



House Agriculture Committee

Build Back Better, Budget Reconciliation

The agricultural provisions in the Build Back Better plan include billions of dollars for critical investments in agriculture and our rural communities. Included in this package are multiple bipartisan proposals that House Agriculture Committee Members have fought to include. These timely investments will provide resources to mitigate climate change, improve quality of life in rural communities, and commit millions of dollars to agricultural education across the country.

Strategic investments include:

- \$2 billion in investments in agricultural research and infrastructure; other countries like China are outspending the US on research investments and this money will help close the gap.
- \$18 billion in rural job-promoting investments to ensure those living in rural America, on tribal lands, and our insular areas have access to clean water and reliable and efficient renewable energy. This funding will also support investment in renewable biofuels infrastructure important to farmers and our fight against climate change, and flexible funding for rural community growth.
- \$27.15 billion in investments in forestry programs to help combat forest fires and contribute to healthy, resilient forests.
- \$12 billion in critical debt relief for farmers in need and for USDA to tailor its programs to support new and existing farmers through outreach, education, and technical assistance. This is offset by \$6 billion in funding that was included in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).
- \$28.29 billion in historic investments in vital conservation programs and support for farmers and producers.

RESEARCH, EXTENSION, EDUCATION, AND URBAN AGRICULTURE

The House Build Back Better plan invests \$2 billion in agricultural research to advance the American food and agriculture system's global competitiveness, innovation, infrastructure, food security, equity, and climate change resilience.

| Research, Extension, Education, and Urban Ag Proposal | |
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| Research Facilities Act - MSI and insular areas | \$1.0 billion |
| AGARDA (Agriculture Advanced Research & Development Authority) | \$30 million |
| Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research (FFAR) | \$210 million |
| SARE (Sustainable Ag Research & Education) | \$120 million |
| AFRI (Agriculture & Food Research Initiative) | \$210 million |
| OREI (Organic Research & Extension Initiative) | \$60 million |
| SCRI (Specialty Crop Research Initiative) | \$60 million |
| Additional funds to 1890s Centers of Excellence to do climate work | \$5 million |
| Smith-Lever (Extension) | \$80 million |
| Extension - 1890s | \$40 million |
| Extension - 1994s | \$35 million |
| NIFA Urban Ag, Indoor and other Emerging Agricultural Production (UAIP) Research, Education & Extension Initiative | \$5 million |
| 1890 Land-Grant Institution Scholarship Program | \$100 million |
| New Beginning for Tribal Students | \$15 million |
| Higher Education Multicultural Scholars Program | \$15 million |
| Urban Ag, Indoor Program (UAIP) Office | \$10 million |
| National Agricultural Statistics Service (Urban Ag study) | \$5 million |
| Total | \$2.0 Billion |

Strategic investments include:

- Investment of \$1 billion for 1890, and 1994 Land-Grant, and other Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) to ensure that MSIs have equitable resources for competitive research facilities.
- Further investment for 1890s Land-Grant University Scholarships, New Beginning for Tribal Students, and Higher Education Multicultural Scholars Program of nearly \$130 million.
- Funding for the Foundation for Food and Agriculture (FFAR) to leverage public private partnership and deploy solutions to urgent climate and food security challenges.
- Invests in key USDA agencies and programs delivering agricultural innovation and climate research and data, including:
 - \$210 million for Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) for agricultural research relating to climate change.
 - \$155 million for 1862, 1890, and 1994 Land-Grant Colleges and Universities for agricultural extension activities relating to climate change.

- \$30 million for the Office of the Chief Scientist for Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority (AGARDA).
- Added investment in urban agriculture to enhance the opportunity for urban communities to strengthen their agricultural production, equitable food access, and food waste reduction efforts.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT/ENERGY/BIOFUELS

The Build Back Better plan includes over \$18 billion in investments to help our rural communities modernize their energy and water systems, ensure that residents of rural, tribal, and insular areas are able to thrive in their communities, and provide funding to support clean fuels.

| Rural Development Proposal | |
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| Biofuels Infrastructure Program | \$1.0 billion |
| Rural Electrics’ Clean Energy Transition | \$10 billion |
| Rural Energy Savings Program | \$200 million |
| Rural Energy for America Program | \$2 billion |
| USDA REA Sec. 317 Loan Program | \$3 billion |
| Rural Water – Lead Removal | \$1.0 billion |
| Rural Water – Colonias, Insular Areas, Tribal | \$100 million |
| Rural Partnership Program | \$1.0 billion |
| Total | \$18.3 billion |

Strategic investments include:

- \$10 billion investment for rural communities and rural electric co-ops to transition to renewable energy practices, providing jobs, and a more resilient and efficient energy grid.
- Additional funding of \$2 billion for the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) program which provides grants and loans to farmers and small business owners to make energy efficient improvements for their operations.
- \$3 billion in loan funding for renewable energy projects under Section 317 of the Rural Electrification Act, including energy storage.
- \$1 billion investment in the health of rural communities for lead remediation in their water systems.
- \$100 million for water systems in colonias, insular and tribal areas, and persistent poverty counties.
- Invests in further growth of the biofuels industry by committing \$1 billion to the Biofuels Infrastructure Program which will provide market access for farmers and more affordable and cleaner fuels for consumers.
- \$1 billion for the new Rural Partnership Program, which will provide flexible grant funding for rural communities to support job growth, build economic resilience, and aid economic recovery in communities impacted by economic transitions and climate change.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

The House Build Back Better plan invests \$26.95 billion in forestry programs to ensure our public and private lands have the tools they need to address the destructive fire seasons, restore forest ecosystems, improve watershed health, enhance wildlife habitat, and address climate change.

| Forestry Proposal | |
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| Hazardous Fuels Treatments (Within the Wildland-Urban Interface) | \$10 billion |
| Hazardous Fuels Treatments (Outside the Wildland-Urban Interface) | \$4 billion |
| Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program | \$1 billion |
| Vegetation Management (Watershed Protection) | \$400 million |
| Vegetation Management | \$400 million |
| Legacy Roads and Trails | \$450 million |
| Forest Service Land Management Planning and Monitoring | \$350 million |
| Trail Maintenance | \$100 million |
| Capital Maintenance and Improvements | \$100 million |
| National Environmental Policy Act Reviews | \$100 million |
| Inventory of Old and Mature Forests | \$50 million |
| Protection and Recovery of At-Risk Species | \$50 million |
| Post-Fire Recovery Plans | \$50 million |
| Activities to Reduce Human-Wildlife Conflicts on National Forest System Land | \$50 million |
| Forest Restoration and Resilience Grants | \$2 billion |
| Forest Planning, Coordinating, and Monitoring Grants | \$1 billion |
| Grants to Aid in the Recovery and Rehabilitation of Burned Areas on Non-Federal Land | \$250 million |
| Grants to Expand Outdoor Access and Promote Tourism on Non-Federal Forested Land for Underserved Groups | \$175 million |
| State Fire Assistance and Volunteer Assistance Programs | \$150 million |
| Implementation of State-wide Forest Resource Strategies | \$150 million |
| Competitive Grant Program for Underserved Foresters to Carry Out Climate Mitigation or Forest Resilience Practices | \$250 million |
| Competitive Grant Program for Underserved Foresters to Participate in Emerging Private Markets | \$250 million |
| Competitive Grant Program for Foresters Owning Less the 2,500 Acres of Forestland to Participate in Emerging Private Markets | \$250 million |

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| Competitive Grant Programs for Payments for Private Landowners for Measurable Increases in Carbon Sequestration | \$500 million |
| Activities to Improve Forest Carbon Monitoring Technologies for the Forest Inventory and Analysis | \$50 million |
| To Develop and Carryout Recommendations Regarding the Current Priorities and Future Needs of the Forest Inventory and Analysis Programs | \$100 million |
| Technology Enhancements for the Forest Inventory and Analysis Program | \$50 million |
| Wood Innovations Grants Program | \$775 million |
| Research on Greenhouse Gas Life Cycle Analyses of Domestic Wood Products | \$50 million |
| Forest Legacy | \$1.25 billion |
| Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program | \$2.5 billion |
| Community Forest and Open Space Program | \$100 million |
| Administrative funds | \$200 million |
| Total | \$27.15 Billion |

Strategic investments include:

- \$14 billion dollars for hazardous fuels treatments across the National Forest System and adjacent lands, including the Civilian Climate Corps.
 - \$10 billion for hazardous fuels treatments in the Wildland-Urban Interface
 - \$4 billion for hazardous fuels treatments beyond the Wildland-Urban interface
- \$3 billion in additional forest management investment.
 - Includes protection of water sources, old growth forests, and more efficient NEPA processes, and collaborative projects.
- \$6 billion in investments for risk reduction, recovery, resilience, climate mitigation, carbon sequestration, and research.
 - Includes grants for restoration on non-federal lands, grants for community wildfire protection planning, and aid in recovery and restoration of burned areas.
 - Grant funding to support the participation of underserved foresters and non-industrial forest landowners in emerging markets.
 - Grant funding to promote tourism and access to non-federal forested lands.
 - Funding to invest in research related to climate adaptation, carbon monitoring technologies, the carbon sequestration and storage value of different forest practices.
 - Payments from States to landowners who implement forestry practices that increase carbon sequestration.
- \$3.8 billion to enhance forestry among underserved populations.
 - \$1.25 billion for Forest Legacy program grants focused on carbon and forest resilience focused on underserved populations.
 - \$2.5 billion in Urban and Community Forestry Assistance program grants to increase tree canopy and equity.
 - \$100 million for urban and community forestry acquisition through the Forest Service’s Community Forest and Open Space Program.
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| Conservation Proposal | |
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| Soil Conservation Assistance | \$5.048 billion |
| Environmental Quality Incentives Program | \$9 billion |
| Conservation Stewardship Program | \$4.1 billion |
| Agricultural Conservation Easement Program | \$1.7 billion |
| Regional Conservation Partnership Program | \$7.5 billion |
| Conservation Technical Assistance through Natural Resources Conservation Service | \$200 million |
| Regional Climate Hubs | \$50 million |
| Carbon Sequestration and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Quantification Program | \$600 million |
| Administrative Costs | \$100 million |
| Total | \$28.298 Billion |

Strategic Conservation investments include:

- \$5 billion for Soil Conservation Assistance for producers who establish cover crops for soil health.
 - Participating producers would receive payments equal to \$25 an acre, up to 1000 acres. Non-operating landowners would receive \$5 an acre.
- \$9 billion in additional funding for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program.
- \$3.75 billion in additional funding for the Conservation Stewardship Program.
- \$1.25 billion in additional funding for ACEP.
- \$7.15 billion in additional funding for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program
- \$200 million to provide conservation technical assistance through the Natural Resource Conservation Service.
- \$50 million for NRCS and Regional Climate Hubs to provide information and technical support on climate smart agriculture and forestry.
- \$600 million for NRCS to carry out a carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions quantification program.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT AND OUTREACH

The House *Build Back Better Act* invests \$12 billion in critical debt relief for farmers in need and for USDA to tailor its programs to support new and existing farmers through outreach, education, and technical assistance. This is offset by \$6 billion from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

| Agricultural Credit and Outreach Provisions | |
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| Assistance for Farm Loan Borrowers | |
| Debt Relief | \$9.635 billion |
| Loan Modifications | \$1.020 billion |
| Subtotal | \$10.655 billion |
| USDA Assistance and Support for Underserved Farmers, Ranchers, and Foresters | |
| Technical and Other Assistance | \$200 million |
| Land Loss Assistance | \$200 million |
| Equity Commissions | \$10 million |
| Research, Education and Extension | \$189 million |

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|--|--------------------------|
| Assistance Addressing Prior Discrimination | \$750 million |
| Administrative Costs | \$35 million |
| Subtotal | \$1.384 billion |
| Total | \$12.039 billion |
| Total Offset | (\$6.039 billion) |
| Total Cost | \$6 billion |

Strategic investments include:

Critical relief for economically distressed borrowers, borrowers who have not benefited significantly from Market Facilitation Program (MFP) or Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) payments, and other at-risk producers to address the cumulative effects of market volatility, consolidation, disastrous weather, and other hardships facing agricultural producers.

Key funding to support future and current farmers, including:

- \$200 million for technical assistance outreach, mediation, financial training, capacity building training, cooperative development and agricultural credit training and support for underserved farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners, including veterans, limited resource and beginning producers, and producers living in high poverty areas.
- \$200 million for the Secretary to address heirs’ property and fractionated land issues.
- \$10 million for the creation and operation of one or more equity commissions.
- \$189 million for research, education, and extension at the 1890 and 1994 Land-Grant Universities and the Alaskan, Hawaiian, and insular institutions, which may include scholarships, internships, and other pathways to increase participation in agriculture.
- \$750 million for financial assistance for farmers and ranchers who have experienced discrimination in USDA farm lending programs; and
- \$35 million for USDA administrative costs to carry out these activities.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR FOOD WORKERS

The House Build Back Better Act also provides \$200 million dollars to the Secretary of Agriculture for the Farmworker and Food Worker Relief Grant Program of the Agricultural Marketing Service to provide additional COVID–19 assistance relief payments for frontline grocery workers.

SUPPORT OF USDA OFFICE INSPECTOR GENERAL

The House Build Back Better Act provides \$5 million through September 30, 2031, to the USDA Office of Inspector General for audits, investigations and other oversight activities of projects and activities carried out with the funds provided in the Act.



Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Provisions in the Build Back Better Act

The Build Back Better Act invests more than \$90 billion in agriculture, forestry and rural communities. It addresses the climate crisis by investing in nature-based solutions, climate research, clean energy, small-town economies, rural water quality and healthy food for more children.

Climate-Smart Agriculture

\$27 billion to give farmers and ranchers the tools they've asked for to keep leading on climate. It's the biggest investment in conservation since the Dust Bowl —reaching as many as 240,000 farms and 130 million acres of cropland per year.

- Helps producers implement and expand conservation practices that safeguard resources and sequester carbon in their soil and trees.
- Expands practices like cover cropping, nutrient management and buffers, and leverages private and outside investments to support locally-led conservation.
- Increases focus on whole-farm conservation systems, and ensures that land in easements addresses climate change, while maintaining its viability as farmland.
- Puts strategies to address the root causes of the climate crisis on the same footing as programs like crop insurance that we count on to repair the damage from climate-related extreme weather.

Forestry

\$27 billion to restore forests, fight wildfires and sequester carbon in trees – the biggest ever investment in forest restoration, wildfire prevention, and climate-smart forestry.

- Invests in forest health projects on both public and private lands, and equips firefighters and rural communities to be more resilient to wildfire.
- Invests in climate-smart forestry to boost carbon sequestration.
- Plants trees in urban communities and prioritizes underserved forest landowners.

Research

\$2 billion for agricultural climate research and agricultural research facilities.

- Invests in agriculture climate research and cooperative extension to help farmers and rural communities develop climate solutions and adapt to the climate crisis.

- Provides \$1 billion for ag research facilities at Minority Serving Institutions.
- Funds scholarship programs at 1890 historically Black land-grant universities, tribal scholarships, and multicultural student scholarships.

Rural Development and Energy

\$18.3 billion to invest in rural prosperity and help rural communities transition to cleaner energy.

- Establishes the Rural Partnership Program, the most significant new rural development program in 30 years, to help small towns and tribal nations and territories strengthen their communities and improve their quality of life.
- Supports rural electric cooperatives in the transition to cleaner energy, dramatically reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.
- Funds programs that help farmers and small business owners be more energy efficient, and helps small towns and high-poverty rural areas revamp their water and waste systems and make energy efficiency upgrades.

Child Nutrition

\$10 billion to invest in child nutrition programs to feed millions of additional kids during the school year and over the summer.

- Provides meals for almost 9 million additional children by expanding Community Eligibility for 5 years, so eligible schools can serve all children for free, reducing the administrative burden on schools and eliminating the stigma for students.
- Provides \$65 per month in Summer EBT benefits to all children eligible for free and reduced price meals to buy food over the summer for 2 years.
- Provides \$250 million for a healthy food incentive demonstration program to improve the nutritional quality of food in school meals, and \$30 million for kitchen equipment so that schools are better able to serve healthy food and scratch meals.

Debt Relief

\$6 billion in additional funding to expand support to economically distressed borrowers and underserved farmers, ranchers and forest landowners in high-poverty areas.

- Provides full and partial debt forgiveness on direct loans, and offers loan modification services to USDA direct and guaranteed borrowers to keep their operations resilient and avoid economic disaster.
- Gives additional assistance to historically underserved producers living in high-poverty areas to address credit barriers, land access and a lack of technical help.
- Allows farmers or ranchers who experienced past discrimination in USDA credit programs to apply for additional assistance of up to \$500,000.