

**MONDAY MORNING GROUP OF WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY
ANNUAL ADVOCACY TRIP – WASHINGTON, DC
APRIL 25 – 27, 2023**

FARM BILL

TITLE IV – NUTRITION

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP); Eligibility for College Students; 7 USC §2036a:** UC supports the inclusion in the 2023 Farm Bill of the text of H.R. 1919, the Enhance Access to SNAP Act of 2021, or the EATS Act of 2021, which is pending in the House in the 117th Congress. Specifically, H.R. 1919 amends the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to "treat attendance at an institution of higher education the same as work for the purpose of determining eligibility to participate" in the SNAP Program.
 - **Recommendation:** The addition of the text of H.R. 1919 in the 2023 Farm Bill would help to address eligibility problems faced by college students under the current SNAP Program to ensure that college students are better able to address food insecurity challenges while attending college.

TITLE VII – RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND RELATED MATTERS

- **Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI); §7305 of the 2018 Farm Bill:** SCRI is important to California's agricultural research enterprise as California grows over 400 agricultural commodities and produces over 50 percent of the nation's supply of fruits, nuts, and vegetables. Since SCRI's inception in 2008, UC entities have received over \$94 million in funding.
 - **Recommendations**
 - Reauthorize SCRI and increase or maintain the mandatory funding at \$80 million per FY.
 - Eliminate the matching funds requirement for programs such as the Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) which were imposed under the 2018 Farm Bill. Specifically, Section 7614 Matching Funds Requirement reinstated the pre-2014 Farm Bill matching requirements for land-grant universities applying for NIFA grants.
- **Research Facilities Act; §7503 of the 2018 Farm Bill:** The need to reauthorize and fund the Research Facilities Act is clear: infrastructure in most land-grant universities is aging, inadequate, and, in many cases, obsolete.
 - **Recommendations**
 - Reauthorize the Research Facilities Act and remove the matching requirement.
 - Provide \$5 billion for agriculture and food research infrastructure for land-grant colleges and universities.
- **Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension (ECDRE) program; 7 U.S.C. 7632(j); §7306 of the 2014 Farm Bill:** The 1998 Farm Bill created the Citrus Disease Research and Extension (CDRE) program within SCRI to combat Huanglongbing (HLB; citrus greening), which is a bacterial disease spread by the Asian Citrus Psyllid. Citrus greening has been ravaging Florida's citrus industry and has the potential to devastate Texas' and California's citrus industries as well
 - **Recommendation:** Reauthorize ECDRE and increase or maintain the mandatory funding of \$25 million per FY.
- **Support for Honeybee Research and a Genetics and Breeding Health Center:** UC also supports the possibility of establishing a new Honeybee Genetics and Breeding Health Center, which would serve as the hub of multi-state institutional partnership addressing the pollinator crisis with a targeted approach on extension/industry focus for the development and delivery of novel bee health management tools that are scientifically validated and feasible/affordable for beekeepers.
 - **Recommendation:** Support funding for honeybee research and a genetics and breeding health center.
- **Education Grants Program for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI); 7 U.S.C. §3241:** The Hispanic-Serving Institutions Education Grants (HSI) Program is a critical U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) competitive grants program, operated through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). These competitive grants support STEM education programs in the food and agricultural sciences at institutions

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with at least 25 percent Hispanic enrollment. UC Riverside Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) and are eligible for these funds. The Farm Bill authorizes the program at \$40 million per fiscal year.

- **Recommendation:** Reauthorize the program and increase or maintain the authorization at \$40 million per FY

- **Supplemental and Alternative Crops: Hemp; §7129 in the 2018 Farm Bill:** The 2018 Farm Bill extends the supplemental and alternative crops program at USDA and maintains \$2 million per FY funding levels through FY2023. It also amended the program to expand eligibility to industrial hemp. UC supports the reauthorization of this program and continued funding for industrial hemp research.
 - **Recommendation:** Reauthorize the program and increase or maintain funding at \$2 million per FY.

- **Biomass Research and Development Initiative; 7 U.S.C. §8108; §7507 in the 2018 Farm Bill:** The Biomass Research and Development Initiative provides grant funding for projects addressing research, development, and demonstration of biofuels and bio-based products and the methods, practices, and technologies for their production. Funded projects focus on three main technical areas: feedstock development, biofuels and bio-based products development, and biofuels development analysis.
 - **Recommendation:** Reauthorize the program and increase or maintain funding at \$20 million per FY.

TITLE X – HORTICULTURE

- **Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention & National Clean Plant Network (NCPN); 7 U.S.C. §7721:** Sec. 10007 of the 2014 Farm Bill consolidated plant pest and disease management and disaster prevention programs and also created the National Clean Plant Network. UC Riverside is home to the Citrus Clonal Protection Program (CCPP), which is part of NCPN. Since 2010, CCPP received over \$4.4 million in NCPN funding from FY 2010-2016. The CCPP provides a safe mechanism for the introduction into California of citrus varieties from any citrus-growing area of the world for research, variety improvement, or for use by citrus enthusiasts and California citrus growers. CCPP is playing a vital role in preventing the spread of HLB across California.
 - **Recommendations**
 - Increase mandatory funding levels for NCPN from \$5 to \$12 million per FY.
 - Reauthorize Sec. 10007 and maintain mandatory funding levels of \$75 million per FY.

- **Reauthorize and refund the Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Development Trust Fund; §12605 of the 2018 Farm Bill:** The 1998 Farm Bill created the Citrus Disease Research and Extension (CDRE) program within SCRI to combat Huanglongbing (HLB; citrus greening), which is a bacterial disease spread by the Asian Citrus Psyllid. Citrus greening has been ravaging Florida’s citrus industry and has the potential to devastate Texas’ and California’s citrus industries as well. The 2014 Farm Bill re-created CDRE as the Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension program (ECDRE), and the 2018 Farm Bill funds the program through the Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Development Trust Fund (see also previous section in Title VII on CDRE/ECDRE). Congress provided \$25 million per year for FYs 2019-2023 for ECDRE, for a total of \$125 million.
 - **Recommendation:** Reauthorize and increase or maintain the authorized funding of \$25 million per FY.