Call to Action – Appropriations Follow-up

With House and Senate versions of the FY 2021 Agriculture Appropriations bill complete, conferees are working to wrap up this year’s appropriations process. Whether this effort collapses into another CR or a final spending package is uncertain at this time. Senior Appropriators are currently negotiating topline spending allocations for an omnibus package, with hopes of reaching an agreement in the next couple of days. With the topline numbers, conferees will work to finish a compromise bill before the December 11 deadline. Therefore, we must proceed and express our priorities and preferences between the House and Senate appropriations proposals.

Consistent with your institution’s standard procedures for making congressional contacts, we encourage you to follow up with your state’s delegation and reiterate the importance of NIFA funding for your university. We recommend you provide examples of how funding supports specific programs at your university and how those programs help your community.

We recommend that you request support for the House version of the FY 2021 Agriculture Appropriations bill. The House version increases funding for McIntire-Stennis, 1890s Extension, Evans-Allen, AFRI, and all three 1994s programs; and maintains FY 2020 funding levels for Hatch, Smith-Lever, and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). While the Senate version mimics the increase for AFRI, all other priority programs are held at FY 2020 levels.

To support your outreach efforts, we have attached a letter that can be used to outline our request. In addition to sharing the letter, we strongly encourage you to provide specific examples of how this funding supports your university.