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2023 Farm Bill Reauthorization Priorities

TITLE VII – Research, Extension, and Related Matters

Improve investments in and coordination of USDA nutrition research, evaluations, and data sharing.

***Reauthorize the USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) for \$700 million annually.**

- AFRI funding supports food, nutrition, and agricultural research, *education, and Extension projects, which are essential to the nation's health and prosperity. This support allows the U.S. to remain competitive in the global economy of the 21st century and provides training to the next generation of diverse scientists in nutrition and agriculture.*

***Provide \$200 million in mandatory funds for the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR).**

- FFAR has the flexibility to build unique public-private partnerships in agricultural research and therefore grow the funding pool for nutrition, food and agricultural research to complement existing research efforts.

***Include the following language to support nutrition monitoring and surveillance activities that are conducted in collaboration by both the USDA/Agriculture Research Service and the HHS Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:**

- “Direct the secretaries of USDA and HHS and other agencies as appropriate to engage with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) to convene an expert committee to conduct a comprehensive study of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), to provide recommendations about its future format and diet and nutritional content. The panel selected to conduct the study shall include a balanced representation of individuals with broad experiences and expertise regarding nutritional and health information and survey methodology.”

The study should encompass a comprehensive review of the survey's current data collection goals and methodologies in order to make recommendations related, but not limited, to:

- data collection efficiency and modernization;

- identification of components that are essential to the mission of the survey versus those that may be modified, outsourced or eliminated;
- approaches to sampling subpopulations within the confines of limited sample size;
- ensuring adequate response rates;
- strategies to increase the timeliness of survey data release;
- strategies to ensure dedicated exploration of innovation over time; and,
- steps needed to make the survey responsive to national priorities focused on health data modernization, collaboration and sharing.

TITLE IV – Nutrition Programs

SUBTITLE A—SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

Support nutrition security and nutrition assistance. Nutrition education is a critical component of SNAP and other nutrition programs.

***Formalize a valid measure of nutrition security to allow researchers and practitioners to adequately assess barriers to having consistent access to foods that promote wellbeing.**

- USDA has a working definition of nutrition security, but there are no established or agreed-upon metrics for evaluating nutrition security which are needed for assessing program effectiveness and overall trends. Nutrition security metrics should evaluate diet quality and alignment with key recommendations of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* as measured by USDA's Healthy Eating Index scoring system.

***Expand program funding for SNAP-Ed and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) to at least \$750 million annually.**

- This support will evolve innovative nutrition education that is culturally relevant and accessible to help more Americans make healthy food choices.

Questions? Please contact Sarah Ohlhorst, Chief Science Policy Officer (240-428-3647; sohlhorst@nutrition.org)