

The Senate amendment provides for the “Housing Assistance Council Authorization Act of 2007.” (Section 6501)

This section authorizes the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide financial assistance to the Housing Assistance Council (HAC) for the purpose of supporting community-based housing development organizations’ community development and affordable housing projects and programs in rural areas. (Section 6502)

The Senate amendment requires the Comptroller General to audit any institution receiving funds from HAC and a GAO report on the use of any funds appropriated to HAC over the past 10 years. (Section 6503)

The Senate amendment prohibits funds from subtitle D of this Act from being used to provide housing assistance to persons not lawfully present in the United States. (Section 6504)

The Senate amendment prohibits funds from being used to lobby or retain a lobbyist. (Section 6505)

The House bill contains no comparable provisions.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate amendment, with modifications to allow the GAO to use private, independent audits for the review of HAC. (Sections 6301, 6302, 6303, 6304, and 6305)

(62) Interest Rates for Water and Waste Disposal

The Senate amendment amends section 307(a)(3) of the Con Act to ensure that interest rates for intermediate and poverty rate loans are tied to the current market rate. The poverty rate is set at 60 percent of the market rate and the intermediate rate is set at 80 percent of the market rate. (Section 12602)

The House bill contains no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate amendment, with modifications to exclude from the interest rate change, those loans that have been approved prior to the enactment of this Act. (Section 6011)

TITLE VII—RESEARCH

(1) Definitions

The House bill defines terms necessary to implement this Act: capacity program, competitive program, capacity program critical base funding, competitive program critical base funding, ASCARR Institution, Secretary, Directors, Under Secretary, and Hispanic-serving agricultural college and university. (Section 7101)

The Senate amendment amends the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to define the terms: advisory board, competitive program, director, infrastructure program, and institute (Section 7401). The Senate amendment amends Section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA) to define the terms Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities, and Hispanic-serving institution, and to expand ‘college’ and ‘university’ to include research foundations maintained by a college or university. (Section 7001)

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision with an amendment to include the terms defined in the House bill and the Senate amendment.

The Conference substitute defines the following terms necessary to implement this Act: capacity and infrastructure program, capacity and infrastructure program critical base funding, competitive program, competitive program critical base funding, Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities, NLGCA Institution (non-land-grant colleges of agriculture), 1862 Institution, 1890 Institution, and 1994 Institution. (Section 7501)

The Conference substitute amends section 1404 of the NARETPA to define Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institution, and NLGCA Institutions (non-land-grant colleges of agriculture), and to expand the definition of ‘college’ and ‘university’ to include research foundations maintained by a college or university. (Section 7101)

The Conference substitute amends section 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971) to define the terms ‘capacity and infrastructure program’ and ‘competitive program’. (Section 7511)

(2) Budget Submission and Funding

The House bill requires the President to submit with the annual budget request a single line item reflecting the total funding requested for competitive programs for the fiscal year and the previous five fiscal years. The capacity program critical base funding request should be apportioned among programs based on priorities established by the Under Secretary of Research, Education, and Economics, and the Directors of the National Agricultural Research Program Office (NARPO). Additional funds requested should enhance 1890 institutions, 1994 institutions, small 1862 institutions, ASCARR institutions, and Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities. The competitive program critical base funding request should be apportioned among programs based on priorities established by the Under Secretary and Directors of NARPO. Additional funds requested should support the study of emerging problems and their solutions. Necessary funds are authorized to be appropriated. Competitive programs under this section include only those requested by the President for funding. (Section 7102)

The Senate amendment has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision with an amendment to include the total amount requested by the President for the research, extension, and education activities of the Research, Education, and Economics (REE) mission area of the Department in a single budget line item. The Conference substitute recommends that out of funds above the capacity and infrastructure critical base funding level, budgetary emphasis should be placed on certain institutions; and out of funds above the competitive program critical base funding level, budgetary emphasis should be placed on emerging problems. (Section 7506)

The Managers recognize the numerous benefits of competitive research programs and have supported the expansion of funding for these programs. The Managers encourage the Department to make every effort to increase support for competitive programs while maintaining the needs of capacity and infrastructure programs when making budgetary decisions.

The Managers expect the Secretary to review, in conjunction with the consultative panel on the Extension Indian Reservation Program (also known as the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Programs), the demand for and status of extension services on Indian reservations and reflect that need in their budget submission.

(3) Additional Purposes of Agricultural Research and Extension

The House bill amends section 1403 of the NARETPA to add the following to the purposes of agricultural research and extension: integrating and organizing agricultural research, extension, education, and related programs to respond to 21st century challenges; continuing to meet the needs of society from a local, tribal, State, national, and international perspective; minimizing duplication and maximize coordination of the program at all levels; positioning the research, extension, education, and related programs to expand the portfolio to increase its contribution to society.(Section 7103)

The Senate amendment has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute deletes the House provision.

(4) National Agriculture Research Program Office

The House bill establishes six research Program Offices, collectively known as the “National Agricultural Research Program Office” (NARPO) within the office of the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics. The NARPO will coordinate the programs and activities of the research agencies within the mission area to the maximum extent practicable. The NARPO will include the following offices:

- (1) Renewable energy, resources, and environment;
- (2) Food safety, nutrition, and health;
- (3) Plant health and production and plant products;
- (4) Animal health and production and animal products;
- (5) Agriculture systems and technology; and
- (6) Agriculture economics and rural communities.

Each research program office will have a director appointed by the Under Secretary. The requirements to qualify for one of the director positions include performance of outstanding research, extension, or education in agriculture or forestry, a doctoral-level degree, and other standards as required for appointment to a senior level of the competitive service.

The Directors will formulate programs, assess workforce needs, cooperate with the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board (NAREEE Advisory Board) in planning for personnel needs, develop strategic planning and priorities for Department-wide research, extension, education, and related activities, and communicate with program beneficiaries.

The Under Secretary, along with the Directors, and in consultation with the NAREEE Advisory Board, will direct and coordinate programs within relevant departmental agencies to focus on understanding program problems and opportunities, and addressing those problems along with national, regional, and local priorities.

The Under Secretary will coordinate with the Directors and receive the advice of the NAREEE Advisory Board to ensure that programs are integrated and coordinated.

The Under Secretary will fund each Program Office with appropriated funds made available to the agencies within the mission area. The total number of staff for all Program Offices will not exceed 30 full time positions and will have to be filled by current positions.

The Under Secretary will integrate leadership functions from existing program offices to ensure that program offices are the primary program leaders.

The Under Secretary will develop and implement specialty crop research activities, facilitate information delivery, and ensure coordination among research initiatives related to specialty crops. (Section 7104)

The Senate amendment requires coordination between the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) – formerly the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES). The Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics will coordinate the programs under the authority of the Administrator of ARS and the Director of NIFA. The staff of the Administrator and the Director, including national program leaders, are required to meet on a regular basis to: increase coordination and integration of research programs at ARS and the research, extension, and education programs of NIFA; coordinate responses to emerging issues; minimize unnecessary duplication of work and resources at the staff level of each agency; use the extension and education program to deliver knowledge to stakeholders; address critical needs facing agriculture; and focus the research, extension, and education funding strategy of the Department. An annual report to Congress is required on efforts to increase coordination between ARS and NIFA.

The Undersecretary for Research, Education, and Economics is charged with undertaking a roadmap to identify major opportunities and gaps in agricultural research, extension, and education and to use this roadmap to set the research agenda and recommend funding levels for programs in this mission area of the Department.

Such sums necessary for activities undertaken to develop the roadmap are authorized. (Sections 7402)

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision with an amendment to change the name of the name of the office to the Research, Extension, and Education Office (REEO) and to integrate it into the office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics. The Conference substitute also captures the roadmap from the Senate amendment.

The Conference substitute requires the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics to have specialized training or significant experience in agricultural research, education, and economics. The Under Secretary is designated as the chief scientist of the Department and is tasked with the coordination of the research, education, and extension activities of the Department.

The Conference substitute organizes the REEO into six Divisions:

- (1) Renewable energy, natural resources, and environment;
- (2) Food safety, nutrition, and health;
- (3) Plant health and production and plant products;
- (4) Animal health and production and animal products;
- (5) Agriculture systems and technology; and
- (6) Agriculture economics and rural communities.

Each Division will be led by a Division Chief. The Division Chiefs are to be selected by the Under Secretary to promote leadership and professional development, to enable personnel to interact with other agencies of the Department, and to allow for the rotation of Department personnel into the position of Division Chief. Each Division Chief is required to have conducted exemplary research, extension, or education in the field of agriculture or forestry and is required to have earned an advanced degree at an institution of higher education. Each Division Chief is limited to a four-year term of service. The duties of each Division Chief include addressing the agricultural research, extension, and education needs and priorities within the Department and communicating with stakeholders, as well as the development of the roadmap as described in section 7504 of this Act. (Section 7511 and Section 7504)

The Managers expect the REEO to be staffed and funded from appropriations made available to the agencies within the REE mission area. There is concern that the REEO will evolve into a new layer of bureaucracy. To address this, the Managers have included language to limit the number of staff positions for the REEO to 30 full-time current positions.

The Managers expect the REEO Divisions to coordinate the research, extension, and education activities across the Department. The Managers expect the Division Chiefs of each office to: coordinate the functions of intramural and extramural research, extension, and education programs to ensure the maximum integration of activities; and to formulate programs, assess workforce needs, and cooperate with the agencies of the REE mission area and the NAREEE Advisory Board in developing strategic planning and priorities for the Department.

The Managers expect that once REEO is operational, the Division Chiefs will be able to track, report, and identify research gaps, unnecessary duplication among programs, and assess the needs for immediate, emerging, and future needs for research, extension, and education programs.

(5) Establishment of Competitive Grant Programs under the National Institute for Food and Agriculture

The House bill establishes the NIFA within CSREES to administer all competitive programs as defined in section 7101 of this Act. (Section 7105)

The Senate amendment transfers all authorities under CSREES to NIFA, and all programs currently under CSREES will continue under NIFA. NIFA will be headed by a Director, who is required to report to and consult with the Secretary on the research, extension, and education activities of NIFA. The Director will work with the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics to ensure proper coordination and integration of all research programs that are within the responsibility of the Department.

The Senate amendment establishes four offices at NIFA to increase competitive grant opportunities and re-establish the importance of the land-grant college and university system. First, the Office of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Network administers all infrastructure programs (also known as capacity programs) such as those funded by formula funds at state agricultural experiment stations and the extension service. Second, the Office of Competitive Programs for Fundamental Research administers competitive programs that fund fundamental (basic) food and agricultural research, such as the National Research Initiative's basic research projects.

Third, the Office of Competitive Programs for Applied Research administers competitive programs for applied food and agricultural research. Fourth, the Office of Competitive Programs for Education and Other Purposes administers competitive programs for education and other fellowships. The Director of NIFA has the discretion to divide programs that intersect more than one competitive program office.

The Senate amendment authorizes appropriations for NIFA, above the authorizations of individual programs, to be allocated according to recommendations in the roadmap to be developed by the Under Secretary of Research, Education and Economics under section 7402 of this Act.

The Senate amendment includes a series of conforming amendments to modify each place in current law to reflect the change from “Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service” to “National Institute of Food and Agriculture”. (Section 7401)

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision to modify the appointment, supervision, compensation, and authorities of the Director of NIFA and to modify the organization of offices under NIFA. It also modifies the programs under the definition of “capacity and infrastructure program” and “competitive program”;

The Conference substitute provides that NIFA will be established by October 1, 2009. The Director of NIFA is required to be a distinguished scientist and will be appointed by the President. The Director is required to report to the Secretary or the designee of the Secretary and will serve a six-year term, subject to reappointment for an additional six-year term.

The Conference substitute also provides the Director with discretion to organize NIFA into offices and functions to administer fundamental and applied research and extension and education programs. The NIFA Director is required to ensure an appropriate balance between fundamental and applied research programs, and is required to promote the use and growth of competitively awarded grants.

The Conference substitute provides an authorization of appropriations for NIFA without fiscal year limitation, in addition to funds appropriated to each program administered by the Institute. The appropriated funding is required to be allocated according to recommendations in the roadmap described in section 7504 of this Act.

The Managers are concerned about the visibility of competitive research grants, the increasing demands placed on the land-grant system, and the weakening financial support of both competitive grants and formula funds. By restructuring CSREES, the Managers intend for NIFA to raise the profile of agricultural research, extension, and education. The Managers believe that NIFA will be commensurate in stature with other grant-making agencies across the Federal government, such as the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. The Managers intend for NIFA to be an independent, scientific, policy-setting agency for the food and agricultural sciences, which will reinvigorate our nation’s investment in agricultural research, extension, and education.

The Managers are concerned about the balance between fundamental and applied research at the Department. The Managers note that the Conference substitute gives the Director of NIFA discretion to establish offices, to set appropriate policy, and to address problems that agricultural research, extension, and education can help solve. In particular, the Managers intend that the Director place emphasis on fundamental research because

this type of research is the engine and cornerstone for all other types of research. Although fundamental research across the sciences is funded by the National Science Foundation, the Managers expect NIFA to play a larger role in funding this type of research. However, the Managers recognize that without applied research, the fruits of fundamental research would never be used to solve the pressing needs of the public. Therefore, the Managers intend for the Director to carefully analyze the needs of the agricultural research, extension, and education system and address them accordingly by allocating appropriate staff and resources within NIFA. (Section 7511)

(6) Merging of IFAFS and NRI

The House bill combines the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems (IFAFS) with the National Research Initiative (NRI) by repealing section 401 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998, except for section 401(b)(3) of that Act which will remain in effect, and incorporating the priorities under section 401 into subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act.

This section states that competitive grants authorized under the new program are to be available to State agricultural experiment stations, all colleges, universities, university research foundations, research institutions and organizations, Federal agencies, national laboratories, private organizations, corporations, and individuals.

The term of any grant received under this program will not exceed 10 years. All grant awards are to be made on the basis of peer and merit review. Funds may not be used for construction.

Within the combined program, there will be two separate programs for basic and applied research, to be referred to as NRI and IFAFS respectively. Out of the funds made available to the combined program, 60 percent will fund NRI and 40 percent will fund IFAFS.

Within the NRI allocation, funding will be allocated as follows: 30 percent for multidisciplinary teams; 20 percent for mission-linked systems research; not less than 10 percent for education and research opportunities. The offer or availability of matching funds shall not be taken into account when making a grant. The match requirement may be waived in certain cases.

Matching funds will be required for IFAFS grants if the grant is for applied, commodity-specific research and not national in scope.

In addition to NRI grants, the Secretary may conduct a program in agricultural, food, and environmental sciences in a variety of specified categories. Funding made available under current law for IFAFS will be transferred to this new combined program. The House bill authorizes \$500,000,000 to be appropriated and to remain available until expended for obligations incurred in that fiscal year.

This section repeals the authority for construction of non-Federal agricultural research facilities with appropriated Federal funds. (Section 7106)

The Senate amendment amends Section 401 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to add sustainable and renewable agriculture-based energy production, ecosystem services, and beginning farmers and ranchers to the purposes of IFAFS.

This section strikes a provision allocating \$200,000,000 per year in mandatory funds for IFAFS and provides \$45,000,000 in mandatory funds for IFAFS to be obligated 30 days after the enactment of the farm bill. This section requires 32 percent of appropriated funds for the NRI to go towards IFAFS grants if funds are not appropriated or obligated for IFAFS. (Section 7201)

The Senate amendment amends the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act to add research on agricultural genomics and biotechnology, classical animal and plant breeding, beginning farmers and ranchers, and the judicious use of antibiotics to the research priorities of the NRI.

This section modifies the availability of grant funds for classical plant and animal breeding to ten years and establishes National Research Support Project-7 for research on drugs for use in minor animal species. (Section 7307)

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision with an amendment to replace subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act to create a new program, titled the “Agriculture and Food Research Initiative” (AFRI), to award competitive grants for fundamental and applied research, extension, and education to address food and agricultural sciences. The program combines the priority areas of the NRI with the purposes and priority areas of IFAFS. There are six priority areas in AFRI:

- (1) Plant health and production and plant products;
- (2) Animal health and production and animal products;
- (3) Food safety, nutrition, and health;
- (4) Renewable energy, natural resources, and environment;
- (5) Agriculture systems and technology; and
- (6) Agriculture economics and rural communities.

The term of competitive grants awarded under AFRI may not exceed 10 years.

Under AFRI, the Secretary will seek proposals to conduct research, extension, or education activities in a specific priority area, determine the relevance and merit of proposals, and award grants on the basis of merit, quality, and relevance as determined by experts in the specific subject area.

AFRI funds are to be allocated in the following manner: 60 percent will be made available for fundamental research and 40 percent will be made available for applied research. Of the allocation for fundamental research, not less than 30 percent will be made available for multidisciplinary research and not more than two percent will be made available for equipment grants.

Grants awarded through AFRI may also be used to assist in the development of capabilities in the agricultural, food, and environmental sciences to certain institutions, investigators, and faculty members where such development is necessary.

Eligible entities that may receive grants through AFRI include State agricultural experiment stations, colleges and universities, university research foundations, other research institutions and organizations, Federal agencies, national laboratories, private organizations or corporations, individuals, or groups thereof.

AFRI funds are prohibited from being used for the construction, acquisition, remodeling, or alteration of a facility or building.

For equipment grants funded through AFRI, the cost of the equipment required may not exceed 50 percent of the Federal funds. The Secretary may waive this matching requirement under specified conditions. For grants awarded to conduct applied research

that is commodity-specific and not of national scope, the grant is required to be matched with equal matching funds from a non-Federal source.

The authorization level for AFRI is set at \$700,000,000 from fiscal year 2008 through fiscal year 2012, of which not less than 30 percent is required to be made available for integrated research. (Section 7406)

The Managers expect that in providing an annual authorization of appropriations of \$700,000,000 that AFRI will receive substantial funding to carry out its purposes in the annual appropriations process. NRI and IFAFS have been consistently underfunded despite the growing list of identified needs in agricultural research, extension, and education.

The Managers created AFRI to enhance the work funded by NRI and IFAFS. As such, AFRI should receive the combined level of authorized and mandatory funding that NRI and IFAFS, respectively, were to receive in previous fiscal years. The Managers expect that AFRI be funded at increasing levels each fiscal year to meet identified priority agriculture research, extension and education demands.

The Managers are aware of the importance of supporting public sector conventional plant and animal breeding, as evidenced by the specific mention of this priority under the “plant health and production and plant products” and “animal health and production and animal products” priorities in AFRI. The Managers intend that the term “conventional breeding,” also known as “classical breeding,” refer to breeding techniques which rely on creating an organism with desirable traits through controlled mating and selection. Because conventional breeding is critical to the development of seeds and breeds that are well adapted to local conditions and changing environmental constraints, these efforts are important to the food and agriculture sector. The Managers are aware that participatory breeding programs, where producers are involved in the process of developing new plant varieties and animal breeds, yield varieties and breeds that are better adapted to local environments. The Managers encourage an emphasis on funding of conventional plant and animal breeding as part of the new AFRI.

The Managers are aware of the need for integrated research, extension, and education activities to stimulate entrepreneurship across rural America to support business development, improve skills of current and emerging entrepreneurs, expand access to capital, and build entrepreneurial networks. Under the priority area of “agriculture economics and rural communities,” AFRI includes “rural entrepreneurship” to increase competitive funding for integrated entrepreneurship activities. The Managers intend for this priority area to include both agricultural and rural development ventures, including strengthening non-farm, self-employment for farm and rural populations.

The Managers intend that most program areas within AFRI would have grant terms of short duration. However, the Managers are aware that there are areas of research where longer-term grants are needed, such as conventional plant and animal breeding, environmental research, and nutrition research. The Managers expect the Secretary to use 10-year grant terms only when it is critical for long-term systems research.

The Managers encourage the Director of NIFA to continue to support National Research Support Project-7 and to work cooperatively with the Center for Veterinary Medicine of the Food and Drug Administration to facilitate the development and approval of drugs for minor species and minor uses for major species. (Section 7406)

In order to improve the Department's capacity to develop programs designed to

address critical and emerging issues, leverage Federal resources, and promote public and private sector participation, Congress created an Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program in 1998. The Managers continue to support this important competitive grants program and have extended the authorization for these activities in section 7306 of this Act. To further expand on these activities, the Managers have included a provision in this section which directs that not less than 30 percent of the funds made available to AFRI be used for integrated research, extension, and education competitive grants. It is the intent of the Managers that with these additional funds, the Department will be able to expand the number and scope of programs supported under this authority.

(7) Capacity Building Grants for ASCARR Institutions

The House bill establishes a competitive grant program for ASCARR Institutions to maintain and expand education, outreach, and research capacity relating to agriculture, renewable resources, and other similar fields. Necessary sums are authorized to be appropriated. (Section 7107)

The Senate amendment has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision with an amendment to add a new section, 1473F, to NARETPA, and to replace the term “ASCARR” with the term “NLGCA,” an abbreviation for “non-land-grant colleges of agriculture.” (Section 7138)

(8) Establishment of Research Laboratories for Animal Disease

The House bill authorizes the Secretary to establish animal disease research laboratories, and to the extent that an animal disease constitutes a threat to the livestock industry, authorizes the Secretary to conduct research, diagnostics, and other activities. This section prohibits a person, State, or Federal agency from importing, transporting, or storing at a research facility a live virus that the Secretary determines to be a threat to livestock, such as Foot and Mouth Disease. The Secretary may, however, import, transport, or store such a live virus and may also allow for a person, State, or Federal agency to do the same if it is in the public interest. Necessary sums are authorized to be appropriated. (Section 7108)

The Senate amendment requires the Secretary to issue a permit to the Department of Homeland Security for work on live Foot and Mouth Disease virus at the National Bio- and Agro-Defense Laboratory. This section allows the Secretary to invalidate the permit if research is not conducted in accordance with its regulations. This section clarifies that the suspension, revocation, or impairment of the permit is only to be made by the Secretary of Agriculture and is a nondelegable function. (Section 11016)

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision with an amendment to replace the term “National Bio- and Agro-Defense Laboratory” with “any facility that is a successor to the Plum Island Animal Disease Center and charged with researching high-consequence biological threats involving zoonotic and foreign animal diseases.” (Section 7524)

(9) Grazinglands Research Laboratory

The House bill requires that Federal land and facilities currently administered by the Department as the Grazinglands Research Laboratory shall not be declared excess or surplus property. (Section 7109)

The Senate amendment has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision with an amendment to sunset the provision at the end of fiscal year 2012. (Section 7502)

(10) Research Training

The House bill requires plant genetic researchers that receive certain federal funds to complete an approved training program. (Section 7110)

The Senate has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute deletes the House provision.

(11) Fort Reno Science Park Research Facility

The House bill allows the Secretary to lease land at the Grazinglands Research Laboratory to the University of Oklahoma. (Section 7111)

The Senate amendment has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7503)

(12) Assessing the Nutritional Composition of Beef Products

The House bill allows the Secretary to award a grant, contract, or other agreement to a land-grant university to update the Nutrient Composition Handbook for Beef. Necessary sums are authorized to be appropriated. (Section 7112)

The Senate amendment has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute deletes the House provision.

(13) Sense of Congress Regarding Funding for Human Nutrition Research

The House bill states that it is the sense of Congress that human nutrition research has the potential for improving the health of Americans. (Section 7113)

The Senate amendment has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute deletes the House provision.

(14) Advisory Board

The House bill amends Section 1408(g)(1) of NARETPA by increasing the maximum annual appropriations for the NAREEE Advisory Board to \$500,000. (Section 7201)

The Senate amendment amends Section 1408 of NARETPA by increasing the maximum annual appropriations for the NAREEE Advisory Board to \$500,000 and to change the membership of the board from 31 to 24 members. The Senate amendment mandates that members representing the following organizations are no longer to be

members of the board: a national animal commodity organization; a national crop commodity organization; a national aquaculture association; a non-land grant college or university with a historic commitment to research in the food and agricultural sciences; the portion of the scientific community not closely associated with agriculture; an agency within the Department that lacks research capabilities; a research agency of the Federal Government other than the Department; and national organizations directly involved in agricultural research, extension, and education. One member actively engaged in aquaculture is added to compensate for the loss of a representative from a national aquaculture association. (Section 7002 and Section 7401)

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision with an amendment to include a member representing NLGCA institutions; a member actively engaged in the production of a food animal commodity recommended by a coalition of national livestock organizations; a member actively engaged in the production of a plant commodity recommended by a coalition of national crop organizations; and a member actively engaged in aquaculture recommended by a coalition of national aquaculture organizations. (Section 7102)

(15) Advisory Board Termination

The House bill (section 7202) and the Senate amendment (section 7002) extend section 1408(h) of NARETPA through 2012.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision. (Section 7102)

(16) Renewable Energy Committee

The House bill adds a new section, 1408B, to NARETPA that requires the executive committee of the NAREEE Advisory Board to establish and appoint initial members to a permanent renewable energy subcommittee responsible for studying the research, extension, and economics programs affecting the renewable energy industry. The renewable energy committee will submit annual reports to the Board with the committee's findings and recommendations.

This section states that the Renewable Energy Subcommittee shall coordinate with the Biomass Research and Development Act Technical Advisory Committee.

This section states also that when preparing the annual budget recommendations for the Department, the Secretary shall take into account the recommendations made by the committee and adopted by the NAREEE Advisory Board. (Section 7203)

The Senate amendment has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision with an amendment to make technical changes in the Renewable Energy Committee. (Section 7104)

(17) Specialty Crop Committee Report

The House bill amends section 1408A(c) of NARETPA by expanding the list of recommendations the Specialty Crops Subcommittee must make annually to the NAREEE Advisory Board to include economic analyses of the specialty crops sector and data that provides applied information useful to specialty crop growers. (Section 7204)

The Senate amendment has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision with an amendment to make technical changes. (Section 7103)

(18) Inclusion of UDC Grants and Fellowships for Food and Agricultural Sciences Education

The House bill amends section 1417 of NARETPA by adding the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) as an eligible university to compete for food and agricultural sciences education grants and fellowships. (Section 7205)

The Senate amendment is the same as the House provision with technical differences. (Section 7004)

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision. (Section 7106)

(19) Grants and Fellowships for Food and Agricultural Sciences Education

The House bill amends section 1417(j) of NARETPA by adding agriculture programs for grades K-12 to the purposes of these grants. The current authorization of appropriations of \$60,000,000 for each fiscal year is extended through 2012. This section requires a report on the distribution of funds to teaching programs. (Section 7206)

The Senate amendment is the same as House provision with technical differences. (Section 7007)

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision with an amendment to require a biennial report. (Section 7109)

(20) Grants for Research on Production and Marketing of Alcohols and Industrial Hydrocarbons from Agricultural Commodities and Forest Products

The House bill (section 7207) and the Senate amendment (section 7008) extend section 1419(d) of NARETPA through 2012.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision with an amendment to repeal this section from current law. (Section 7110)

(21) Policy Research Centers

The House bill amends section 1419A of NARETPA by including the Food Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI) and the Agricultural and Food Policy Center (AFPC) as eligible to receive grants under the policy research center authorization and extending the authorization of appropriations through 2012. (Section 7208)

The Senate amendment amends section 1419A of NARETPA by including FAPRI, the AFPC, the Rural Policy Research Institute, and the Community Vitality Center as eligible to receive grants under the policy research center authorization and extending the authorization of appropriations through 2012. (Section 7009)

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision with an amendment to remove the Community Vitality Center, add the Drought Mitigation Center, and clarify that the specialty crops sector should be covered by the centers. (Section 7111)

The Managers recognize specialty crops are a vital component of agriculture in the Midwestern region of the United States and encourage the development of a collaborative research program at a land-grant university to support specialty crop research focused on genetic resource development, sustainable production practices, and improved marketing systems. The Managers recognize the resources and expertise available among the Midwestern land-grant universities, such as Purdue University, and encourage the Secretary to support continued expansion of the specialty crop research, extension, and education capabilities of these institutions.

(22) Human Nutrition Intervention and Health Promotion Research Program

The House bill (section 7209) and the Senate amendment (Section 7010) extend section 1424(d) of NARETPA through 2012.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7114)

(23) Pilot Research Program to Combine Medical and Agricultural Research

The House bill (section 7210) and the Senate amendment (section 7011) extend section 1424A(d) of NARETPA through 2012.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision. (Section 7115)

The Managers recognize the potential for the development of pharmaceuticals for human use through the use of bovine blood products. The usefulness of bovine blood products has resulted from a number of technical advances. These advances ensure the proper and necessary level of control of the animal-based raw materials so that they can now meet or exceed the requirements to develop safe and efficacious pharmaceuticals for human use. The Managers encourage the Secretary to fund pilot projects through this authorization to accelerate the development of pharmaceuticals for human use from bovine blood products.

(24) Nutrition Education Program

The House bill authorizes appropriations of \$90,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2012 to carry out the food and nutrition education program. (Section 7211)

The Senate amendment has no comparable provision. (Section 7012)

The Conference substitute deletes the House provision.

(25) Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Programs

The House bill (section 7212) and the Senate amendment (section 7014) extend section 1433(a) of NARETPA through 2012.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7117)

(26) Cooperation Among Eligible Institutions

The House bill requires the Secretary to encourage cooperation among institutions eligible for funding under continuing animal health and disease research programs in setting research priorities. (Section 7213)

The Senate amendment has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7118)

(27) Appropriations for Research on National or Regional Problems

The House bill (section 7214) and the Senate amendment (section 7015) extend section 1434(a) of NARETPA through 2012.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision. (Section 7119)

(28) Authorization Level of Extension at 1890 Land-Grant Colleges

The House bill (section 7215) and the Senate amendment (section 7017) modify section 1444(a)(2) of NARETPA by increasing from 15 to 20 percent the Smith-Lever (extension) formula funding allocated to 1890 institutions.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7121)

(29) Authorization Level for Agricultural Research at 1890 Land-Grant Colleges

The House bill (section 7216) and the Senate amendment (section 7018) modify section 1445(a)(2) of NARETPA by increasing from 25 to 30 percent the Hatch Act (research) formula funding that is allocated to 1890 institutions.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision. (Section 7122)

(30) Grants to Upgrade Agriculture Food Sciences Facilities at the District of Columbia Land-Grant University

The House bill (section 7217) and the Senate amendment (section 7020) amend NARETPA by adding an authorization of \$750,000 in annual appropriations for grants to be made to UDC to acquire, alter, or repair facilities or relevant equipment necessary for conducting agricultural research.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision. (Section 7124)

(31) Grants to Upgrade Agricultural and Food Sciences Facilities at 1890 Land-Grant Colleges, Including Tuskegee University.

The House bill (section 7218) and the Senate amendment (section 7019) extend section 1447(b) of NARETPA through 2012.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7123)

(32) National Research and Training Virtual Centers.

The House bill (section 7219) and the Senate amendment (section 7021) extend section 1448 of NARETPA through 2012.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision. (Section 7126)

(33) Matching Funds Requirement for Research and Extension Activities of 1890 Institutions.

The House bill (section 7220) and the Senate amendment (section 7022) extend section 1455 of NARETPA through 2012.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision with an amendment to update current law and clarify the current requirement of providing equal matching funds from non-Federal sources. (Section 7127)

(34) Hispanic-Serving Institutions

The House bill extends section 1455(c) of NARETPA through 2012. (Section 7221)

The Senate amendment amends section 1455 of NARETPA by removing the ability to receive a grant without a competitive application process. The modification also allows single institutions to receive grants. The annual appropriation is increased from \$20,000,000 to \$40,000,000 and the authorization of appropriations is extended through 2012. (Section 7023)

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision with an amendment to make technical changes. (Section 7128)

(35) Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities.

The House bill adds a new section, 1456, to NARETPA which establishes an endowment fund, an institutional capacity building grant program, and a competitive grant program to benefit Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities (HSACUs).

This section defines Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and institutions as institutions that qualify as Hispanic-serving institutions under the Higher Education Act and offer an associate, bachelor, or other accredited degree in agricultural fields of study.

This section authorizes necessary funds to be appropriated for the endowment fund, extension, and institutional capacity building, and competitive grants through 2012. A formula for the distribution of appropriations is authorized for the endowment and maintenance of Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities in the same manner prescribed under the Second Morrill Act. (Section 7222)

The Senate amendment is similar to the House provision with technical differences. (Section 7024)

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision with an amendment to make technical changes. (Section 7129)

(36) International Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education

The House bill (section 7223) and the Senate amendment (section 7025) modify section 1458(a) of NARETPA by allowing the Secretary to give priority under this

program to institutions with existing memoranda of understanding or agreements with U.S. institutions or State or Federal agencies. This section includes HSACUs as organizations the Secretary may enter into agreements with to help develop a sustainable global agricultural system. This section adds HSACUs to the list of universities eligible for support to do collaborative research with other countries on U.S. agricultural competitiveness. This section also adds HSACUs to the list of colleges and universities where Federal scientists are involved with research conducted internationally. This section establishes a program to provide fellowships to U.S. or foreign students to study at foreign agricultural colleges.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision with an amendment to add anti-hunger and nutrition efforts and increased quantity, quality, and availability of food to the purposes of agreements between eligible institutions or organizations and the Department. (Section 7130)

(37) Competitive Grants for International Agricultural Science and Education Programs

The House bill (section 7224) and the Senate amendment (section 7026) extend section 1459A(c) of the NARETPA through 2012.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7131)

(38) Limitation on Indirect Costs for Agricultural Research, Education, and Extension Programs

The House bill amends section 1462(a) of NARETPA to allow a recipient of any grant administered under the REE mission area, excluding those administered under the Small Business Act, to use up to 19 percent of Federal funds for indirect costs. (Section 7225)

The Senate amendment amends section 1462(a) of NARETPA by raising from 19 to 30 percent the allowance of indirect costs a recipient institution can use from a competitive grant awarded by the Department. (Section 7027)

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision with an amendment to increase the indirect cost limitation to 22 percent. (Section 7132)

(39) Research Equipment Grants

The House bill (section 7226) and the Senate amendment (section 7028) extend section 1462A(e) of NARETPA through 2012.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision. (Section 7133)

(40) University Research

The House bill (section 7227) and the Senate amendment (section 7029) extend section 1463 of NARETPA through 2012. (Section 7227)

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7134)

(41) Extension Service

The House bill (section 7228) and the Senate amendment (section 7030) extend section 1464 of NARETPA through 2012.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision. (Section 7135)

(42) Supplemental and Alternative Crops

The House bill (section 7229) and the Senate amendment (section 7032) extend section 1473D(a) of NARETPA through 2012.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7136)

(43) Aquaculture Assistance Programs

The House bill extends section 1477 of NARETPA through 2012. (Section 7230)

The Senate amendment extends section 1477 of NARETPA through 2012 and amends section 1475(f) of the Act to prioritize the study and management of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS). (Section 7033)

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision and adds VHS research as a high-priority item in section 7203 of this Act.

The Managers are aware of the devastating impacts that VHS is having on freshwater fish populations in the United States. The Managers encourage the Department's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to coordinate its VHS management activities with State natural resource management agencies and tribes to research, develop, and implement a comprehensive set of priorities for managing VHS, including providing funds for research into the spread of the disease, surveillance, monitoring, risk evaluation, enforcement, screening, and management. (Section 7140)

(44) Rangeland Research

The House bill extends section 1483(a) of NARETPA through 2012. (Section 7231)

The Senate amendment extends section 1483(a) of NARETPA through 2012 and amends section 1480(a) of the Act by authorizing pilot programs to address natural resources management issues and facilitate the collection of information and analysis to provide information for improved management of public and private rangeland. (Section 7034)

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7141)

(45) Special Authorization for Biosecurity Planning and Response.

The House bill (section 7232) and the Senate amendment (section 7035) extend section 1484(a) of NARETPA through 2012.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision. (Section 7142)

(46) Resident Instruction and Distance Education Grants Program for Insular Area Institutions of Higher Education

The House bill (section 7233) and the Senate amendment (section 7036) extend sections 1490(f) and 1491 of NARETPA through 2012.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7143)

(47) Hispanic-Serving Institutions

The House bill (section 7234) and the Senate amendment (section 7001) modify section 1404 of NARETPA to give the term “Hispanic-Serving Institution” the same definition as section 502(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision with an amendment to move it into the definitions section of this Act. (Section 7101)

(48) Specialty Crop Policy Research Institute

The House bill amends section 1419A of NARETPA by establishing a Specialty Crop Policy Research Institute within FAPRI. The objectives are to produce and disseminate analyses of the specialty crop sector and an annual review on the state of the specialty crop industry. Necessary sums are authorized to be appropriated. (Section 7235)

The Senate amendment has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision with an amendment to incorporate the purposes of this section into subsection (a)(1) of section 1419A of NARETPA. (Section 7111)

(49) Emphasis of Human Nutrition Initiative

The House bill amends section 1424(b) of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3174(b)) to add a new emphasis to the Human Nutrition Intervention and Health Promotion Research Program to examine the efficacy of agricultural programs in promoting the health of disadvantaged populations. (Section 7236)

The Senate amendment has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7113)

(50) Grants to Upgrade Agriculture and Food Sciences Facilities at Insular Area Land-Grant Institutions

The House bill amends NARETPA by authorizing assistance to insular land-grant institutions to acquire, alter, or repair facilities or equipment for agricultural research. An appropriation of \$8,000,000 is authorized for each fiscal year through 2012. (Section 7237)

The Senate amendment has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7125)

(51) Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment

The Senate amendment amends section 1415A of NARETPA by setting a deadline for rulemaking to implement the National Veterinary Medical Services Act (NVMSA). This section amends NVMSA to prioritize large and mixed animal practitioner shortages in rural communities and prohibits funds to be used for the existing Federal employee loan repayment program under 5 U.S.C. 5379. (Section 7003)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision with an amendment to clarify the priorities within NVMSA and to disapprove of the transfer of funds from CSREES to the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). The funds are required to be transferred back CSREES from FSIS. (Section 7105)

The Managers continue to be frustrated by the lack of progress by the Department in implementing NVMSA. When developing this legislation, the House Committee on Agriculture worked closely with the various agencies of the Department to ensure that the legislation was drafted in a manner in which it could be implemented and administered. During Committee consideration, amendments were included at the Department's request to ensure quick and efficient implementation. In a legislative report submitted by the Secretary of Agriculture, with the consent of the Office of Management and Budget, the Department reiterated its support and recommended that the legislation be enacted. More than \$2,000,000 has been appropriated for this program, yet the Department has not taken steps to develop regulations to implement it. Instead, the Managers note that CSREES, to which authority to administer NVMSA had been delegated, chose to transfer funds appropriated for this important program to another agency of the Department to assist in loan repayment for Federal employees. While this funding transfer was technically within the authority of the NVMSA legislation, it was not in line with the intent of Congress in developing this legislation. The Managers disapprove of this funding transfer and expect the full amount of funds that were transferred to be returned. Likewise, amendments have been included in NVMSA to prevent further funding transfers.

In a hearing held before the House Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry on February 7, 2008, representatives of the Department were asked repeatedly if the Administration intended to propose legislation to amend NVMSA to speed its implementation. To date, no proposed legislation has been submitted, leading the Managers to conclude that the Department has sufficient funding and capability to implement and administer this law. The Managers have therefore included a deadline for the Department to propose regulations for NVMSA and expect the Department to meet this deadline without further delay.

(52) Expansion of Food and Agricultural Sciences Award

The Senate amendment amends section 1417(i) of NARETPA by expanding the current National Agricultural Teaching Award to include research and extension. (Section 7006)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision. (Section 7108)

(53) Purposes and Findings Relating to Animal Health and Disease Research

The Senate amendment amends Section 1429 of NARETPA to add a purpose supporting research on the judicious use of antibiotics. (Section 7013)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute deletes the Senate provision.

(54) Animal Health and Disease Research Program

The Senate amendment amends section 1434(b) of NARETPA by clarifying that 1890 institutions are eligible for animal health and disease research grants under this section. (Section 7015)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision. (Section 7120)

The Managers are concerned about arthropod-borne diseases that increasingly affect the U.S. livestock industry and wildlife. Consequently, the Managers expect the Agricultural Research Service to update the March 2005 feasibility study on the modernization of the arthropod-borne animal disease research laboratory.

(55) Farm Management Training and Public Farm Benchmarking Database

The Senate amendment adds a new section, 1468, to NARETPA that establishes a National Farm Management Center to improve farm management knowledge and the skills of agriculture producers through an education program. It also authorizes the creation of a database that will allow for the comparison of farm management data among producers. This section authorizes annual appropriations for the center and database through 2012. (Section 7037)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision with an amendment to modify the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (FACT Act) and to allow the Secretary to make competitive research and extension grants for the purposes of the program. (Section 7208)

The Managers recognize that the Center for Farm Financial Management at the University of Minnesota has a proven record of providing farm financial planning, marketing, and credit analysis and encourage the Department to continue to support its benchmarking efforts.

(56) Tropical and Subtropical Agricultural Research

The Senate amendment adds a new section, 1473E, to NARETPA that establishes a competitive program for research on tropical and subtropical agriculture. Annual appropriations for the program are authorized through 2012. (Section 7038)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute deletes the Senate provision and adds tropical and subtropical research as a high priority item in Section 7203 of this Act.

(57) Regional Centers of Excellence

The Senate amendment adds a new section, 1473F, to NARETPA that establishes regional centers of excellence, including a Poultry Sustainability Center of Excellence, funded by Federal, state, and industry funds to research a specific commodity. Annual appropriations are authorized for the centers through 2012. (Section 7039)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute deletes the Senate provision and gives priority to regional centers of excellence that leverage funds from Federal, State, and private sector sources to research a specific agricultural commodity or concern under Section 7203 of this Act.

(58) National Drought Mitigation Center

The Senate amendment adds a new section, 1473G, to NARETPA that authorizes the Secretary to enter into an agreement with the National Drought Mitigation Center. Annual appropriations are authorized for the Center through 2012. (Section 7040)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute deletes the Senate provision and adds the National Drought Mitigation Center as one of the research institutions and organizations that is eligible to receive funding through the policy research center authorization in section 7111 of this Act.

(59) Agricultural Development in the American-Pacific Region

The Senate amendment adds a new section, 1473H, to NARETPA that establishes consortia of institutions in the American-Pacific region to carry out integrated research, extension, and instruction programs in support of food and agricultural sciences. Annual appropriations are authorized for the consortia through 2012. (Section 7041)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute deletes the Senate provision and adds agricultural development in the American-Pacific region as a high priority item in Section 7203 of this Act.

(60) Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network

The Senate amendment adds a new section, 1473K, to NARETPA that establishes a farm and ranch stress assistance network to provide behavioral programs to participants in the U.S. agricultural sector. Annual appropriations are authorized for the network through 2012. (Section 7044)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision with an amendment to clarify the activities covered under this authorization and to make technical changes. (Section 7522)

(61) Rural Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Facilitation

The Senate amendment adds a new section, 1473L, to NARETPA to establish a program for the promotion of rural entrepreneurship, rural business development, and collaboration among rural entrepreneurs, local business communities, nonprofit organizations, and K-12 and higher education institutions. The program also provides rural entrepreneurs with technical assistance and access to capital, and it determines the best methods of entrepreneurial training. Annual appropriations for the program are authorized. (Section 7045)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute deletes the Senate provision.

(62) Seed Distribution

The Senate amendment adds a new section, 1473M, to NARETPA that establishes a program to distribute vegetable seeds to underserved communities free-of-charge. Annual appropriations are authorized for the program through 2012. (Section 7046)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision with an amendment to award grants on a competitive basis and to make technical changes. (Section 7523)

(63) Farm and Ranch Safety

The Senate amendment adds a new section, 1473N, to NARETPA that establishes a grant program to determine how to decrease the incidence of injury and death on farms and ranches. Annual appropriations for the program are authorized through 2012. (Section 7047)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute deletes the Senate provision and adds farm and ranch safety as a high priority item in section 7203 of this Act.

(64) Women and Minorities in STEM fields

The Senate amendment adds a new section, 1473O, to NARETPA that establishes a grant program to increase participation by women and underrepresented minorities from rural areas in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields (STEM fields). Annual appropriations for the program are authorized through 2012. (Section 7048)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute deletes the Senate provision and adds women and minorities in STEM fields as a high priority item in section 7203 of this Act.

(65) Natural Products Research Program

The Senate amendment adds a new section, 1473P, to NARETPA that establishes a research program for the discovery, development, and commercialization of pharmaceuticals and agrichemicals from natural products, including those from plant,

marine, and microbial sources. Annual appropriations are authorized for the program. (Section 7049)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision with an amendment to make technical changes. (Section 7525)

(66) International Anti-hunger and Nutrition Program

The Senate amendment adds a new section, 1473Q, to NARETPA that authorizes the Secretary to support nonprofit organizations that focus on promoting research concerning anti-hunger and improved nutrition efforts internationally and increased quantity, quality, and availability of food. (Section 7050)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute deletes the Senate provision and adds the purposes of the Senate amendment to section 7130 of this Act.

(67) Consortium for Agricultural and Rural Transportation Research and Education

The Senate amendment adds a new section, 1473R, to NARETPA that establishes a research program focusing on critical rural and agricultural transportation and logistics issues facing agricultural producers and other rural businesses. Annual appropriations of \$19,000,000 are authorized for each fiscal year through 2012. (Section 7051)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision with an amendment to give priority to institutions that apply as a group and to make technical changes. (Section 7529)

(68) Regional Centers of Excellence in Food Systems Veterinary Medicine

The Senate amendment adds a new section, 1473S, to NARETPA that establishes a grant program for veterinary schools to support centers of emphasis in food systems veterinary medicine. Annual appropriations for the centers are authorized through 2012. (Section 7052)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute deletes the Senate provision, adds food systems veterinary medicine as a high priority item in Section 7203 of this Act, and captures the purposes of the Senate amendment in the regional centers of excellence provision under section 7203 of this Act.

(69) National Genetics Resources Program

The House bill extends section 1635(b) of the FACT Act through 2012. (Section 7301)

The Senate amendment extends section 1635(b) of the FACT Act through 2012 and adds research on plant and animal breeding to the purposes and functions of this program as listed in section 1632 of the FACT Act. (Section 7101)

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7201)

(70) National Agricultural Weather Information System

The House bill extends section 1641(c) of the FACT Act through 2012. (Section 7302)

The Senate amendment has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7202)

The Managers recognize the importance of creating a southern mesonetwork of weather stations to support applied research in solar and wind energy production. The Managers are aware of the capabilities and experience of the Center for Earth and Environmental Studies at Texas A&M International University in this area and believe this institution could prove to be a valuable resource in the Rio Grande Valley.

(71) Partnerships

The House bill amends section 1672(d) of the FACT Act by requiring that grant proposals received must be scientifically meritorious and involve cooperation of multiple entities in order to receive priority consideration under the High Priority Research and Extension Initiative. (Section 7303)

The Senate amendment has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7203)

(72) Aflatoxin Research and Extension

The House bill amends section 1672(e)(3) of the FACT Act by changing the existing grant description contained in current law to improve and commercialize aflatoxin control in corn and other crops. (Section 7304)

The Senate amendment has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7203)

(73) High Priority Research and Extension Areas

The House bill amends section 1672 of the FACT Act by adding the following to the High Priority Research and Extension Area Initiatives: farmed and wild cervid disease and genetic research; air emissions from livestock operations; swine genome project; cattle fever tick program; colony collapse disorder program; synthetic gypsum from power plants research; cranberry research program; sorghum research initiative; and a bean health research program. (Section 7305)

The Senate amendment amends section 1672 of the FACT Act by adding the following to the High Priority Research and Extension Area Initiatives: Colony Collapse Disorder and Pollinator Research Program; Marine Shrimp Farming Program; Cranberry Research Program; Turfgrass Research Initiative; Pesticide Safety Research Initiative; Swine Genome Project; High Plains Aquifer Region; Cellulosic Feedstock Transportation and Delivery Initiative; Deer Initiative; Pasture-Based Beef Systems; Sustainable Agricultural Production for the Environment; Biomass-Derived Energy Resources;

Brucellosis Control and Eradication; and Bighorn and Domestic Sheep Disease Mechanisms. (Section 7102)

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision with an amendment to add the following to the list of high-priority research and extension initiatives: Air Emissions from Livestock Operations; Swine Genome Project; Cattle Fever Tick Program; Synthetic Gypsum; Cranberry Research Program; Sorghum Research Initiative; Marine Shrimp Farming Program; Turfgrass Research Initiative; Agricultural Worker Safety Research Initiative; High Plains Aquifer Region; Deer Initiative; Pasture-Based Beef Systems Research Initiative; Agricultural Practices Relating to Climate Change; Brucellosis Control and Eradication; Bighorn and Domestic Sheep Disease Mechanisms; Agricultural Development in the American-Pacific Region; Tropical and Subtropical Agricultural Research; Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia; Farm and Ranch Safety; Women and Minorities in STEM Fields; Alfalfa and Forage Research Program; Food Systems Veterinary Medicine; Biochar Research.

The Conference substitute also strikes the following from section 1672 of the FACT Act: Brown citrus aphid and citrus tristeza virus research and extension; Mesquite research and extension; Red meat safety research and extension; Grain sorghum ergot research and extension; Low-bush blueberry research and extension; Wild pampas grass control, management, and eradication research and extension; Sheep scrapie research and extension; Forestry research and extension; Wind erosion research and extension; Crop loss research and extension; Harvesting productivity for fruits and vegetables; Agricultural marketing; Beef cattle genetics; Dairy pipeline cleaner; Development of publicly held plants and animal varieties; and Specialty crop research. (Section 7204)

The Managers encourage the Secretary to support collaborative research focusing on the development of viable strategies for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of infectious, parasitic, and toxic diseases of farmed deer and the mapping of the deer genome. This initiative may be carried out by a consortium that can include land-grant universities and veterinary schools with appropriate facilities and experience in husbandry and care of captive cervidae. The consortium may carry out research dedicated to developing vaccines for epizootic hemorrhagic disease and blue tongue disease in farmed deer and may work to map the deer genome with emphasis on the identification of genes that confer resistance or susceptibility to disease relevant to the production of farmed deer.

The Managers recognize the unique needs of the Appalachian region for the Pasture-Based Beef Systems Initiative.

The Managers intend that the term “Caribbean and Pacific basins” refers to the States of Hawaii and Florida, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

The Managers intend that the term “American-Pacific region” refers to the States of Hawaii and Alaska, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

(74) High Priority Research and Extension Initiative

The House bill extends Section 1672(h) of the FACT Act through 2012. (Section 7306)

The Senate amendment extends section 1672(h) of the FACT Act through 2012 and authorizes an annual appropriation of \$20,000,000 for the Colony Collapse Disorder and Pollinator Research Program. (Section 7102)

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7204)

(75) Nutrient Management Research and Extension Initiative

The House bill amends section 1672A of the FACT Act by giving a priority to grant proposals that address unique regional concerns as eligible for priority treatment. The House bill also adds dairy cattle waste as a type of waste to be studied to develop new methods of managing air and water quality. The authorization of appropriations is extended through 2012. (Section 7307)

The Senate amendment: establishes a consortium of land grant colleges in the northeast region to perform research on dairy nutrient management and energy production (Section 9023); establishes a Southwest regional dairy, environment, and private land program for the research, development, and implementation of solutions for issues faced by the dairy industry (Section 11092); and extends section 1672A of the FACT Act through 2012. (Section 7103)

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision with an amendment to include the production of renewable energy from animal waste as an eligible activity to receive grants under this section. (Section 7205)

The Managers recognize that different regions of the country have varying needs for both energy development and nutrient management, and that cooperative efforts by institutions and States will leverage available resources to address problems and identify solutions. The Managers therefore encourage the development of regional consortia in which partners would work together to accomplish the goals of developing viable nutrient management systems, energy products from manure, and to assess these systems for cost, performance, and function among dairy, poultry, and swine operations.

(76) Agricultural Telecommunications Program

The House bill (section 7308) and the Senate amendment (section 7105) extend section 1673(h) of the FACT Act through 2012.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision with an amendment to repeal section 1673 of the FACT Act. (Section 7209)

(77) Assistive Technology Program for Farmers with Disabilities

The House bill (section 7309) and the Senate amendment (section 7106) extend section 1680(c)(1) of the FACT Act through 2012.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision. (Section 7210)

(78) Organic Research

The House bill amends section 1672B of the FACT Act by expanding the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative to examine optimal conservation and environmental outcomes for organically produced agricultural products and to develop new and improved seed varieties that are particularly suited for organic agriculture. This section authorizes \$25,000,000 in mandatory funding for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012. Appropriations of \$25,000,000 are authorized for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012. The Director of NARPO is to coordinate this program to avoid duplication. (Section 7310)

The Senate amendment amends Section 1672B of the FACT Act by authorizing mandatory funds of \$16,000,000 per year for fiscal years 2008 through 2012 for the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative. (Section 7104)

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision with an amendment to provide the initiative with a total of \$78,000,000 in mandatory funds for fiscal year 2009 through fiscal year 2012. (Section 7206)

Organic farming has the potential to capture atmospheric carbon and store it in the soil in the form of soil organic matter. The Managers encourage continued support of the research at the Rodale Institute regarding this research as it relates to certified organic standards.

(79) National Rural Information Center Clearinghouse

The House bill (section 7311) and the Senate amendment (section 7107) extend section 2381(e) of the FACT Act through 2012.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7212)

(80) New Era Rural Technology Program

The House bill establishes a grant program for community colleges to develop an agriculture-based renewable energy and timber industry workforce. Annual appropriations are authorized for the program through 2012. (Section 7312)

The Senate amendment adds a new section, 1473J, to NARETPA to establish a grant program for community colleges to develop an agriculture-based renewable energy and timber industry workforce and provides the definition of rural community college. Annual appropriations are authorized for the program through 2012. (Section 7043)

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision with an amendment to make technical changes and to add a new section, 1473E, to NARETPA. (Section 7137)

The Managers recognize the importance of developing a workforce to support the fields of bioenergy, agriculture-based renewable energy resources, and pulp and paper manufacturing. The Managers recognize that Alabama Southern Community College, Northeast Iowa Community College, Eastern Iowa Community College District, Hawkeye Community College, Neosho County Community College, Kennebec Valley Community College, Itasca Community College, York Technical College, Midstate Technical College, Jones County Junior College, Minnesota West Technical and Community College, Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College, Horry-Georgetown Technical College, and Central Carolina Technical College are among the rural

community colleges that have a proven record and the ability to develop and implement programs to supply certified technicians. The Managers encourage the Secretary to work with these community colleges to establish the New Era Rural Technology Program.

(81) Partnerships for High-Value Agricultural Product Quality Research

The House bill (section 7401) and the Senate amendment (section 7202) extend section 402(g) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA) through 2012.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision with an amendment to repeal section 402 of AREERA. (Section 7302)

(82) Precision Agriculture

The House bill (section 7402) and the Senate amendment (section 7203) extend section 403(i)(1) of AREERA through 2012.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision with an amendment to repeal section 403 of AREERA. (Section 7303)

(83) Biobased Products

The House bill (section 7403) and the Senate amendment (section 7204) extend section 404(e)(2) of AREERA through 2012.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7304)

(84) Thomas Jefferson Initiative for Crop Diversification

The House bill (section 7404) and the Senate amendment (section 7205) extend section 405(h) of AREERA through 2012.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision with an amendment to repeal section 405 of AREERA. (Section 7305)

(85) Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program

The House bill (section 7405) and the Senate amendment (section 7206) extend section 406(f) of AREERA through 2012.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision. (Section 7306)

(86) Fusarium Graminearum Grants

The House bill amends section 408 of AREERA to provide a technical correction and extends the authorization of appropriations through 2012. (Section 7406)

The Senate amendment extends section 408(e) of AREERA through 2012. (Section 7207)

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7307)

(87) Bovine Johne's Disease Control Program

The House bill (section 7407) and the Senate amendment (section 7208) extend section 409(b) of AREERA through 2012.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision. (Section 7308)

(88) Grants for Youth Organizations

The House bill amends section 410 of AREERA to provide additional flexibility in content delivery and management of grant funds to recipient organizations under this section. The authorization of appropriations is extended through 2012. (Section 7408)

The Senate amendment extends section 410(c) of AREERA through 2012. (Section 7209)

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7309)

(89) Agricultural Research and Development for Developing Countries

The House bill (section 7409) and the Senate amendment (section 7210) extend section 411(c) of AREERA through 2012. (Section 7409)

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7310)

(90) Agricultural Bioenergy and Biobased Products Research Initiative

The House bill adds a new section, 412, to AREERA that establishes a bioenergy and biobased products research initiative to enhance the production, sustainability, and conversion of biomass to renewable fuels and related products. The research initiative will be supported by a bioenergy and biobased product laboratory network that will focus research on improving biomass production and sustainability and improving biomass conversion in biorefineries. The Director of NARPO, established under section 7410 of the House bill, will coordinate projects and activities under the Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000 to coordinate and maximize the strengths of the Department and the Department of Energy. The Secretary is authorized to carry out research and award grants on a competitive basis. Appropriations are authorized at \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012. The Director of NARPO is to coordinate this program to avoid duplication of projects carried out under the Biomass Research and Development Act. (Section 7410)

The Senate amendment has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision with an amendment to incorporate the purposes of sections 9010 and 9020 of the House bill, and sections 9010, 9011, 9022, and 9025 of the Senate amendment.

The Conference substitute, titled the "Agricultural Bioenergy Feedstock and Energy Efficiency Research and Extension Initiative," establishes a program to award competitive grants for projects with a focus on supporting on-farm biomass crop research and the dissemination of results to enhance the production of biomass energy crops and the integration of such production with the production of bioenergy. The Conference

substitute directs the Secretary to establish a best-practices database on the production of various biomass crops and on the harvesting, transport, and storage of biomass crops.

The Conference substitute authorizes competitive grants for on-farm energy efficiency research and extension projects aimed at improving the energy efficiency of agricultural operations. (Section 7207)

The Managers encourage the Secretary to consider the approach of the New Century Farm at Iowa State University as a model for integrated research in the areas of biomass crop research and the production of bioenergy and to use its established capabilities.

The Managers encourage the Secretary to consider the Future Farmsteads program at the University of Georgia as a model for on-farm energy efficiency research and to use its established capabilities.

Additionally, the Managers encourage the Secretary to use the capabilities of the Colorado Renewable Energy Collaboratory in carrying out this section.

The Managers recognize the significant work Arkansas State University is conducting in the area of plant cell wall structure and function and encourages the Secretary to continue to recognize the value of plant-produced, biotechnology-derived, enzymatic-developed products.

The Managers are aware of the work being done at the Pennsylvania State University on all aspects of biofuels development from plant transformation to production, harvest, and storage to fuel formulation and engine testing.

(91) Specialty Crop Research Initiative

The House bill adds a new section, 413, to AREERA that establishes the Specialty Crop Research Initiative to develop and disseminate science-based tools to address the needs of specific crops and their regions, including work in plant breeding and genetics, safety, quality, and yield; efforts to identify and address threats posed by invasive species; marketing; pollination; and efforts to improve production. The Secretary is authorized to award competitive grants through this program. Appropriations are authorized at \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012. Additionally, \$215,000,000 in mandatory funds is to be provided in fiscal year 2008 to remain available until expended. The Director of NARPO shall coordinate this program to avoid duplication. (Section 7411)

The Senate amendment adds a new section, 412, to AREERA that establishes a Specialty Crop Research Initiative. This section is similar to the House provision and has additional language to include in the purposes of the program the optimization of organic specialty crop production and research on methods to prevent, control, and respond to pathogen contamination of specialty crops, including fresh-cut produce. Mandatory funding is provided at \$16,000,000 per year for fiscal years 2008 through 2012 for the initiative. (Section 7211)

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision with an amendment that adds a new section, 412, to AREERA. It expands the initiative to a research and extension initiative; incorporates the prevention, detection, monitoring, control, and response to food safety hazards in the production and processing of specialty crops, including fresh products; allocates 10 percent of the funds obligated through this

initiative to each of the research and extension activities described in this section; and provides \$230,000,000 in mandatory funds for fiscal years 2008 through 2012. (Section 7311)

The Managers intend that most activities funded by the initiative would have grant terms of short duration. However, the Managers are aware that there are areas of research where longer term grants are needed, such as research related to tree fruits. The Managers expect the Secretary to use 10-year grant terms only when it is critical for long-term systems research.

The Managers recognize the critical importance of research directed at food safety hazards in the production and processing of specialty crops including fresh fruits and vegetables. The Managers encourage the Secretary to select projects for funding in this area that focus on applied research and technology transfer.

(92) Office of Pest Management Policy

The House bill extends section 614(f) of AREERA through 2012. (Section 7412)

The Senate amendment amends section 614 of AREERA by placing the Office of Pest Management Policy within the Office of the Chief Economist and extending the authorization of appropriations through 2012. (Section 7212)

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7313)

(93) Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program

The Senate amendment amends section 604 of AREERA by authorizing annual appropriations of \$2,500,000 for the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database program. (Section 7213)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision with an amendment that clarifies that the authorized funds are in addition to other funds available as specified in section 604(c) of AREERA. (Section 7312)

(94) Critical Agricultural Materials Act

The House bill (section 7501) and the Senate amendment (section 7301) extend section 16(a) of the Critical Agricultural Materials Act through 2012.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision. (Section 7401)

(95) Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994

The House bill extends sections 533(b), 535, and 536(c) of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (EELGSA) through 2012. (Section 7502)

The Senate amendment extends sections 533(b), 535, and 536(c) of EELGSA through 2012 and amends section 532 of the EELGSA to add Ilisagvik College in Alaska to the list of land-grant tribal colleges. (Section 7302)

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision with an amendment to redistribute endowment funds that would be paid to a 1994 Institution among other 1994

Institutions if that 1994 Institution declines to accept funds or fails to meet existing accreditation requirements. (Section 7402)

(96) Agricultural Experiment Station Research Facilities Act

The House bill (section 7503) and the Senate amendment (section 7305) extend section 6(a) of the Research Facilities Act through 2012.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7405)

(97) National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act Amendments of 1985

The House bill (section 7306) and the Senate amendment (section 7306) extend section 1431 of the NARETPA Amendments of 1985 through 2012.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision. (Section 7416)

(98) Competitive, Special and Facilities Research Grant Act (National Research Initiative)

The House bill amends section 2 of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (CSFRGA) to extend the authorization of appropriations through 2012 and to repeal the authority to limit allowable overhead costs. (Section 7505)

The Senate amendment has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute deletes the House provision but reauthorizes section 2 of the CSFRGA in section 7406 of this Act.

(99) Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (Carbon Cycle Research)

The House bill extends the section 221 of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (ARPA) through 2012. (Section 7506)

The Senate amendment extends the section 221 of ARPA through 2012 and transfers authority for this program from that Act to the Farm and Energy Security Act of 2007. (Section 7315)

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7407)

(100) Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978

The House bill (section 7507) and the Senate amendment (section 8201) extend section 6 of the Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978 (RREA) and section 8 of RREA through 2012. (Section 7507)

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7413)

The Managers are aware of the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) work on the Fire Research and Management Exchange System, an Internet-based, centralized national portal for access to and exchange of science-based data, analysis tools, training materials, and other information related to interagency wildland fire management. The Managers recognize that the system can make a major contribution to science-based understanding

and response to wildland fires, which continue to threaten many areas of our nation. The Managers expect the USFS to continue to work with its partners to develop a plan for nationwide implementation by 2011.

(101) National Aquaculture Act of 1980

The House bill (section 7508) and the Senate amendment (section 7311) extend section 10 of the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 2809) through 2012. (Section 7508)

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision. (Section 7414)

(102) Construction of a Chinese Garden at the National Arboretum

The House bill amends the Act of March 4, 1927, (20 U.S.C.191 et seq.) by authorizing the construction of a Chinese garden at the National Arboretum. (Section 7509)

The Senate amendment amends the Act of March 4, 1927, (20 U.S.C.191 et seq.) by authorizing the construction of a Chinese garden at the National Arboretum, prohibiting federal funds from being used for the construction of the Chinese Garden, and requiring an annual report to Congress on the budget and expenditures of the National Arboretum. (Section 7312)

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7415)

(103) Public Education Regarding Use of Biotechnology in Producing Food for Human Consumption

The House bill extends section 10802 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (FSRIA) through 2012. (Section 7510)

The Senate amendment has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute deletes the House provision and repeals section 10802 of FSRIA. (Section 7411)

(104) Fresh Cut Produce Safety Grants

The House bill authorizes the Secretary to award competitive research and extension grants to improve and enhance the safety of fresh cut produce. Universities, colleges, and other entities that have relationships with producers of fresh cut produce are eligible. Grant recipients must provide an equal amount of matching funds or in-kind support from non-federal sources. The Director of NARPO is to coordinate this program to avoid duplication. Mandatory funding of \$25,000,000 is provided for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012. Additionally, an appropriation for necessary funds is authorized from fiscal year 2008 through fiscal year 2012. (Section 7511)

The Senate amendment has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute deletes the House provision and incorporates the purposes and priorities of this program and funding into section 7311 of this Act.

(105) UDC/EFNEP Eligibility

The House bill (section 7512) and the Senate amendment (section 7313) amend Section 208 of the District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act (Public Law 93–471; 88 Stat. 1428) to make the UDC eligible for the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision. (Section 7417)

(106) Hatch Act of 1887

The House bill amends Section 3(d)(4) of the Hatch Act of 1887 by requiring a 50 percent match of funds from the District of Columbia in order for UDC to receive formula funds for agricultural research. The Secretary is allowed to waive the matching requirement if necessary. (Section 7513)

The Senate amendment amends Section 3(d)(4) of the Hatch Act of 1887 by requiring a 50 percent match of funds from the District of Columbia in order for UDC to receive formula funds for agricultural research. The Secretary is allowed to waive the matching requirement if necessary. This section also amends Section 6 of the Hatch Act of 1887 by eliminating Penalty Mail Authorities for State agricultural experiment stations and the extension service and making conforming amendments to NARETPA and to 39 U.S.C. 3202(a). (Section 7304)

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision. (Section 7404)

(107) Smith-Lever Act

The Senate amendment amends Section 3 of the Act of May 8, 1914 (7 U.S.C. 343) to allow 1890 institutions to participate in the Children, Youth, and Families Education and Research Network Program. This section also amends section 5 of the Act of May 8, 1914 (7 U.S.C. 345) to eliminate the Governor's Report requirement for the extension service. (Section 7304)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision with an amendment to change programs authorized under section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343(d)) into programs that award competitive grants and to add a conforming amendment to section 1444(a)(2) of NARETPA. (Section 7403)

(108) Education Grants to Alaska Native Serving Institutions and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions

The Senate amendment amends section 759 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000 by permitting consortia of Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions to designate fiscal agents and allocate funds for their members. (Section 7308)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision with an amendment to add this provision as a new section, 1419B, to NARETPA. (Section 7112)

(109) McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act

The Senate amendment amends Section 2 of the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act (16 U.S.C. 582a-1) by authorizing the participation of 1890 institutions to participate in the McIntire-Stennis cooperative forestry program. (Section 7310)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision. (Section 7412)

(110) Exchange or Sale Authority

The Senate amendment adds Section 307 to Title III of the Federal Crop Insurance and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 by authorizing USDA to exchange, sell, or otherwise dispose of any qualified items of personal property and to retain and apply the sale or other proceeds to acquire any qualified items of personal property or to offset costs related to the maintenance, care, or feeding of any qualified items of personal property. (Section 7314)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision. (Section 7408)

(111) Enhanced Use Lease Authority Pilot Program

The Senate amendment adds a new section, 308, to Title III of the Federal Crop Insurance and the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 by establishing a pilot program that allows non-Federal entities to use and invest in capital improvements at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and the National Agricultural Library by leasing non-excess property of the Center or the Library. (Section 7316)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision with an amendment to limit the terms of leases established under this authority to 30 years, sunset this authority five years after the date of enactment of this Act, and make technical changes. (Section 7409)

(112) Research and Education Grants for the Study of Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria in Livestock

The Senate amendment establishes a competitive grant program for research and education on antibiotic-resistant bacteria in livestock. (Section 7317)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision with an amendment to modify the purposes of this research program. (Section 7521)

The Managers are aware that resistance to antibiotics is a serious and growing public health concern in the United States and around the world. The Managers intend that section 7521 of this Act provide the necessary research and information for livestock producers as well as the general public to minimize the use of such drugs while still ensuring healthy animals and people. The Managers encourage the Secretary to fund

research that can minimize the development and spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria and to make this a priority research area within relevant competitive research programs, including national programs related to animal production and water quality.

(113) Merit Review of Extension and Educational Grants

The House bill amends subsection (a)(2)(A) of section 103 of AREERA by inserting NIFA as the administering body for which merit review procedures must be established. (Section 7601)

The Senate amendment has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute deletes the House provision.

(114) Review of Plan of Work Requirements

The House bill (section 7602) and the Senate amendment (section 7503) require a review of the Plan of Work requirements under NARETPA, the Hatch Act, and the Smith-Lever Act. They also require a report to Congress identifying measures to streamline the plan of work requirements

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision with an amendment to remove the reporting requirement. (Section 7505)

(115) Multistate and Integration Funding

The House bill amends section 3 of the Hatch Act of 1887 and section 3 of the Smith-Lever Act by requiring that, of the federal formula funds States receive under these Acts, 25 percent must be spent on the integration of cooperative research and extension activities. (Section 7603)

The Senate amendment has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute deletes the House provision.

(116) Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program

The House bill amends section 1425 of NARETPA by changing the allocation of funds in excess of the amount appropriated in fiscal year 1981. Funds in the amount of \$100,000 are to be distributed to each land-grant college and university. The authorization of appropriations is increased to \$90,000,000 through 2014. (Section 7604)

The Senate amendment is the same as House provision with technical differences. (Section 7012)

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision with an amendment to make technical changes. (Section 7116)

(117) Grants to 1890 Schools to Expand Extension Capacity

The House bill (section 7605) and the Senate amendment (section 7005) amend section 1417(b)(4) of NARETPA to add extension as one of the purposes for which grants may be made through this program.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision. (Section 7107)

(118) Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship Program

The House bill establishes a fellowship program that provides scientific training to individuals from eligible countries that specialize in agricultural research, extension, and education. Necessary sums are authorized to be appropriated without fiscal year limitation. (Section 7606)

The Senate amendment adds a new section, 1473I, to NARETPA that authorizes annual appropriations for the Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship Program. The fellowship program brings scientists from developing countries to U.S. land-grant institutions to learn about improving agricultural productivity. (Section 7042)

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision. (Section 7139)

(119) Cost Recovery

The House bill amends Section 1473A of NARETPA by raising the indirect cost cap for cost reimbursable agreements between the Secretary and State cooperative institutions or colleges and universities from 10 percent to 19 percent. (Section 7607)

The Senate amendment amends Section 1473A of NARETPA by raising the indirect cost cap for cost reimbursable agreements between the Secretary and State cooperative institutions or colleges and universities from 10 percent to 30 percent. (Section 7031)

The Conference substitute deletes both the House and Senate provisions.

(120) Organic Food and Agricultural Systems Funding

The House bill expresses a sense of Congress that a portion of the annual funding provided for ARS should support research specific to organic food and agricultural systems. (Section 7608)

The Senate amendment expresses a sense of the Senate that recognizes the need to increase funding at USDA for research specific to organic agriculture to keep pace with the expansion of the organic sector of U.S. agriculture. (Section 7505)

The Conference substitute deletes the House and Senate provisions.

(121) Demonstration Project Authority for Temporary Positions

The Senate amendment authorizes the demonstration project authority for temporary positions indefinitely. (Section 7502)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision. (Section 7528)

(122) Modifications to Information Technology Service

The Senate amendment prohibits the Secretary from implementing any modification that reduces the availability or provision of information technology service, or administrative management control of that service, including data or center service agency, functions, and personnel at the National Finance Center and the National Information Technology Center service locations until a notification is received by Congress from the Department. This section requires the Secretary to report to Congress and the Government Accountability Office on specified administrative modifications made to the National Finance Center and National Technology Center service locations. (Section 7506)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute deletes the Senate provision.

(123) Studies and Reports by the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the National Academy of Sciences on Food Products from Cloned Animals.

The Senate amendment requires studies on the safety and the impact on trade of allowing food products from cloned animals and their offspring into the food supply. The Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) is prohibited from issuing the final draft risk assessment on food from cloned animals and their offspring. The Secretary of HHS is also prohibited from lifting the voluntary moratorium on allowing food from cloned animals and their offspring from entering the food supply until after the studies are completed. (Section 7507)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute deletes the Senate amendment.

(124) Animal Bioscience Facility in Bozeman, Montana

The Senate amendment authorizes appropriations of \$16,000,000 for the construction of an animal bioscience facility in Bozeman, Montana. (Section 7508)

The House bill has no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute deletes the Senate amendment.

TITLE VIII—FORESTRY

(1) National priorities for private forest conservation

The House bill amends section 2 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (CFAA) by requiring the Secretary to focus on a set of three national private forest conservation priorities when allocating appropriated CFAA funds: (1) conserving and managing working forest landscapes; (2) protecting forests from threats, including wildfire, hurricane, tornado, windstorm, snow or ice storm, flooding, drought, invasive species, or insect or disease outbreak, and restoring appropriate forest types in response to such threat [included because paragraphs (1) & (3) contain full list of items]; and (3) enhancing public benefits from private forests, including air and water quality, forest