011-0017] (RIN: 0584-AE07) received April 6, 2016.

E.C. 5239—May 3, 2016: A letter from the PRAO Branch Chief, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Requirements for the Distribution and Control of Donated Foods—The Emergency Food Assistance Program: Implementation of the Agricultural Act of 2014 [FNS-2014-0040] (RIN: 0584-AE29) received April 29, 2016.

E.C. 5334—May 13, 2016: A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendments to the Definitions of “Portfolio Reconciliation” and “Material Terms” for Purposes of Swap Portfolio Reconciliation (RIN: 3038-AE17) received May 11, 2016.

E.C. 5355—May 17, 2016: A letter from the Regulatory Review Group, Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) Program; Portable Storage Facilities and Reduced Down Payment for FSFL Microloans (RIN: 0560-AI35) received May 13, 2016.

E.C. 5435—May 23, 2016: A letter from the Acting Director, Legislative Affairs, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule adopted as final with changes—Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) [Doc. No.: NRCS-2014-0007] (RIN: 0578-AA62) received May 16, 2016.

E.C. 5473—May 24, 2016: A letter from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Regulatory Capital Rules: Regu-

latory Capital, Implementation of Tier 1/Tier 2 Framework (RIN: 3052-AC81) received May 19, 2016.

E.C. 5493—May 25, 2016: A letter from the Director, Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Federal Agency Final Regulations Implementing Executive Order 13559: Fundamental Principles and Policymaking Criteria for Partnerships With Faith-Based and Other Neighborhood Organizations (RIN: 0503-AA55) received May 19, 2016.

E.C. 5502—May 26, 2016: A letter from the Director, Issuances Staff, Office of Policy and Program Development, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Classes of Poultry [Doc. No.: FSIS-2015-0026] (RIN: 0583-AD60) received May 23, 2016.

E.C. 5503—May 26, 2016: A letter from the Administrator, Rural Business—Cooperative Service, Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's Major final rule—Guaranteed Loanmaking and Servicing Regulations (RIN: 0570-AA85) received May 24, 2016.

E.C. 5542—Jun. 3, 2016: A letter from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Mexican Hass Avocado Import Program [Doc. No.: APHIS-2014-0088] (RIN: 0579-AE05) received May 31, 2016.

E.C. 5543—Jun. 3, 2016: A letter from the Regulatory Review Group, FSA, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Margin Protection Program for Dairy (RIN: 0560-AI36) received May 23, 2016.

E.C. 5658—Jun. 10, 2016: A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's Major final rule—Margin Requirements for Uncleared Swaps for Swap Dealers and Major Swap Participants—Cross-Border Application of the Margin Requirements (RIN: 3038-AC97) received June 8, 2016.

E.C. 5875—Jul. 5, 2016: A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendments to Swap Data record-keeping and Reporting Requirements for Cleared Swaps (RIN: 3038-AE12) received June 24, 2016.

E.C. 5900—Jul. 6, 2016: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Use of Electronic Information Exchange Systems; Miscellaneous Amendments [Doc. No.: APHIS-2016-0016] received June 22, 2016.

E.C. 5912—Jul. 7, 2016: A letter from the Under Secretary, Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule—Community Facility Loans (RIN: 0575-AD05) received July 5, 2016.

E.C. 5913—Jul. 7, 2016: A letter from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting the annual report for CY 2015, in accordance with Sec. 5.64 of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended.

E.C. 5944—Jul. 8, 2016: A letter from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting

the 2015 Annual Report on the Farm Credit System, added by Public Law 92–181, Sec. 5.17(a)(3) (as amended by Public Law 100–399, Sec. 901(m)); (102 Stat. 1003).

E.C. 6189—Jul. 21, 2016: A letter from the Director, Issuance Staff, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Electronic Export Application and Certification Charge; Flexibility in the Requirements for Export Inspection Marks, Devices, and Certificates; Egg Products Export Certification [Doc. No.: FSIS–2009–0026] (RIN: 0583–AD41) received July 15, 2016.

E.C. 6340—Sep. 6, 2016: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s interim rule—Tuberculosis in Cattle and Bison; State and Zone Designations; California [Doc. No.: APHIS–2016–0052] received August 8, 2016.

E.C. 6341—Sep. 6, 2016: A letter from the Director, Issuances Staff, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Eligibility of Namibia To Export Meat Products to the United States [Doc. No.: FSIS–2012–0028] (RIN: 0583–AD51) received July 28, 2016.

E.C. 6342—Sep. 6, 2016: A letter from the Regulatory Review Group, Commodity Credit Corporation, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Environmental Policies and Procedures; Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and Related Authorities (RIN: 0560–AH02) received August 4, 2016.

E.C. 6343—Sep. 6, 2016: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—National Poultry Improvement Plan and Auxiliary Provisions [Doc. No.: APHIS–2014–0101] (RIN: 0579–AE16) received August 15, 2016.

E.C. 6344—Sep. 6, 2016: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, National Organic Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—National Organic Program (NOP); Sunset 2016 Amendments to the National List [Doc. No.: AMS–NOP–15–0052; NOP–15–12] (RIN: 0581–AD43) received August 16, 2016.

E.C. 6345—Sep. 6, 2016: A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s Major final rule—Rural Broadband Access Loans and Loan Guarantees (RIN: 0572–AC06) received August 16, 2016.

E.C. 6346—Sep. 6, 2016: A letter from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule—Organization and Functions; Releasing Information; Privacy Act Regulations; Enforcement of Non-discrimination on the Basis of Handicap in Programs or Activities Conducted by the Farm Credit Administration (RIN: 3052–AD17) received July 26, 2016.

E.C. 6347—Sep. 6, 2016: A letter from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration’s Major final rule—Margin and Capital Re-

quirements for Covered Swap Entities (RIN: 3052-AC69) received July 28, 2016.

E.C. 6348—Sep. 6, 2016: A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation Governance; Standards of Conduct; Risk Management; and Disclosure and Reporting (RIN: 3052-AC89) received July 28, 2016.

E.C. 6349—Sep. 6, 2016: A letter from the Director, Issuances Staff, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Requirements for the Disposition of Non-Ambulatory Disabled Veal Calves [Doc. No.: FSIS-2014-0020] (RIN: 0583-AD54) received August 2, 2016.

E.C. 6350—Sep. 6, 2016: A letter from the Management Analyst, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Reauthorization of the United States Grain Standards Act (RIN: 0580-AB24) received August 4, 2016.

E.C. 6351—Sep. 6, 2016: A letter from the Associate Director for Operations, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Office of Grants and Financial Management, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Federal Grants Program—General Administration Provisions (RIN: 0524-AA67) received August 2, 2016.

E.C. 6692—Sep. 8, 2016: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Viruses, Serums, Toxins, and Analogous Products; Packaging and Labeling [Doc. No.: APHIS-2008-0008] (RIN: 0579-AD19) received August 30, 2016.

E.C. 6693—Sep. 8, 2016: A letter from the Acting Director, PDRA Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule—Rural Broadband Access Loans and Loan Guarantees (RIN: 0572-AC34) received September 1, 2016.

E.C. 6968—Sep. 26, 2016: A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—System Safeguards Testing Requirements for Derivatives Clearing Organizations (RIN: 3038-AE29) received September 21, 2016.

E.C. 6969—Sep. 26, 2016: A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's notification of its 2016 compensation program adjustments, including the Agency's current salary range structure and the performance-based merit pay matrix, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1833b(a); added by Public Law 101-73, Sec. 1206; (103 Stat. 523).

E.C. 6981—Sep. 27, 2016: A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—System Safeguards Testing Requirements (RIN: 3038-AE30) September 22, 2016.

E.C. 7048—Nov. 14, 2016: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Tart

Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, et al.; Revision of Optimum Supply Requirements and Establishment of Inventory Release Procedures [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-15-0047; FV15-930-2 FR] received October 3, 2016.

E.C. 7049—Nov. 14, 2016: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule—Pistachios Grown in California, Arizona, and New Mexico; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-16-0076 SC16-983-2 IR] received October 3, 2016.

E.C. 7050—Nov. 14, 2016: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's affirmation of interim rule as final rule—Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Relaxation of Container and Pack Requirements [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-16-0021; SC16-906-1 FIR] received October 25, 2016.

E.C. 7051—Nov. 14, 2016: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service; Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to the Definition of "Condition" and Prerequisite Requirement for Shell Eggs Eligible for Grading and Certification Stated in the Regulations Governing the Voluntary Grading of Shell Eggs [Doc. No.: AMS-LPS-15-0044] received October 3, 2016.

E.C. 7052—Nov. 14, 2016: A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's Major final rule—Clearing Requirement Determination under Section 2(h) of the Commodity Exchange Act for Interest Rate Swaps (RIN: 3038-AE20) received October 12, 2016.

E.C. 7053—Nov. 14, 2016: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule—Domestic Dates Produced or Packed in Riverside County, California; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-16-0084; SC16-987-1 IR] received October 5, 2016.

E.C. 7054—Nov. 14, 2016: A letter from the Chief, GAMB, Financial Management and Agreements Division, Agricultural Research Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—General Administrative Policy for Non-Assistance Cooperative Agreements (RIN: 0518-AA06) received October 24, 2016.

E.C. 7055—Nov. 14, 2016: A letter from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—EZ Guarantee Program and Micro Lender Program (MLP) Status (RIN: 0560-AI34) received October 27, 2016.

E.C. 7056—Nov. 14, 2016: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Increased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-16-0059; SC16-906-2 FR] received November 2, 2016.

E.C. 7057—Nov. 14, 2016: A letter from the PRAO Branch Chief, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmit-

ting the Department's final rule—Regulatory Implementation of Office of Management and Budget's Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (RIN: 0584-AE42) received October 6, 2016.

E.C. 7058—Nov. 14, 2016: A letter from the Acting Legislative Affairs Director, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Agricultural Conservation Easement Program [Doc. No.: NRCS-2014-0011] (RIN: 0578-AA61) received October 21, 2016.

E.C. 7059—Nov. 14, 2016: A letter from the Administrator, Specialty Crops Program, Promotion and Economics Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule—Softwood Lumber Research, Promotion, Consumer Education and Industry Information Order; Revision of Time Frame for Continuance Referenda [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-16-0054] received October 17, 2016.

E.C. 7467—Nov. 16, 2016: A letter from the Acting Director, PDRA, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—New Equipment Contract, RUS Contract Form 395 for Telecommunications and Broadband Borrowers (RIN: 0572-AC29) received November 7, 2016.

E.C. 7624—Nov. 29, 2016: A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Division of Swap Dealer and Intermediary Oversight, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Chief Compliance Officer Annual Report Requirements for Futures Commission Merchants, Swap Dealers, and Major Swap Participants; Amendments to Filing Dates (RIN: 3038-AE49) received November 17, 2016.

E.C. 7724—Dec. 5, 2016: A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rules—Commodity Pool Operator Financial Reports (RIN: 3038-AE47) received December 1, 2016.

E.C. 7872—Dec. 16, 2016: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Raisins Produced From Grapes Grown in California and Imported Raisins; Removal of Language [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-16-0065; SC16-989-2 FR] received December 9, 2016.

E.C. 7873—Dec. 16, 2016: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Irish Potatoes Grown in Colorado; Modification of the Handling Regulation for Area No. 2 [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-16-0042; SC16-948-1 FR] received December 9, 2016.

E.C. 7874—Dec. 16, 2016: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's affirmation of interim rule as final rule—Olives Grown in California; Suspension and Revision of Incoming Size-Grade Requirements [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-16-0031; SC16-932-1 FIR] received December 9, 2016.

E.C. 7971—Dec. 23, 2016: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule—Changes to Reporting and Notification Requirements and Other

Clarifying Changes for Imported Fruits, Vegetables, and Specialty Crops [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-16-0083; SC16-944/980/999-1 IR] received December 20, 2016.

E.C. 7972—Dec. 23, 2016: A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule—Pesticides; Certification of Pesticide Applicators [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0183; FRL-9956-70] (RIN: 2070-AJ20) received December 14, 2016.

E.C. 7973—Dec. 23, 2016: A letter from the PRAO Branch Chief, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Photo Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Card Implementation Requirements [FNS-2016-0003] (RIN: 0584-AE45) received December 20, 2016.

E.C. 8036—Dec. 23, 2016: A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Business Operations, Forest Service Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—National Forest System Land Management Planning (RIN: 0596-AD28) received December 20, 2016; jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and Agriculture.

B. STATUTORY AND REPORTS

USDA: Committee Charter for the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee as required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act. January 7, 2015.

FCA: Farm Credit Administration Fiscal Year 2016 Proposed Budget and Performance Plan. February 5, 2015.

USDA: National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods as required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act. February 5, 2015.

USDA: Plant Variety Protection Board as required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act. February 5, 2015.

USDA: Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Rancher as required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act. February 6, 2015.

FCA: Final Rule adopted by the Farm Credit Administration Board under the provisions of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to amend Title 12, Chapter VI of the *Code of Federal Regulations*. February 20, 2015.

USDA: Letter regarding the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service’s restructuring efforts to reorganize the Forest Service Job Crops National Office and the 28 Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers. March 2, 2015.

USDA: Forest Inventory and Analysis Strategic Plan as required by the Agricultural Act of 2014. March 2, 2015.

USDA: Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture as required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act. March 13, 2015.

FCSIC: 2014 Annual Report as required under the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002. March 18, 2015.

FCA: 2014 Annual Report as required by the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002. March 18, 2015.

DOI: Stewardship Contracting Fiscal Year 2014 Report as required by the Agricultural Act of 2014. March 18, 2015.

USDA: Letter informing Committee of FOIA request from growers of grapes, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, onion and garlic in California. March 25, 2105.

USDA: Peanut Revenue Crop Insurance Program as required by the Agricultural Act of 2014. March 25, 2015.

U.S. Dept. of State: Report to Congress on efforts by Mexico to meet its treaty deliveries of water to the Rio Grande in accordance with the treaty between U.S. and Mexico. March 26, 2015.

OMB: Report to Congress on Implementation of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002; and the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. April 16, 2015.

USDA: Task Force on Agricultural Air Quality Research as required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act. April 16, 2015.

USDA: Report regarding approved purchase of land in Ontonagon County, Michigan as required by the Weeks Act at U.S.C. 521(b). April 20, 2015

AMS: Letter providing releases of names for the Pistachio Marketing Order as required under Section 1663 of the Food Security Act of 1985.

USDA: Letter providing a copy of the Pesticide Data Program Summary of 2013 Data. April 2015.

EPA: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Fiscal Year 2014 annual report prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002, Public Law 107-174. April 24, 2015.

USDA: Federal Grain Inspection Service Annual Report as required under Section 87 of the U.S. Grain Standards Act. May 1, 2015.

USDA: Study of Food Safety Report as required under Section 522c of the Federal Crop Insurance Act as Amended by the Agricultural Act of 2014. May 6, 2015.

USDA: Letter to outline the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the FY 2010 Appropriation, Public Law 111-88, Title V—FLAME Act. May 11, 2015.

USDA: Committee Charter for the Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers in compliance with P.L. 92-463. May 15, 2015.

U.S. Office of Special Counsel: Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 1213(e)(3) reports based on disclosures made by whistleblowers at USDA Office for the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. May 18, 2015.

U.S. Office of Special Counsel: USDA report based on disclosures of wrongdoing at the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. May 18, 2015.

FCA: Semiannual report prepared by the Inspector General of the Farm Credit Administration for the period of October 1, 2014–March 31, 2015, pursuant to section 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended. May 21, 2015.

USDA: Semiannual Report to Congress published by OIG at USDA to highlight accomplishments from October 1, 2014–March 31, 2015. May 26, 2015.

USDA: Report on programs that address the issue of produce represented as grown in the United States when it is fact not grown in the United States as required by Section 12309 of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

FCA: Final rule adopted by FCA Board to amend Title 12, Chapter VI of the *Code of Federal Regulations* pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1). May 22, 2015.

USDA: Eastern Washington Cascades Provincial Advisory Committee and Deschutes Provincial Advisory Committee as required un the Federal Advisory Committee Act. May 27, 2015.

USDA: Letter to advise of the acquisition of privately owned lands in Minnesota per the Weeks Act at 16 U.S.C. 521(b). May 28, 2015.

USDA: Report as required by Section 508(c)(6)(D) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act as Amended by Section 11023 of the Agricultural Act of 2014. May 29, 2015.

USDA: Eastern Region Recreation Resource Advisory Committee; Southern Region Recreation Advisory Committee; Pacific Northwest Region Recreation Advisory Committee; Pacific Southwest Region Recreation Resource Advisory Committee; and Colorado Recreation Resource Advisory Committee as required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act. June 3, 2015.

GAO: Report on a rule promulgated by USDA, Rural Business—Cooperative Service, Rural Housing Service, Rural Utilities Service, Farm Service Agency entitled “Strategic Economic and Community Development”. June 4, 2015.

USDA: In compliance with P.L. 92–463, the Federal Advisory Committee act are approved Trade Committee charters for the Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee, the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Animals and Animal Products, the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Fruits and Vegetables, the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Grains, Feed, Oilseed and Planting Seeds, the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Processed Foods, the Agricultural Technical Advisor Committee for Trade in Sweeteners and Sweetener Products, the Agricultural Technical advisory Committee for Trade in Tobacco, Cotton and Peanuts. June 8, 2015.

USDA: Update on the progress of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service in addressing the provisions on fish in the order of *Siluriformes* as required by Section 12106(b)(2) of the Agricultural Act of 2014. June 5, 2015.

USDA: Study to assess the economic impact of the biobased products industry as required by Section 9002(a)(3)(B) of the Agricultural Act of 2014. June 15, 2015.

USDA: Letter to inform the Committee that AMS intends to release copies of the lists of growers of cranberries as required under FOIA. June 17, 2015.

USDA: Report on implementation of concluded appeals to the NAD from RMA as required under Section 14009(b) of the Food, Energy, and Conservation Act of 2008. June 19, 2015

USDA: Specialty Crop Report, as required by instructions contained in section 508(a)(6)(B) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act. June 19, 2015.

USDA: USDA Annual Report for FY2014 as required by Public Law 107–174. June 11, 2015.

USDA: Report of proposed land acquisition on the Hiawatha National Forest in the State of Michigan as required by the Weeks Act of 16 U.S.C. 521b. June 25, 2015.

USDA: Data Gathering Report as required by the instructions contained in section 522(c)(23) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act, as amended by the Agricultural Act of 2014. July 2, 2015.

GAO: Report on a major rule promulgated by USDA, Rural Business—Cooperative Service, Rural Utilities Service entitled, *Bio-refinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product, Manufacturing Assistance Program* (RIN: 0570–AA73) pursuant to Section 801(a)(2)(A). July 8, 2015.

USDA: Report regarding the use of the categorical exclusions (CE) under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HRFA), as amended by section 8204 of the Agricultural Act of 2014. June 25, 2015.

USDA: Table showing modification and one addition to the conveyance list as required under Section 503 of Public Law 106–54. July 7, 2015.

USDA: Report concerning acquiring a tract of land owned by Double A Firewood, Inc located within the De Soto National Forest in the State of Mississippi. July 14, 2015.

USDA: Forest Resource Coordinating Committee in compliance with P.L. 92–463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act. July 16, 2015.

GAO: Report on a major rule promulgated by the Department of Agriculture, Animal, and Plant Health Inspection Service: Importation of Beef from a Region in Brazil. July 20, 2015.

GAO: Report on a major rule promulgated by the Department of Agriculture, Animal, and Plant Health Inspection Service: Importation of Beef from a Region in Brazil. July 20, 2015.

USDA: Report of purchase of privately owned land known as the Little Long Mountain Tract located within the boundary of the Uwharrie National Forest in the State of North Carolina. July 27, 2015.

USDA: Report of the acquisition of land owned by the State of Minnesota located within Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. July 27, 2015.

USDA: Committee Charter and addendum for the Secure Rural Schools Resource Advisory Committees as required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act. July 27, 2015.

FCA: Final rule that amends title 12, chapter VI of the *Code of Federal Regulations*. July 31, 2015.

USDA: Letter outlining the Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for FY2015, as required in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (Public Law 111–88), as part of the Title V—FLAME Act of 2009. August 4, 2015.

USDA: Annual report of civil rights complaints, resolutions, and actions for FY14 as required by Section 14010 of the 2008 Farm Bill. August 7, 2015.

USDA: Letter to inform that the Forest Service is within 30 days of depleting available “Wildland Fire Management” and “FLAME” funds as required by Public Law 113–235. August 13, 2015.

USAID: Response to GAO report entitled “EGYPT: U.S. Government Should Examine Options for Using Unobligated Funds and Evaluating Security Assistance Programs” (GAO–15–259). August 11, 2015.

USDA: Letter to inform that Forest Service has approved the purchase of Pinhook Swamp Purchase Unit, Osceola National Forest, Florida as required by the Weeks Act at 16 U.S.C. 521b. August 19, 2015.

FCA: Final rule adopted by the FCA Board under the provisions of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended. The rule amends Title 12, Chapter VI of the *Code of Federal Regulations*. August 19, 2015.

U.S. Dept. of State: Letter on Status Update on Water Deliveries from Mexico to the Rio Grande under Existing Treaty Obligations as required by Section 12310 of the Agricultural Act of 2014. (P.L. 113–79). August 19, 2015.

FCA: Final rule adopted by FCA Board under the provisions of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended. The rule amends Title 12, Chapter VI of the *Code of Federal Regulations*. August 19, 2015.

USDA: Copy of Committee Charter for the Forestry Research Advisory Council as required by P.L. 92–463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act. September 1, 2015.

USDA: Report entitled, *Foreign Holdings of U.S. Agricultural Land Through December 31, 2013* compiled by FSA. September 18, 2015.

USDA: Proposed land purchase within the proclamation boundary of the Green Mountain National Forest in Bennington County, Vermont. September 18, 2015.

USDA: Letter regarding the approval of purchase of privately owned lands within the proclamation boundary of the Green Mountain National Forest, in the State of Vermont. September 29, 2015.

USDA: Letter to approve the exchange of federal lands for non-federal lands on the Hiawatha National Forest. October 1, 2015.

HHS: Letter submitting the Fourteenth Report to Congress on Welfare Indicators and Risk Factors. October 9, 2015.

DOC: Report to Congress on the export licensing actions taken by the Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Industry and Security relating to exports and reexports of agricultural commodities to Cuba from July 1 through September 30, 2015. October 19, 2015.

FCSIC: Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2016 through 2021 as required by the Government Performance and Results Act. November 4, 2015.

USDA: Semiannual Report to Congress published by the Office of Inspector General at USDA. November 16, 2015.

USDA: Letter to approve the purchase of non-federal lands within the boundary of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in the State of Wisconsin. November 18, 2015.

GAO: Report on a rule promulgated by FSIS entitled “Mandatory Inspection of Fish of the Order Siluriformes and Products Derived From Such Fish” (RIN 0583–AD36). December 21, 2015.

DOI: Final Feasibility Report and Final EIS for the SLRWRI for review for the Shast Dam and Shasta Reservoir located in California. November 24, 2015.

USDA: Report of all cases returned to the agency pursuant to a final determination of the National Appeals Division and the status of implementation of each final determination. December 21, 2015.

National Commission on Hunger: Report in response to Section 743 of the FY2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 113-76). December 2015.

USDA: RMA report on Study on Swine Catastrophic Disease as required by Section 11022 of the Agricultural Act of 2014. December 21, 2015.

USDA: Forest Service letter to advise the purchase of 300 acres of land in Ripley County, Missouri. December 28, 2015.

USDA: Letter to update on the progress of the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service in addressing the provisions of fish in the order of *Siluriformes* as required by Section 12106(b)(2) of the Agricultural Act of 2014. January 4, 2016.

USDA: Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program Plan as directed by House Report 113-468. January 7, 2016.

USDA: Report that describes the cropland acreage in each applicable county and State and the changes in cropland acreage from 2014-2015 as required by section 11014(c) of the Agriculture Act of 2014. January 20, 2016.

FCA: Proposed amendments to title 12, chapter VI of the *Code of Federal Regulations* as promulgated by the Farm Credit Administration. January 21, 2016.

FCA: Agency's proposed FY17 budget. February 8, 2016.

DOC: Report on the export licensing actions taken by the Department of Commerce's BIS relating to exports and reexports of agricultural commodities to Cuba from October 1 through December 31, 2015. February 17, 2016.

USDA: 2015 Conference Transparency Report, detailing all conferences with costs of \$10,000 or more, during the period of July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015, as required by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. February 12, 2016.

USDA: Report on Program Enrollments and Assistance, as required by Section 1241(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended. February 22, 2016.

USDA: Report presenting the extent to which the requests for highly erodible land conservation and wetland compliance determinations are being addressed in a timely manner as required by section 1241(c) of the Food Security Act of 1985. February 22, 2016.

USDA: Report to Congress on the disruption in federal inspection of grain exports at the Port of Vancouver in the summer of 2014 as required by Title III of the United States Grain Standards Act Reauthorization, Section 301. February 29, 2016.

FCA: FCA Board adopted both a joint final rule and interim final rule that add a new part 624 to chapter VI of title XII of the *Code of Federal Regulations*.

USDA: Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for FY16 as required by the Department of Interior Appropriations Act (P.L. 111-88) as a part of the Title V-FLAME Act of 2009. January 5, 2016.

U.S. Dept. of State: Report to Congress on Water Deliveries from Mexico to the Rio Grande under Existing Treaty Obligations. February 16, 2016.

EPA: Copy of the EPA Fiscal Year 2015 annual report prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002, Public Law 107-174. March 2, 2016.

USDA: Forest Service letter to advise of approval of the purchase of 468 acres of land in Ripley County, Missouri. March 8, 2016.

USDA: Progress report on implementation of the provisions on certain types of fish in the Agricultural Act of 2014. March 10, 2016.

USDA: Section 1613 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 requires the Secretary of Agriculture submit an Equitable Relief Report. March 10, 2016.

GAO: Pursuant to section 801 (a)(2)(A) of title 5, United States Code, report on a major rule promulgated by the Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service entitled, *Removal of Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling Requirements for Beef and Pork Muscle Cuts, Ground Beef, and Ground Pork*. March 21, 2016.

GAO: Pursuant to section 801 (a)(2)(A) of title 5, United States Code, report on a major rule promulgated by the Department of Agriculture, Commodity Credit Corporation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service entitled "Conservation Stewardship Program". March 24, 2016.

FCA: 2015 Annual Report required under the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002. March 31, 2016.

FCSIC: 2015 Annual report required under the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002. March 31, 2016.

USDA: Request under FOIA for the names and contact information of all handlers that report quarterly under the Federal marketing order for cranberries. March, 2016.

USDA: U.S. Forest Service to acquire 185.4 acres of land in Ripley County, Missouri. April 18, 2016.

USDA: U.S. Forest Service to acquire 29.33 acres of land in Cook County, Minnesota. April 18, 2016.

USDA: Request under FOIA for a list of pistachio growers covered by a Federal Marketing Order. April 25, 2016.

DOC: Report to Congress the export licensing actions taken by the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) relating to exports and reexports of agricultural commodities to Cuba from January 1 through March 31, 2016. April 18, 2016.

USDA: Annual report of civil rights complaints, resolutions, and actions for FY 2015 as required by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, Section 14010. May 6, 2016.

USDA: Annual report to Congress that summarizes USDA's data collection efforts and describes how data collection agencies are coordinating with data-user agencies to meet their needs for useful data as required by Section 10004(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014. May 6, 2016.

USDA: Committee Charter for the National Organic Standards Board in compliance with P.L. 92-463. May 6, 2016.

USDA: Report on the pilot program to test prevention of duplicate participation in SNAP as required by Section 4032(c) of the Agricultural Act of 2014. May 10, 2016.

FCA: Final rule adopted by FCA under the provisions of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended. The rule amends Title 12, Chapter VI of the *Code of Federal Regulations*. May 11, 2016.

USDA: Annual report to Congress detailing official grain inspection and weighing program activities as well as new initiatives for the coming year. May 12, 2016.

USAID: Report, U.S. International Food Assistance Report FY2014, as required by Section 407 of the Food for Peace Act, as amended by Section 3010 of the 2014 Farm Bill. May 16, 2016.

FCA: Final rule adopted by the FCA Board under the provisions of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended. May 16, 2016.

CFTC: Charter for the CFTC's Market Risk Advisory Committee. May 20, 2016.

USDA: Letter to inform of acquisition of 185.5 acres within the Uwharrie National Forest, North Carolina from the Land Trust for Central North Carolina. May 24, 2016.

USDA: Letter to inform of acquisition of 73 acres within Pisgah National Forest in North Carolina. May 24, 2016.

USAID: Semiannual report to the Congress for the period ending March 31, 2016. May 25, 2016.

USDA: Report on implementation of the provisions on certain types of fish in the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79). May 25, 2016.

USDA: Semiannual Report to Congress summarizing the most significant accomplishments of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's OIG. May 27, 2016.

USDA: Letter to recommend land exchange located on the Mr. Hood National Forest within Clackamas and Multnomah Counties, Oregon. June 2, 2016.

USDA: Letter to inform of acquisition of 17.86 acres of land in Cass County, Minnesota. May 26, 2016.

USDA: Annual Report for FY 2015 as required by the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-174). June 1, 2016.

U.S. Office of Special Counsel: Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. Section 1213(e)(3) report from USDA based on a disclosure of wrongdoing at the U.S. Forest Service, Douglas Ranger District, Coronado National Forest, Douglas, Arizona. June 3, 2016.

USDA: Section 4022 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 requires annual report to the Committee on the SNAP E&T pilot projects. June 6, 2016.

DOT: Quarterly report for the period October 1-December 31, 2014, submitted under Section 906(b) of the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000. June 13, 2016.

FCA: Annual Report on the Farm Credit System in accordance with section 5.17(a)(3) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended (P.L. 92-181). July 6, 2016.

FCA: FCA Strategic Plan, 2016-2021, which was approved by the FCA Board on April 6, 2016. July 6, 2016.

USDA: Report to Congress on the global effort to reduce child hunger and increase school attendance as directed by section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, and reauthorized in the Agricultural Act of 2014. June 28, 2016.

GAO: Pursuant to section 801(a)(2)(A) of title 5, U.S.C., report on a major rule promulgated by USDA, Rural Business—Cooperative Service, Rural Utilities Service entitled “Guaranteed Loanmaking and Servicing Regulations”. June 17, 2016.

DOI: Estimate of anticipated wildfire suppression costs for each fiscal year during March, May, and July as required by the Federal Land Assistance Management and Enhancement Act of 2009 (Title V of Division A of P.L. 111–88). June 20, 2016.

USDA: Committee Charter for the Secure Rural Schools Resource Advisory Committees in compliance with P.L. 92–463. June 21, 2016.

USDA: Feasibility of Tribal Administration of Federal Nutrition Assistance Programs report as required under section 4004 Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113–79; the Act). July 1, 2016.

USDA: Letter to notify the purchase of 3.042 acres within the Pinhook Swamp Purchase Unit of Osceola National Forest in Florida. July 7, 2016.

USDA: Letter to notify the purchase of 866.0 acres of land from The Nature Conservancy located in Charleston County, South Carolina. July 11, 2016.

USDA: Committee Charter for The Council of Native American Farming and Ranching as required by P.L. 92–463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act. July 11, 2016.

FCA: Final rule adopted by the FCA Board under the provisions of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended. July 13, 2016.

USDA: Letter to notify the purchase of 40.4 acres of land, containing over 2,000’ of lake frontage within the proclamation boundary of the Chippewa National Forest, Michigan. July 13, 2016.

USDA: Letter to notify the purchase of 958.4 acres of land from Hughes Draft, Inc. located adjacent to Lake Moomaw, the second largest impoundment in western Virginia and of one of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests most important recreational areas. July 13, 2016.

USDA: Committee Charter for the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program Technical Advisory Panel as required by P.L. 92–463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act. July 14, 2016.

USDA: Committee Charter for the National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee as required by P.L. 92–463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act. July 14, 2016.

USDA: Committee Charter for the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council as required by P.L. 92–463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act. July 14, 2016.

USAID: “Food for Peace Act, Section 202(e) Funding Report”. July 15, 2016.

USDA: Report of the cases in which the National Appeals Division has issued a final determination involving RMA as required by Section 14009(b) of the Food, Energy, and Conservation Act of 2008. July 18, 2016.

GAO: *General Administrative Regulations; Catastrophic Risk Protection Endorsement; Area Risk Protection Insurance Regulations; and the Common Crop Insurance Regulations, Basic Provisions* (RIN: 0563–AC43). July 18, 2016.

USDA: Committee Charter for the Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board as required by P.L. 92-463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act. July 20, 2016.

USDA: Notification of the Secretary of Agriculture to convey administrative sites and used the proceeds from the conveyances for certain purposes as required by FSFREA (16 U.S.C. 580d note). July 26, 2016.

USDA: 2015 Conference Transparency Report for the period of July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015. July 26, 2016.

USDA: Report, as required by Section 4205 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79) establishing a Multi-Agency Task Force to provide coordination and direction for commodity programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service. July 27, 2016.

DOI: Estimate of anticipated wildfire suppression costs for each fiscal year during March, May, and July as required by the Federal Land Assistance Management and Enhancement Act of 2009. August 2, 2016.

DOC: Export licensing actions taken by the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security relating to exports and re-exports of agricultural commodities to Cuba from April 1 through June 30, 2016. August 2, 2016.

FCA: Report containing information regarding its agency's policies, practices, and controls related to logical access, multi-factor authentication, privileged users, software inventory and license management, and exfiltration. August 10, 2016.

FCA: Peer Review Report on the FCA OIG's audit function that was issued on August 2, 2016 by the Inspector General of the Federal Labor Relations Authority. August 15, 2016.

USDA: Report on the demonstrative projects to end childhood hunger and the related evaluation authorized and funded by Section 141 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. August 16, 2016.

DHHS: Fifteenth Report to Congress on Welfare Indicators and Risk Factors. August 16, 2016.

USDA: Report on implementation of the provisions on certain types of fish in the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79). August 18, 2016.

USDA: Foreign Holdings of U.S. Agricultural Land Through December 31, 2014 report. August 18, 2016.

GAO: Report on "National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program: Nutrition Standards for All Foods Sold in School as Required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010." (RIN: 0584-AE09). August 18, 2016.

USDA: Letter to notify of the purchase of 144.81 acres of land within the boundary of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in Taylor County, Wisconsin. August 18, 2016.

USDA: Voluntary Public Access and habitat Incentive Program report as directed by Section 2503 of the Agricultural Act of 2014. August 23, 2016.

USDA: Letter to notify of the purchase of 177.3 acres of land in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in Wisconsin. August 26, 2016.

USDA: Letter to notify of the purchase of 320 acres within the Ouachita National forest in Arkansas. August 26, 2016.

USDA: Committee Charter for the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health as required by P.L. 92-463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act. September 2, 2016.

USDA: Committee Charter for the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics as required by P.L. 92-463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act. September 6, 2016.

USDA: Report on simplifying funding application processes for Rural Development Programs. September 7, 2016.

FCA: Rule amending its regulations to reflect changes to the Freedom of Information Act. September 13, 2016.

USDA: Report containing a description of the agricultural research, extension, and education activities carried out by the Federal Government during the fiscal year immediately precedes the year for which the report is submitted. September 16, 2016.

CFTC: Charter for the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission's Agricultural Advisory Committee. September 16, 2016.

USDA: Report that describes the annual disbursements and expenditures for each State and the number of organic operations served by the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program. September 19, 2016.

USDA: Letter to notify of the purchase of 463.04 acres of land within the boundary of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in Bayfield County, Wisconsin. September 19, 2016.

CFTC: Charter for the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission's Global Markets Advisory Committee. September 23, 2016.

DOT: Biennial report for the period October 1, 2012-September 30, 2014 submitted under Section 906(c) of the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000. September 26, 2016.

USAID: Food for Peace Act, Development Funding Report. September 30, 2016.

USAID: U.S. Government Global Food Security Strategy. September 30, 2016.

USDA: AMS request under FOIA for a list of cherry growers covered by a Federal Marketing Order. October 4, 2016.

FCA: Proposed rule that would amend title 12, chapter VI of the *Code of Federal Regulations* as issued by the Farm Credit Administration. October 21, 2016.

USDA: 2016 Conference Transparency Report, detailing all conferences with costs of \$10,000 or more; sponsored or held by USDA; or attended by USDA employees during the period of July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016. October 21, 2016.

USDA: Committee Charter for the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee as required by P.L. 92-463. October 25, 2016.

USDA: Committee Charter for the National Advisory Council on Maternal, Infant, and Fetal Nutrition as required by P.L. 92-463. October 25, 2016.

DOI: "Stewardship Contracting for Fiscal Year 2015" report in compliance with Section 8205 of the Agricultural Act of 2014. October 25, 2016.

DOC: Report on the export licensing actions taken by the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security relating to exports and reexports of agricultural commodities to Cuba as re-

quired by Section 906(b) of the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000. October 28, 2016.

DOC: Report on the export licensing actions taken by the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security relating to exports of agricultural commodities to Cuba during the preceding two year period of October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2016, as required by Section 906(c) of the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000. October 28, 2016.

FCA: Semiannual report prepared by the Inspector General of the Farm Credit Administration for the period of April 2, 2016 through September 30, 2016, pursuant to Section 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended. November 1, 2016.

USDA: Report, as required by Section 4022 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, for USDA to conduct a periodic evaluation to review existing practices and research to identify employment and training program components and practices that assist members of households participating in SNAP to obtain regular employment and are best integrated with State workforce development systems. November 3, 2016.

USAID: Semiannual Office of Inspector General report for the period ending September 30, 2016. November 21, 2016.

USDA: Annual report on term limits regarding the Farm Service Agency's direct operating loans. November 21, 2016.

USDA: Semiannual report which covers the 6 month reporting period from April 2, 2016 to September 30, 2016. The report summarizes the most significant accomplishments of the USDA Office of Inspector General. November 30, 2016.

USDA: Annual report on the effectiveness of Restaurant Meals Program, operated by States as an option under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, as required by Section 4014 of the Agricultural Act of 2014. October 26, 2016.

USDA: Report required by section 4301 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to assess the effectiveness of State and local efforts to directly certify children for free school meals under the National School Lunch Program for school year 2014–2015.

USDA: Report presenting the extent to which the requests for highly erodible land conservation and wetland compliance determinations are being addressed in a timely manner as required by Section 1241(c) of the Food Security Act of 1985. December 1, 2016.

USDA: Report on the action plans developed by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for high consequence plant pests and diseases, to assist in preventing the introduction and widespread dissemination of new threats in the United States. December 2, 2016.

USDA: Committee Charter for the Arizona National Scenic Trail Advisory Council in compliance with P.L. 92–463. December 5, 2016.

C. MEMORIALS

Memorial No. 24. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 6, urging the Congress of the United States to enact bipartisan legislation that reaffirms the FDA as the primary authority in uniform food labeling

related to genetic engineering, based on scientific standards regarding health, safety, and nutrition; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Agriculture. Submitted April 27, 2015.

Memorial No. 66. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Louisiana, relative to Senate Resolution No. 141, urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to designate Grambling State University as a United States Department of Agriculture 1890 land-grant institution; jointly to the Committees on Agriculture and Education and the Workforce. Submitted June 18, 2015.

Memorial No. 75. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Resolution No. 102, urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to designate Grambling State University as an 1890 land-grant institution; jointly to the Committees on Agriculture and Education and the Workforce. Submitted July 9, 2015.

Memorial No. 92. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Utah, relative to House Concurrent Resolution 8, urging the President of the United States to direct federal agencies that implement management practices that increase soil carbon sequestration to develop comprehensive plans that achieve the maximum amount of carbon sequestration possible and increase the economic and environmental productivity of rangelands and urges similar action within each state; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Agriculture. Submitted July 15, 2015.

Memorial No. 130. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of California, relative to Assembly Joint Resolution No. 18, urging the Congress of the United States to support H.R. 167, the federal Wildfire Disaster Funding Act; jointly to the Committees on the Budget, Agriculture, and Natural Resources. Submitted September 16, 2015.

Memorial No. 132. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of California, relative to Assembly Joint Resolution No. 18, urging the Congress of the United States to support H.R. 167, the federal Wildlife Disaster Funding Act; jointly to the Committees on the Budget, Agriculture, and Natural Resources. Submitted September 18, 2015.

Memorial No. 133. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Texas, relative to House Resolution No. 1508, expressing support for the use of sound science to study and regulate such modern agricultural technologies as crop protection chemistries, genetically engineered or enhanced traits, and nutrients; to the Committee on Agriculture. Submitted September 22, 2015.

Memorial No. 196. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas, relative to House Resolution No. 6045, urging the Federal Government to require the use of sound science in evaluating crop protection chemistries and nutrients. Submitted April 13, 2016.

Memorial No. 234. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Arizona, relative to Senate Concurrent Memorial 1011, urging the Congress of United States to enact the Resilient Federal Forests Act; jointly to the Committees on Agriculture and Natural Resources. Submitted April 24, 2016.

Memorial No. 237. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Arizona, relative to Senate Concurrent Memorial 1015, urging the United States Congress to enact the Stopping EPA Overreach Act; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Natural Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Agriculture. Submitted April 24, 2016.

Memorial No. 263. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Hawaii, relative to Senate Resolution No. 32, requesting the revision of federal regulations so that housing subsidies through the Section 8 rental assistance and homeownership program paid directly to an applicant of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program are excluded from the calculation of household income to determine eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; jointly to the Committees on Financial Services and Agriculture. Submitted June 15, 2016.

Memorial No. 276. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Arizona, relative to Senate Concurrent Memorial 1011, urging the Congress of the United States to enact the Resilient Federal Forests Act; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Agriculture and Natural Resources. Submitted July 1, 2016.

Memorial No. 280. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Arizona, relative to Senate Concurrent Memorial 1015, urging the United States Congress to enact the Stopping EPA Overreach Act; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Natural Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Agriculture. Submitted July 1, 2016.

Memorial No. 302. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of Texas, relative to Senate Resolution No. 642, expressing support for the study and regulation of modern agricultural technologies and expressing opposition to regulatory action that results in unnecessary restrictions on the use of modern agricultural technologies. Submitted November 14, 2016.

D. PETITIONS

Petition No. 46. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County, Florida, relative to Resolution No. R-70-16, urging the U.S. Congress and U.S. Department of Agriculture, as well as the Florida Legislature and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, to provide financial relief to farmers impacted by historic rainfalls in South Florida during December 2015. Submitted March 1, 2016.

