

NOMINATIONS OF DUDLEY HOSKINS TO BE
UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR
MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS
AND DR. SCOTT HUTCHINS, TO BE UNDER
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RESEARCH,
EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS

HEARING
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
UNITED STATES SENATE
ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

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SEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025

U.S. SENATE
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:32 a.m., in Room 106, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. John Boozman, Chairman of the Committee, presiding.

Present: Senators Boozman [presiding], Hoeven, Hyde-Smith, Marshall, Justice, Fischer, Moran, Klobuchar, Bennet, Smith, Luján, Welch, Fetterman, Schiff, and Slotkin.

**STATEMENT OF HON. BOOZMAN, U.S. SENATOR FROM THE
STATE OF ARKANSAS, CHAIRMAN, U.S. COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY**

Chairman BOOZMAN. Good morning and welcome. It is my privilege to call this hearing to order.

Today, we will consider the nominations of Mr. Dudley Hoskins to be Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs and Dr. Scott Hutchins to be Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics. We welcome both of you to the Committee and congratulate you on your nominations and, very importantly, thank you for your willingness to serve.

Our farmers and ranchers continue to face challenges ranging from high input costs, elevated interest rates, an uncertain trade environment, and an ineffective—very ineffective—farm safety net. Farmers across the country continue to struggle and are in desperate need of updated, responsive risk management tools. Secretary Rollins has led by example and has been a champion for agriculture, but the challenges facing the farm country highlight why it is so important she get her team in place. Today is another step toward making that happen.

Starting with Mr. Hoskins, the Marketing and Regulatory Programs mission area is one of the most diverse and far-reaching responsibilities of USDA. From beef grading to organic agriculture, from foreign animal disease response to specialty crop pests, this

mission area touches every farmer, every rancher, every processor, every marketer, every stakeholder in the agriculture value chain.

This mission area houses two key federal agencies, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the Agricultural Marketing Service. They do critical, often unnoticed work and play a vital role in keeping our Nation's food system functioning.

U.S. agriculture is currently facing threats from numerous pests and diseases. Right now, all eyes are on Mexico and the threat of New World screwworm. The Secretary's decision to close the border to live animal imports was not a light decision. Ensuring Mexico has proper protocols in place and eventually reopening the border will not be an easy task. This is why I believe it is so important to get Mr. Hoskins confirmed as soon as possible.

Now to Dr. Hutchins, the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics. He is charged with advancing scientific knowledge related to agriculture through research, Extension, and education. This mission area manages four key agencies, collects and disseminates critical data, and is the primary link between the Federal Government and our Nation's premier agriculture institutions, our land-grant universities. These serve to develop the next generation of our agriculture workforce, as well as conduct world-class research. This mission area also works to ensure that the timely research and outcomes and discoveries developed at our land-grant institutions and by USDA's chief in-house research agency, the Agricultural Research Service, actually make it to the farm. The Cooperative Extension Service, truly a hallmark of U.S. agriculture, is the bridge between innovation and the producer.

I am grateful that Mr. Hoskins and Dr. Hutchins are nominated for such important roles at USDA, and I look forward to hearing their plans to serve American agriculture.

I now turn to Ranking Member Klobuchar for her opening statement.

STATEMENT OF HON. KLOBUCHAR, U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Thank you very much, Chair, and I welcome Mr. Hoskins and Dr. Hutchins. I would like to also welcome Mr. Hoskins' parents and his wife, Jessica, back there, right, as well as Dr. Hutchins' wife, Janet. Thank you all for being here.

As you mentioned, Mr. Chairman, the nominees, if confirmed, will oversee all the functions of the USDA that are very important to many people around this dais. You both have a strong record of experience within the Department, and we look forward to today's discussion.

I will start with USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Programs vast reach. The most pressing challenge facing this mission area is protecting us and our industry and consumers from pest, diseases, including avian flu and New World screwworm. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is on the frontlines of this fight with dedicated employees working day in and day out to protect domestic producers from threats.

Mr. Hoskins, as you and I discussed in our good and thorough meeting, I remain concerned over recent reporting of the loss of public service veterinarians at the USDA. These veterinarians are

the first line of defense against animal diseases, and I hope you will address that once you get in there, if you are confirmed, work to buildup that workforce. Senator Hyde-Smith and I head up the Veterinarians Caucus, something people may not have known.

Additionally——

Chairman BOOZMAN. No.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. There you go. USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Programs provide valuable support to our farmers through the Ag Marketing Service. From commodity procurement and specialty crop block grants to federal grain inspections and the National Organic Program, AMS works to expand market opportunities at home and abroad.

AMS has also taken steps to improve price transparency and stop bad actors through several interagency efforts. In the face of continued consolidation across the ag industry, efforts to ensure fair rules of the road are more important than ever.

We will also consider the nomination of Dr. Hutchinson—Hutchins to be—we have a town in Minnesota called Hutchinson, as Senator Smith will attest to—Dr. Hutchins to be Under Secretary of Research, Education, and Economics, who has previous experience in the mission area as Deputy Under Secretary.

As you and I discussed, Dr. Hutchins, I am a strong supporter of ag research. It just makes economic sense. According to USDA's own estimates, every \$1 invested in ag research yields \$20 in economic returns. I appreciated when the Chairman came to Minnesota and met with some of our leaders in ag research. Of course, I think we also all went, Senator Smith, Senator Boozman, and myself, to no other place than North Dakota at the invitation of Senator Hoeven to look at some of the research going on over there.

As you and I discussed, I was disappointed to see President Trump's proposed over \$600 million in cuts to the USDA's National Institute of Food and Ag in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. I hope to work with my colleagues on this Committee to ensure these proposed cuts are rejected, that we continue to keep ag research going strong. We are at a cusp of great developments with all the research that has been done, as well as the potential of using AI, if correctly used, to do even better, and the precision agriculture and the like.

USDA's research agencies are critically important to advancing scientific research, supporting our land grant universities, and educating students to lead in the field and in the boardroom. Our home State of Minnesota is home to the University of Minnesota, four 1994 tribal colleges, and the ARS labs in Morris and St. Paul.

Agencies within the MRP and REE mission areas are popular because of the high quality of work conducted by dedicated public servants. You can have strong leadership, but you have to have the public servants doing the work. I have discussed with both of you the importance of keeping these employees on, recruiting people immediately when positions come open, and I hope to hear from all of you about your plans in each of your mission areas. Thank you very much, and thank you for your willingness to serve.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Thank you very much.

It gives me great pleasure this morning to introduce the President's nominee to serve as the Under Secretary for Marketing and

Regulatory Programs, Mr. Dudley Hoskins. Before I give him too much praise, as was mentioned, we want to welcome his family, who have joined us here today. Dudley's wife, Jessica Morse, Dudley's parents, Woody and Eugenia Hoskins, and Dudley's brothers, Houston and Borden. We are delighted that you could join us at today's hearing.

Dudley is the first member of my committee staff to be nominated for a position requiring Senate confirmation. I am so pleased that he has agreed to serve the American people in this role, and I have full confidence that his considerable expertise, work ethic, and sense of humor will serve him well as the Under Secretary.

During the first Trump Administration, Dudley served as Senior Advisor to Secretary Perdue and Chief of Staff of the Marketing and Regulatory Programs mission area. Mr. Hoskins previously worked for the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, the Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment, and the American Horse Council. He is a native of Texas, and after completing his undergraduate degree at Tulane University, earned his law degree from Texas Wesleyan University.

Dudley's the right problem for—is the right person, not the right problem, but the right person—

[Laughter.]

Chairman BOOZMAN [continuing]. for this job. It is one of the most important mission areas at USDA. I have confidence in his abilities and his judgment to make sound recommendations as the Secretary that will be in the long-term best interest of American agriculture.

Our second nominee is Dr. Scott Hutchins. Dr. Hutchins is nominated to be Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics. Dr. Hutchins served during the last Trump Administration as Deputy Under Secretary for this same mission area. Dr. Hutchins spent over 30 years with Dow AgroSciences and is an adjunct professor of Entomology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He earned his Ph.D. in Entomology from Iowa State, a master's in entomology from Mississippi State, and an undergraduate degree from Auburn. You have been every place. This is great.

Dr. Hutchins' wife, Janet, also is with us today, and welcome. We are so glad you are here.

Thank you, Dr. Hutchins, for appearing before the Committee, and again, we appreciate the fact that you are willing to serve. I look forward to your testimony.

With that, let's administer the oath and then begin with witness testimony. Each witness will have five minutes. Please stand and raise your right hand.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Do you swear or affirm that the statements you are about to provide is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. HOSKINS. I do.

Dr. HUTCHINS. I do.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Do you agree that, if confirmed, you will respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted Committee of the Senate?

Mr. HOSKINS. I do.

Dr. HUTCHINS. I do.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Thank you.

Now, Mr. Hoskins, you are recognized for your opening statement.

STATEMENT OF DUDLEY HOSKINS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS

Mr. HOSKINS. Well, Chairman Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, and distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to serve as the Under Secretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Marketing and Regulatory Programs. I want to thank President Trump for nominating me to serve in this role, and I want to thank Secretary Rollins for her trust and confidence in supporting my nomination. I also want to thank the Members of this Committee, your respective staffs, and the non-designated clerks, Jessie Williams, Cindy Qualley, and Elisa Mendez, for the incredible honor and privilege to serve in support of this Committee's Members and mission over the past four years.

Regardless of whether I am fortunate enough to be confirmed, I will forever treasure the time, experiences, and relationships I have been blessed with throughout my tenure serving this Committee.

Finally, I want to thank my family for your often-tested but never-wavering love and support. I appreciate you, Mr. Chairman, recognizing my family and you, Ranking Member Klobuchar. I also want to do the same. My parents, Woody and Jenny, who are here in person, my sister Aubrey, who is in Louisiana with her family today, my brothers Houston and Borden, and sister-in-law Catherine, who are in attendance, and my wife Jessica, whose only real poor decision in life was agreeing to marry me.

[Laughter.]

Mr. HOSKINS. That aside, I did not grow up in agriculture. Through happenstance, dumb luck, and great fortune, I fell into it and ultimately fell in love with it. After graduating law school, I came to D.C. with my dog, Huckleberry, a law license, and no malpractice insurance. Like most experiences in my life, I have been a recipient of goodwill I did not earn and good luck I did not deserve. The combination of those two dynamics allowed me to work for the American Horse Council, the Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, and before joining the Committee, the opportunity and privilege to serve at USDA under the first Trump Administration, under then-Secretary Perdue in multiple capacities, one of which was in the MRP mission area for then-Under Secretary Greg Ibach.

Those experiences exposed me to the countless challenges and inner workings of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the Agricultural Marketing Service, which in my very biased estimation are the two most critical, complex, and impactful agencies informing the health and viability of U.S. agriculture.

The people serving in the APHIS and AMS agencies are on their clock and at their post 24/7 as stewards and sentries, protecting our producers from incursions of devastating animal and plant pests and diseases, traveling across our rural communities to en-

sure price transparency through market news reporting, conducting bird control at airports, ensuring the highest confidence in our grading standards, reviewing and regulating certain agricultural biotechnologies, mitigating the impacts of feral hogs and other invasive species, and ensuring the integrity of research and promotion boards and countless marketing orders, just to name a few.

In short, the career officials and subject matter experts tasked with this incredibly diverse mission set are the best in the world at what they do. If confirmed, I commit to following Secretary Rollins' leadership and working every day to support the APHIS and AMS missions in helping U.S. farmers, ranchers, and foresters produce the safest, most affordable, and most abundant food and fiber in the world.

To the Members of the Committee, I am grateful for the time and opportunity to have met with many of you and your respective staffs before today's hearing. Those conversations were incredibly instructive in helping me better understand some of the challenges and opportunities impacting producers in your states and across the country.

If confirmed, I will dedicate myself to delivering a transparent, predictable, and science-based regulatory structure to protect the health and viability of U.S. agriculture, mitigate the impact of animal and plant pests and diseases, and facilitate the timely delivery of critical marketing programs consistent with the spirit and intent of the law.

Finally, I also want to note my gratitude and appreciation to my co-nominee, Dr. Hutchins. Regardless of what becomes of my nomination, if he is confirmed, USDA will be fortunate to have someone of his experience and capabilities leading the REE mission area.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to appear before you today, and I look forward to answering any questions you may have for me.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Hoskins can be found on page 34 in the appendix.]

Chairman BOOZMAN. Dr. Hutchins.

STATEMENT OF SCOTT HUTCHINS, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS

Dr. HUTCHINS. Good morning. Chairman Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, and Members of the Committee, I am truly pleased to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to the position of Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics for the United States Department of Agriculture. I would like to sincerely thank President Trump for this opportunity and Secretary Rollins for her confidence and support with this nomination as well.

I am myself a product, as you have read, of the land-grant system, and therefore, I feel a great sense of pride and honor to be considered for this position, and if confirmed, will certainly dedicate myself to fulfill the mission as outlined by Congress and to achieve the goals of USDA as outlined by Secretary Rollins.

As you have already recognized, thank you for that. I would like to introduce my wife, Janet Hutchins from Alabama. We celebrate

45 years of marriage next month, and we have three wonderful adult children and seven awesome grandchildren, all ages 12 and under. No one could ask for a better lifelong partner and supportive family, and I also want to thank my sisters Dawn and Candy in Georgia, along with the extended family and friends watching virtually for their love and support through this process.

Throughout my career, I have dedicated my professional passion toward developing innovations and novel technologies in support of agriculture production, working every day to provide tools that allow farmers to succeed in their businesses. For example, I was the Global Product Development Manager for Spinosad, which is a U.S. EPA Green Chemistry Award winner, and a naturally-derived insect management product that is today one of the most widely used insect management tools in agriculture and horticulture, both conventional and organic agriculture within the United States and indeed globally.

The history of agricultural productivity in the United States has been unlike any industry. Production has increased over 400 percent in the last century while using the same level of inputs, albeit different inputs, and with all that, less land. That is clearly the definition of sustainability.

Often overlooked is the fact that the average life span of Americans has gone from 49 years of age to over 80 years of age in that same period. Modern U.S. agriculture, powered by U.S. farmers and ranchers, is the enabling reason we have a safe, abundant, and reliable food system.

My professional journey as a scientist began at Auburn University as an undergraduate student in the late 1970's, where I benefited from excellent teachers and mentors in Agricultural Entomology and became passionate about helping growers manage devastating pest problems. I elected to pursue graduate studies at Mississippi State University and Iowa State University, where I became a student of Integrative Pest Management. I have been fortunate to have worked closely with numerous university teams and administrators throughout my career, along with scientific societies, to create and advance public-private partnerships.

After a nearly 32-year career in the private sector, I was honored to serve as Deputy Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics under the leadership of Secretary Perdue, where I experienced firsthand the talent and commitment of our federal agencies in research, education, and economics. If confirmed, I look forward to continuing to support their critical mission with Secretary Rollins. The land grant mission is timeless, and not only research, but also research made relevant through education and extension.

I was honored to have met in person the Nobel laureate, Dr. Norman Borlaug, who inspired all of us to pursue, with earnest, innovation in agriculture as the very best way to ensure food security for all. Inasmuch as Congress has designated this role to also serve as the Chief Agricultural Scientist for the United States, if confirmed, I will fulfill these responsibilities to the best of my ability through deliberate, yet decisive formulation of recommendations to the Secretary, the President, and the Congress on key scientific issues and opportunities facing U.S. agriculture. Moreover, if confirmed, I commit to actively lead the REE team to create strategic

initiatives and national priorities in line with the goals and objectives of the Secretary and Congress with a renewed focus on impactful results and discovery goals.

I have always truly valued teamwork, and I know Mr. Hoskins well from our previous time at USDA. He is the absolute best, as you already know, and if we are confirmed together, it will be an honor to work side by side with him and the Secretary's full team to collectively support U.S. agriculture.

Chairman Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, Members of the Committee, I am truly honored to have been nominated for this critical USDA role, and if confirmed, I pledge to do all I can each and every day to improve the lives and livelihoods of farmers, ranchers, and all Americans through the work of the research, education, and economics agencies.

Thank you so much for the privilege of appearing in front of the Committee today, and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Hutchins can be found on page 36 in the appendix.]

Chairman BOOZMAN. Well, thank you both for your testimony. We will now begin with one round of questions. Each Member will have five minutes.

Before I ask my questions, I would like to add letters of support from various groups for Mr. Hoskins and Dr. Hutchins for their nomination into the record. Without objection, so ordered.

[The letters can be found on pages 40–51 in the appendix.]

Chairman BOOZMAN. Mr. Hoskins, the USDA has been challenged by avian flu for quite some time now, and recent developments of New World screwworm moving closer to our southern border are more than troubling. You have had some experience in handling foreign animal disease threats in your prior roles at USDA with the State Departments of Agriculture. If confirmed, how will you address the current threats facing U.S. agriculture, and how will you ensure USDA stays ready to meet new challenges?

Mr. HOSKINS. Thank you for the question, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the time you extended to me in your office before today's hearing. I know you raised this issue and a multiple of other priorities for you and producers in Arkansas.

When it comes to high-path AI or screwworm or whatever's on deck next, African swine fever, FMD, the disease of the day, in my estimation, all of those things require an all-hands-on-deck. There is a federal component and equity that obviously APHIS and veterinary services plays a huge instrumental role in driving. There is also the relationships and partners with states, state animal health officials, and impacted producers and industry stakeholders.

If I were confirmed, I would do everything in my power to support Secretary Rollins implement her five-pronged approach that she rolled out to address high-path AI, better understand and assess the risks of screwworm from Mexico, and work to understand what, if anything, veterinary services and the APHIS team needed or wanted in support or permission to better execute their mandate to protect U.S. agriculture.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Very good. Dr. Hutchins, thank you for meeting with me a couple weeks ago, which I really enjoyed. I ap-

preciate the discussion we had about the importance of the National Agricultural Law Center, and if you are confirmed, I look forward to working with you to see the Center remains successful and able to continue serving American agriculture.

The partnership between USDA and our Nation's agriculture universities is so important. This distinguishes U.S. agriculture research from the rest of the world. It is a partnership between the Federal Government, the states, and local decision makers.

We do not have a system where Washington, DC. tells universities what to research, and states must have skin in the game. In the end, farmers, ranchers, and consumers ultimately benefit. You mentioned in your testimony the tremendous strides that agriculture had made compared to almost anything. If you are confirmed, what will you do to continue to lead this partnership with our Nation's agriculture universities, which you are, as you mentioned, so much a product of?

Dr. HUTCHINS. Thank you, Senator. I, too, very much enjoyed our conversation the other week. As I have indicated, and as hopefully it is clear from my demeanor, I am a huge passionate fan of land-grant institutions. The whole model has been a gamechanger, and it really has enabled the United States to make the difference.

What would I be able to do? What I hope to be able to do, sir, is to develop a set of national priorities and focus on discovery goals so that we can channel the tremendous talent of these institutions in partnership, as well, with the federal agencies toward solving some of the bigger issues and challenges, some of which would be in partnership, of course, with Mr. Hoskins' organization, if he is confirmed, in order to address challenges. I am also very positive on the possibility of developing new opportunities, new opportunities for markets for our agricultural products, new opportunities for technology advancements, and to put those in place first so that the United States agricultural system is always leading the world as early adopters of innovation and staying ahead of the curve for productivity and profitability and relevance.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Very good. Mr. Hoskins, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, APHIS, is the gold standard for certifying both plant and animal health safety. We have seen many countries put up unscientific trade barriers. APHIS then is called in to help defend the integrity of our ag products.

One focus of this Administration's trade agenda is to crack down on these types of unfair barriers, which are in many ways even worse than the tariff barriers. How do you view the role of APHIS in the broader effect to ensure our producers can compete on a level playing field?

Mr. HOSKINS. Thank you for the question, Mr. Chairman. In my estimation, the APHIS family, both on the PPQ side and the veterinary services side, when we are talking about sanitary and phytosanitary non-tariff trade irritants, the APHIS family plays an essential role in prosecuting the science of those barriers and hopefully persevering with their colleagues and counterparts around the world to help them understand where there is risk and where there is not. If I were confirmed, I would do everything in my power to give the APHIS subject matter experts the permission and support

they needed to fully prosecute those non-tariff trade issues on a scientific basis and support their outcomes.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Very good. Senator Klobuchar.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Very good. Thank you. I will start with you, Mr. Hoskins. As you and I talked over the last three years in the U.S. avian flu, spread from wild birds to poultry operations and most recently to dairy cattle, Mr. Hoskins, as we enter the third year of this most recent outbreak, what are your priorities on this virus, and how will you ensure the response includes all impacted industry groups, including turkeys and dairy cattle?

Mr. HOSKINS. Thank you for the question, Ranking Member Klobuchar, and thank you for the time you extended to me in your office. I know you raised this issue and a number of others. The visit with you in your office was much more pleasant than my staff interview with your Committee staff—

[Laughter.]

Mr. HOSKINS [continuing]. but I would just say when it comes to high-path AI specifically and just the diversity of production systems that disease has impacted, obviously eggs, broilers, turkeys, which we are number one in, and the dairy side of the equation, the all-hands approach, five-pronged approach that Secretary Rollins rolled out, to me is absolutely the right direction and compass to help get us out of this quagmire with high-path AI. One component of that could be vaccine development and deployment.

What I have committed to you and, if confirmed, what I would commit to this Committee is that if there were a vaccine consideration to be utilized, that that would be science-based. It would be based on the efficacy of that vaccine, and it is something that the entire stakeholder community would be consulted on because regardless of one production system that you may vaccinate for, it could have implications for other production systems, both on a domestic level and an international market access level. I would commit to giving the Secretary all the information and tools she needed to make the most informed decision possible.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Thank you very much.

Dr. HUTCHINS, if confirmed, what role do you see for Research, Education, and Economics in your mission area playing to go into the response to avian flu?

Dr. HUTCHINS. Thank you, Senator, and thank you as well for the time yesterday. I enjoyed that very much, and I actually also enjoyed the time with your staff.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Well, thank you.

[Laughter.]

Senator KLOBUCHAR. That will be duly noted, Mr. Hoskins.

[Laughter.]

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Okay.

Dr. HUTCHINS. The Research, Education, and Economics organization just has the phenomenal capability and capacity to deal with these types of scenarios with the NBAF facility in Kansas, as well as the veterinary laboratories in Ames and other places. The science and the capabilities there are unmatched in the world. The other thing that is unmatched is the partnership that these agencies have with the agencies of MRP.

What can we do to advance it? We can continually look for the most promising science development. We can utilize the new tools and technologies in AI to identify ways to not just mitigate but to prevent these kinds of scenarios. In some ways, it is also related to the context of invasive species, invasive organisms. We have the capability to work hand in hand to develop the best methods to eliminate those.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Thanks. Very good. Thank you.

Ag research in general, you know, I voiced my concerns about this proposed budget. Can you talk about how you will advocate for ag research?

Dr. HUTCHINS. Certainly. I have always been an advocate for ag research, but at a higher level I have been an advocate for the outcomes that ag research leads to, the results, the solutions, the opportunities. It is certainly the prerogative of Congress to provide the funding, but what I can commit to you, Senator, is that whatever funding is provided, we will make the absolute best use of it to benefit our farmers and ranchers and consumers. That would be my firm commitment to you and this Committee.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Administration's buyout program for career employees resulted in the loss of 1,600 people from your mission area with research, including over 1,200 staff from the Ag Research Service. That is an 18 percent loss of total workforce when we are already looking for ag scientists. Simply put, without staff, I think we know this research, no matter what AI does, is not going to happen.

How are you going to make sure that this loss of expertise will not affect the area, and how will you improve things?

Dr. HUTCHINS. Thank you for that question. For sure what we will need to do is take a look at the resources that are provided, the status of the situation we have in each of the agencies, and, as with any organization, look to ensure that we are focused on the most important outcomes and on the most important projects and programs that benefit farmers, ranchers, and the American public, and then target the resources we do have toward that and ensure that we fill those key positions that are vacant that will allow us to succeed in that way.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Okay. Thanks. Last question, Mr. Hoskins. The National Animal Health Lab Network office has lost half its staff, and that is about testing, quality assurance, and the Vet Services office is currently set to lose 23 percent of its workforce. Just talk about how you will ensure that APHIS continues to protect our domestic ag from threats and is not undermined by the staff or funding cuts.

Mr. HOSKINS. Thank you. Thank you for the question, Ranking Member Klobuchar. To your point, the National Animal Health Laboratory Network is a critical asset to the Federal Government when it comes to early detection and surveillance of animal diseases. I think there are 62 facilities in around 42 states within the NALHN network.

I cannot sit here today and speak intelligently to the staffing assessment, having not been at the Department and privy to those briefings. What I can point to is the Secretary's comments publicly that she stated APHIS will have the adequate workforce needed to

address their mission and their mandate, which priority one is protecting the health and viability of U.S. agriculture.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Thank you.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Senator Hyde-Smith.

Senator HYDE-SMITH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Ranking Member. Congratulations to both of you, and I welcome your families. I also welcome some Mississippi legislators. We have four legislators here from our ag committees. We have Senator Neil Whaley, we have Senator Andy Berry, Representative Vince Mangold, and Representative Bill Pigott. Welcome, and thank you for attending this hearing.

As has been discussed many times, Mr. Hoskins, our livestock and poultry industries rely heavily on how USDA acts to protect our Nations from foreign animal diseases. We are currently experiencing a year-long outbreak of high-path avian influenza that has cost poultry and livestock producers tens of millions of dollars in lost flocks, biosecurity expenses, and disruption to domestic and international markets. You and I also recently discussed the outbreak of the New World screwworm in Mexico that has a potential to be very destructive in the U.S. livestock industry if we do not act now.

Diseases like African swine fever and foot-and-mouth disease are always too close for comfort, and we are quickly learning how important it is to be prepared for these outbreaks. I have long supported efforts to strengthen programs to help our producers prepare and respond to animal disease outbreaks. I applaud Secretary Rollins and the Trump Administration for how they have handled these challenges already in the Administration.

How do you plan to build on this work to ensure USDA is using its disease response resources to act quickly and effectively to protect American agriculture from these threats? If confirmed, how can we support your work in tackling these challenges as a body?

Mr. HOSKINS. Thank you for that question, Senator, and for the time you allotted me in your office before today's hearing. I know you raised this issue and a multitude of others. I guess when I think about the infrastructure that exists at APHIS to address animal diseases, I think first and foremost to the 2018 Farm Bill, where this Committee and Members on this Committee helped lead the effort to get the three-legged stool codified into law, which included the NAHLN lab network; the NADPRP, Disease Prevention Response Program; and the Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank. To me, that is a critical toolbox to APHIS and working with state partners in addressing animal disease issues.

If I were confirmed, I would look to double down and help implement and expedite Secretary Rollins' five-point plan on high-path AI. I want to get clear-eyed in the assessment about what is working well and what is not, and if there are challenges with the biosecurity pieces, how can we best plug and play the agency's resources to help producers meet that mandate.

With screwworm, that is a devastating, just scary disease, parasite, and what it does to the host is it is almost 100 percent fatal without detection and intervention. In Texas, I think the Department eradicated screwworm in the 1960's. Secretary Rollins clearly took decisive action to prevent a potential incursion of screwworm.

I would do everything I could to support that work, both with APHIS and the states and the stakeholder industry, to ensure we had the all-hands-on-deck approach we need.

Senator HYDE-SMITH. Thank you very much. Dr. Hutchins, Mississippi is a leader in agriculture research and very proud of the work that we have done across the state, especially in one of your alma maters, Mississippi State University. As you know, these research initiatives support American farmers and ranchers in so many ways, including developing and improving crop genetics, advancing animal health capabilities, and creating new tools to fight diseases and pests that adversely affect production agriculture.

In my lifetime, I have seen yields increase up to 400 percent at times because of these advancements, which must continue if we are going to provide a safe, abundant, affordable food supply. How will you work to strengthen partnerships with our land-grant universities and pave the way for new scientific advancements in American agriculture through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Agricultural Research Service?

Dr. HUTCHINS. Senator, thank you for the question. Thank you for the time. Hail state.

Pleased to be here and address that. As I have indicated previously, the land-grant institutions are on the frontlines of many of these issues. They have the talent. They have the ability to educate and use extension. At Mississippi State, for example, not so much the screwworm, but they had a very similar scenario with the boll weevil. The ARS Boll Weevil Lab, combined with Mississippi State University, actually developed a lot of the techniques and so forth to eradicate that and, if you will, push it back down into South America.

We will definitely put the land-grant institutions at the tip of the spear to address these issues and do everything we can to support.

Senator HYDE-SMITH. Thank you very much.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Senator Smith.

Senator SMITH. Thank you very much, Chair Boozman and Ranking Member, and welcome, both of you, to the Committee.

Dr. Hutchins, thanks so much for our meeting yesterday. I appreciated the conversation, and I want to just follow-up on that discussion.

I believe that both you and I agree that in the face of the very challenging farm economy and in a world where many producers are not breaking even, that a focus on research and innovation is really crucial. As you know, because I know you visited them, we have two Agriculture Research Service labs in Minnesota. They are very important to Minnesota producers. They rely on them. They both are doing very different kinds of work, as you know, very different kinds of research.

My question to you is, what commitments can you make to me and the Committee that those two facilities will remain open and will not suffer further staff reductions, as we are seeing in different parts of the USDA?

Dr. HUTCHINS. Thank you, Senator Smith, for that question, and thank you for the time as well.

What is clear with what is happening is that we will need to step back and look at each of these facilities. I believe ARS currently

has over 90 facilities. Each of them were developed with a very, you know, effective mission focus. Some of those missions have been continued to add a lot of value. Others perhaps have migrated to other areas of focus such as the Boll Weevil Lab I just mentioned.

What I can commit to you, Senator, is that I will personally do an objective assessment of all these facilities, understand the value of proposition that they are providing to not just the Minnesota farmers, but to farmers more broadly, and to put together proposals and advocate for how we maintain the capability to provide the solutions, provide the innovations, and provide leading-edge approaches to all aspects of agriculture production.

Senator SMITH. I appreciate that. I do not hear quite what I am looking for, but I would just urge you as you go forward, realizing the scope of control you have here, that as you are making those decisions and doing that assessment, that you are talking directly with farmers and ranchers and producers who rely on what those research facilities are providing so that you have a good view of what is to be lost and what is to be gained if they stay there as a resource for producers.

Dr. HUTCHINS. Yes, ma'am, they are there for those stakeholders, and I really want to hear, understand, and appreciate the challenges that they are facing and how we can assist.

Senator SMITH. Thank you very much. I want to ask a follow-up on another thing that we talked about yesterday. Farmers and producers are dealing with an increasing number of extreme weather events, heat, flooding, you name it. We had a discussion about the importance of making sure that we are doing everything we can to help producers adapt. I know this is something that you have spent a lot of time on in your career. For example, we talked about the impact of, you know, different bugs and invasive species that can shift and move as the climate changes. Could you just talk a bit about that and how you would orient USDA research to ensure that producers have the opportunity to do the long-term adaptation that is going to be required?

Dr. HUTCHINS. Yes, ma'am. Thank you for the question. Absolutely. I feel strongly that the science and the technology that we have in hand and that continues to develop—I am talking about gene technologies. I am talking about abilities to make the plant resistant to drought and heat. I am talking about insects. There are all kinds of technologies that are evolving and developing in the digital world, as well as in the genetic world. The University of Minnesota is a leading, breeding, teaching, and learning institution that I have every confidence we will be able to address these if we are allowed and permitted to develop the kind of tools and put them to practice the way I think we all hope that we can. There are not any, I think, challenges in front of us that we cannot address in an effective way if we are able to utilize the science and technology that we can already see in front of us.

Senator SMITH. Great. Thank you very much.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Let me give a shout out to Mike McCormick, President of the Mississippi Farm Bureau. We do appreciate

working with you and all that you represent in Mississippi, the great job that you all do.

Roger, you ready?

Senator MARSHALL. I am ready.

Chairman BOOZMAN. I am sorry, Senator Marshall.

Senator MARSHALL. All right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member. Welcome to both of our nominees and congratulations. We look forward to supporting your nominations.

I think my first question is for Mr. Hoskins. Your role is Marketing and Regulatory Programs. Talk a little bit about pesticides and fertilizers and your interaction with EPA and HHS now as well.

Again, I will just start by sharing I am so proud of what we have done in agriculture. We are growing more with less. We are using a fraction of those pesticides and fertilizers than we used to. This Committee is doing everything we can to have decreased amounts of those ever reaching the waters as well. What will your role be in interacting with the other departments?

Mr. HOSKINS. Thank you for the question, Senator, and for the time you extended to me in your office last week. I know you raised this issue and a number of other priorities on behalf of Kansas agriculture producers.

I would just say when I think about that question, I am thinking about it through the lens of the APHIS AMS mandate that Congress has given it. I think regardless of whether it is a fertilizer, an input, a crop protection tool, a biotechnology innovation, all of those things are so critical to the producers to produce the most abundant, most affordable, safest food supply in the world. As a Federal Government, my hope would be we would facilitate that innovation and technology and not frustrate it.

If I were confirmed, I would commit to you to stand behind the science and ensure the agency actions, whether it is registrations or reviews or approval, are consistent with, both on a technical level, the most sound science we have in front of us and consistent with the mandate that Congress has given the agencies to operate under.

Senator MARSHALL. Great, thank you.

Dr. Hutchins, I will go to you next. We want to talk about NBAF, the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility. Have you had the chance to go there yet?

Dr. HUTCHINS. Thank you, Senator. I did when it was under construction.

Senator MARSHALL. Right. Okay. Well, good. You are very familiar with what it is and what it means to American agriculture as well. It is still not open. I think it is a year or two. It is not because of the construction part of it. The construction was done, as I understand, pretty much on time, on budget. Do you have any idea—I know you are not confirmed yet, but do you have any idea why it has not been opened yet, and what is your level of commitment to make that happen?

Dr. HUTCHINS. Senator, I do not. I have literally not had any access to that obviously or any information since, you know, 2021. My commitment to you is that if I am confirmed, I will definitely look

into that, understand the details, and problem solve from that point.

Senator MARSHALL. Well, it is my understanding that they are dragging the feet because the Plum Island facility is dragging its feet to get shut down. The American taxpayers have invested significant money in the NBAF. It is the safest place in the world to do this type of research, and that is where it needs to be done. Would you agree?

Dr. HUTCHINS. That is the premise behind the whole facility when we send the memorandum of agreement, and so that is still my working premise, that it is absolutely the best and a world-class facility, and that is where that work should be conducted.

Senator MARSHALL. Okay. I think in your previous tenure at USDA, you were involved in the relocation of ERS and NIFA to Kansas City, the greater Kansas City metro area. You know, any idea, has that been a success? Is it working well? I mean, to us, I think it is really important to get people closest to the producers as possible. This is one of, I hope, many, many future opportunities for people to get out of the swamp here and get them out in the hinterlands, us flyover states, to see what is really happening in agriculture.

Dr. HUTCHINS. Senator, I was involved with that at Secretary Perdue's direction. We did develop that. Prior to my departure, we did actually open the facility there in Kansas City. You might also recall that that was kind of right in the middle of the COVID scenarios as well. I do not know at present what the current status is of the building, the context, and the rest of it, but I was personally onsite the day that it opened, and I met individually with every single NIFA and ERS individual that was there. Every single one of them that was there was delighted to be in the Kansas City region. The recruitment at the time was very, very successful.

I will commit to you to understand what the current status is and to make sure that the original promises are fulfilled that Secretary Perdue had outlined.

Senator MARSHALL. Well, great. After you are confirmed, if possible, your staff might just follow-up with me and let us know how that is going and whatever we can do to support future endeavors like that as well.

Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Senator Luján.

Senator LUJÁN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate you all being here today as well.

Mr. Hoskins, I would like to start with a question directed to you. As you may know, New Mexico has two ports of entry that serve as major entry points for livestock imports, the Columbus Port of Entry and the Santa Teresa Port of Entry. Both ports of entry were closed to livestock imports in November 2024 and again earlier this month to prevent the spread of the New World screwworm. While the Santa Teresa Port of Entry reopened for livestock imports in February 2025 before being closed again earlier this month, the Columbus Port of Entry remained closed to livestock during this time.

My understanding, based on communication with USDA, is that due to the Trump Administration's reduction in force efforts, there

were not enough animal health technicians in Columbus, New Mexico, for that port of entry to reopen in February. My question, Mr. Hoskins, is yes or no. If confirmed, will you commit to ensuring that there are adequate inspectors stationed at the Columbus Port of Entry, specifically in animal health, to reopen that port to livestock crossings when it is safe to do so?

Mr. HOSKINS. Thank you for the question, Senator, and the opportunity to visit with your staff before today's hearing. I know you are looking for a yes or no answer. I guess I would say it, and not to be evasive, not being at the Department and not being briefed on staffing decisions and assessments and needs, what I could commit to is just that, if confirmed, I would ensure APHIS met its congressional mandate to protect U.S. agriculture from animal, plants, and diseases, and I would support and implement Secretary Rollins' direction, where she has stated publicly APHIS will have the adequate staffing and resources needed to meet its mandate.

Senator LUJÁN. Do you believe that animal health technicians are important in the mission of USDA?

Mr. HOSKINS. Yes, Senator, I do.

Senator LUJÁN. I appreciate that. I hope that that is expressed to the Secretary and to the Administration. I very much appreciate the attention from the Secretary in this space, but there are not enough inspectors. The more people that are going to get fired, the less that are going to be available. That is going to hurt efforts all around the South. It should not just be Texas that gets attention. If you go down and you look at where those animals are crossing, you know, more people cross into Texas through those ports of entry. More commerce is moving through some of those smaller ports, namely agriculture in New Mexico. If we are going to look at this from a United States perspective, I certainly hope it gets that kind of attention.

I am also very concerned that the loss of staff at USDA resulting from the Trump Administration efforts have undermined the agency's ability to serve people back home. I also get calls from people in other parts of the country that I have met along the way that are very concerned with some of these initial reports. Many USDA staff who have dedicated their careers to serving farm country and rural America at USDA have very specific knowledge base and specialties that make a difference in people's lives.

Several media outlets reported that just days after the Administration's deferred resignation offer went into effect, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service sent an email to remaining employees offering "lateral transfer opportunities to fill 73 open positions that are especially critical to fill as soon as possible." Now, Mr. Hoskins, you spent a significant portion of your career working at USDA, first as the Chief of Staff in Marketing and Regulatory Programs mission, and later a Senior Advisor to Secretary Perdue. Do you agree that career staff play a critical role in maintaining operations at the agency?

Mr. HOSKINS. Thank you for the question, Senator. Yes, in my experience working with APHIS and AMS, the career staff and the subject matter experts are absolutely indispensable.

Senator LUJÁN. I appreciate you saying that, and that is the case. I do not know where a lot of folks back home would be without that kind of support, and I certainly hope that as this review is going on, that adequate levels of support will exist for farmers and ranchers across the country. You are one of the best that knows this, and you have done it, you have seen it, and so I certainly hope that your voice will be listened to when you are in this important position.

Now, in recent years, New Mexico has experienced an unprecedented number of extreme weather events, including wildfires, droughts, severe storms, and flooding. In western states like New Mexico, it is just getting more and more common. It is critical for our food supply and for the livelihood of our farmers and producers that the Federal Government invest in adapting production techniques to respond to extreme weather.

Dr. Hutchins, if confirmed, how would you ensure that USDA responds to changing weather patterns that are resulting in more extreme weather?

Dr. HUTCHINS. Thank you, Senator, for the question. The USDA, particularly for crops that you are familiar with in your state, have got tremendous breeding capabilities to be able to build in some of these areas of tolerance, whether it is heat or drought or what have you. When I was working with USDA previously, I sat down with the breeding leaders and asked them to incorporate within their goals the things that are most important for the particular crops and regions. I would look to continue that focus to ensure that our crops and our animals are able to be resilient with the various year-to-year weather patterns.

Senator LUJÁN. Appreciate it. Just to be clear, this is an area that you will prioritize and you will continue to do the good work that you have done in the past?

Dr. HUTCHINS. Yes, sir.

Senator LUJÁN. Appreciate that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Thank you. Senator Hoeven.

Senator HOEVEN. I would like to thank both of you for being here, appreciate it very much. Starting with you, Mr. Hoskins, if confirmed, will you fully enforce the Packers and Stockyards Act?

Mr. HOSKINS. Thank you, Senator, and for the time you and your staff afforded me in your office before today's hearing. Yes, if confirmed, I would work with the AMS Fair Trade Practices Program and the career officials implementing the Packers and Stockyards Act to ensure it was implemented consistent with the law.

Senator HOEVEN. The industry has always wanted more price discovery, more transparency, and more competition. What are your thoughts on accomplishing that?

Mr. HOSKINS. Senator, I would note a couple of different things. One, your leadership and other Members on this Committee in facilitating the Cattle Contracts Library and other resources that AMS has adopted over the recent years to bring more transparency into some of the backroom, back operations side of that workstream from producers to feeders and packers.

I would also just note Congress in the 1921 Packers and Stockyards Act stated very clearly the agency shall ensure fair competi-

tion and prevent anti-competitive practices in livestock, beef, and poultry.

Since that time, there has been a lot of different rulemakings in different administrations, a lot of litigation across different circuit courts. What my personal interpretation of some of those terms of art, I think, is largely immaterial. If confirmed, it would be my role to implement the program consistent with the congressional intent and the way courts have informed and decided what those terms of art mean.

I would also just note a close family friend and mentor who passed away about a year ago, a cattleman in South Texas who was a devout Catholic, he said, "God may have created the Earth in less than a week, but he still hadn't figured out cattle markets."

Senator HOEVEN. Well, your background and expertise in this area shows, and you are right.

What do you see in terms of expanding our ability overseas in terms of marketing our livestock?

Mr. HOSKINS. Thank you for that question, Senator. I think APHIS on the veterinary side when you are talking about sanitary non-tariff trade irritants plays an absolutely essential role in prosecuting market access at a technical level. Regardless of me or whoever else would be in that role, I think as long as the subject matter experts are the ones driving those technical conversations and effectively being umpires calling balls and strikes and their political leadership stands behind the science, then I think we are all set up for success. If we step back from that mandate, I think we are all facing a lot of challenges.

Senator HOEVEN. Right on. We have to be firm and aggressive there. We cannot allow fake phytosanitary barriers to prevent us from accessing markets.

By the same token, we need to protect our market. Everybody wants to be in our market. If there are, you know, various issues with some of those phytosanitary issues from South America or anywhere else where they are trying to put livestock in our market, we need to stand firm on both ways, right? You would agree with that?

Mr. HOSKINS. Yes, Senator, I would.

Senator HOEVEN. Yes. Okay. Mr. Hutchins, I would like to get you to North Dakota to see Grand Farm and also our policy center at North Dakota State University. Are you willing to come do that?

Dr. HUTCHINS. Yes, Senator, very much so. I know the Secretary has already been there, and the comments I read that she wrote was she was very impressed.

Senator HOEVEN. Well, it sounds like you are going to be an excellent Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics based on that answer. Thank you very much.

Dr. HUTCHINS. Thank you. Thank you, Senator.

Chairman HOEVEN. At this point, we will turn to Senator Fetterman.

Senator FETTERMAN. Thank you. Good morning, gentlemen.

Now I know this is not your purview, and I am not going to just go on a rant, but this is the last opportunity that I would have to say as a Member of this Committee that I have been very troubled that now it is very clear that they are going to try to cut SNAP.

You know, for me, it has always been a passion of mine and one of the reasons why I was so excited to be on this Committee. Now that vote is coming, so this is my last opportunity to say that in a minority situation, we may not have the vote to prevent those kinds of things, but that does not mean I could ever support these kinds of cuts.

Mr. Hoskins, the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program, LFPA, was successfully doing all of those things to create and promote small local food system viability. According to 1,433 farmers in the organizations, including 31 in PA, LFPA generated \$747 million in economic activity in rural communities. I ask the Chair with unanimous consent that their letter be entered into the record.

Senator BOOZMAN. Without objection.

[The documents can be found on pages 52–99 in the appendix.]

Senator FETTERMAN. Okay, thank you.

Sir, do you agree that the USDA has the authority to promote market access for small farms?

Mr. HOSKINS. Well, thank you for the question, Senator, and I appreciated the time and conversation with your staff in your office the other week. Your staff raised this very issue and a number of other priorities you are focused on behalf of Pennsylvania agriculture.

Yes, I do think AMS, through congressional codification and different laws this Committee and the Congress has passed, including the 2018 Farm Bill, has a number of programs and authorities to facilitate local food purchasing and promotion.

Senator FETTERMAN. Yes, I would also like to be clear. I voted for Secretary Rollins. I mean, for me, agriculture, I mean, red, blue, conservative, liberal, everybody eats, and we all count on our agriculture. For me, it is not about politics. It is about feeding people and supporting farming, and that is our largest industry in my state. Do you agree that it is beneficial for states like mine to be able to directly address their local food systems?

Mr. HOSKINS. Thank you for the question, Senator. My awareness on some of the authorities and programs under the Agricultural Marketing Service is that this Committee and Congress have given that agency purview and mandate to facilitate some of those programs and purchases and facilitate the resiliency of the local food system. If I am understanding—and I am not trying to be evasive but to be responsive, if I were confirmed, I would commit—

Senator FETTERMAN. I am not suggesting you are, sir. I am not suggesting you are.

Mr. HOSKINS. Yes, I would commit to ensuring AMS met its congressional mandate under those programs.

Senator FETTERMAN. Okay. All right. Yield.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. [Presiding] Thank you. Thank you very much, Senator Fetterman.

Next up, Senator Moran.

Senator MORAN. Senator Klobuchar, Senator Hoeven, thank you very much for leading this Committee in the absence of Senator Boozman.

Thank you both for being here. I am going to plow similar ground to my colleague from Kansas, the plowing earlier in the

hearing. I want to highlight again this issue of NBAF. I have had conversations with Secretary Rollins a couple of times about this topic. NBAF is a \$1.25 billion American investment in the safety of our food supply, and it is still not fully operational. The handoff from the Department of Homeland Security, as you know, occurred now a significant period of time ago. The former Secretary of Agriculture was there to help cut the ribbon, and yet we are still not fully operational. I am really anxious to get your attention, if you are confirmed, to make certain that the Department of Agriculture, that USDA takes the necessary steps to get this fully commissioned and operational. I would join Senator Hoeven, and I can join him in telling you, you are a great nominee if you will commit to coming with me, Senator Marshall, and others, to see NBAF and to take a leadership role at the Department of Agriculture in this regard, Dr. Hutchins.

Dr. HUTCHINS. Senator, thank you for the question. Certainly, you have that commitment. When I was in USDA previously, it was in a formative stage of that. Construction was moving forward. The agreements were in place. I really need to learn and understand where we are right now, but certainly, that will be my commitment to you.

Senator MORAN. At least from this interested observer, it does not seem like we are moving fast enough to solve whatever challenges there are. In the meantime, research that was mentioned in your testimony is not taking place in regard to FMD until that happens. There are lots of critical challenges we face that need NBAF fully operational.

Senator Marshall also asked you about the relocation of NIFA and ERS. My understanding is that Secretary Vilsack confirmed the decision that was made by the Trump Administration, the last Trump Administration, the previous Trump Administration, and allowed those jobs to be transferred and the mission to be transferred to Kansas City. What did not take place was actually having employees come to work. In some ways, the transfer was a paper transfer in which people continued to live and work in Washington, DC. remotely, but it appeared to be that the jobs and the opportunities for people to locate in the middle of the country and perhaps have young farm sons and daughters engaged in agriculture and strengthen the tie between production agriculture and research was yet not completed. Again, I ask your commitment that—and you said this earlier, but I want to reiterate the importance of making sure that what was promised, what was believed that was happening actually happens. That includes people working from the location of the offices in Kansas City.

Dr. HUTCHINS. Senator, you have my commitment. I believe there have been Executive Orders with regard to office attendance and such as that, and we will ensure that those are followed at the direction of the President.

Senator MORAN. I fully support the idea that people who work in government, but those who work ought to be at work. It is particularly helpful in agriculture and in research where the cooperation and the personal contact is important. We have had these conversations with Secretary Rollins and others about FSA and NRCS workers in county offices. Those are hugely important to the mis-

sion of the Department of Agriculture and that local contact and capability is significant.

Let me ask Dr. Hutchins about data reporting. The cattle industry plays a significant role in our state. We have nearly six million head of cattle. We have had significant drought conditions and their financial stresses are impacting ranchers, and they impact them in a way that help determine the size of their herd. Many of those constituents of mine rely upon the July cattle report, as well as the county estimates for crops and livestock to make midyear assessments and determine how to proceed for the remainder of the year. I was disappointed when these reports were discontinued last year, and I appreciate USDA reinstating them this March.

Dr. Hutchins, if confirmed, will you commit to continuing these reports that NASS provides that give farmers and ranchers the information they need to make better financial and management decisions?

Dr. HUTCHINS. Senator, yes. The National Ag Statistics Service provides the data and the insights that farmers, administrators, policymakers need to make good decisions. As a scientist, I am a big believer in data and data-driven decisions, and so, yes, that type of information will be pursued.

Senator MORAN. I will not ask a question because of the 16 seconds that remain on the clock, but I wanted to highlight that Senator Hirono and I—

Senator KLOBUCHAR. You can.

Senator MORAN. Oh, my colleague says I cannot. Senator Hirono and I have introduced legislation called the Ag Research Act, and what we are attempting to do is to provide funding for research institutions to cut down on their maintenance backlogs and to invest in infrastructure at research facilities. I have seen a number of those research facilities across the country and in Kansas, and investment in infrastructure seems to be the thing that has been overlooked in the mission of providing the research. We have forgotten how to maintain our buildings and our research and how to have the latest equipment. I assume for both of you that that concept and that legislation would be something that would be supported, and I would ask both of you if that is the case.

Dr. HUTCHINS. Senator, the good news about our land grant system is that it has been established for a long time. The bad news is some of those buildings and capital need to be refreshed and refurbished and so forth. Certainly, I commit to you that whatever funding is provided by Congress, that we will make the best use of that to ensure the facilities are improved.

Senator MORAN. Thank you.

Mr. HOSKINS. Senator, I would not endeavor to try to improve on Dr. Hutchins' response, but I would concur with it.

Senator MORAN. Thank you.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Okay.

Senator MORAN. Thank you both.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Very good. Thank you. Senator Slotkin.

Senator SLOTKIN. Thank you. Welcome to both of you.

Dr. Hutchins, I want to continue on what Senator Moran was talking about, which is the importance of research. I am from Michigan, and farming is a huge part of our life, and Michigan

State University, a great land grant university, does a ton of agricultural research. I grew up on my family farm in Holly, Michigan, so this is an issue that is close to my heart. I am also a CIA officer by training, so I think about agriculture through a national security lens.

What I am concerned about is that, assuming you will be confirmed into your job, you will oversee the single potential largest cut to agricultural research in American history. The President's budget proposes a \$600 million cut to research. While I will sign on to any bill that promotes research and infrastructure because my farmers depend on it, what I am concerned about is the President's budget says that there is \$600 million of agricultural research that is either woke or waste. Do you believe that \$600 million of our current research in things like potato, you know, varieties and legumes and all the things that like my farmers are desperate for, do you believe that we have \$600 million of either woke or wasteful research right now?

Dr. HUTCHINS. Senator, thank you for the question. Truthfully, in order to answer that question in any meaningful way, I would need to understand the specifics of what is being proposed and what is not. I have no idea the value of what is in that context, but what I can commit to you, Senator, is that we will utilize whatever money Congress provides in order to ensure that we are having the best return on investment, that we are supporting all the farmers—

Senator SLOTKIN. I got it.

Dr. HUTCHINS [continuing]. that we can in your state and others.

Senator SLOTKIN. I would just say you do not want to be the guy who oversees the biggest agricultural cut in research in American history. Tell me in your best estimation the one country in the world who is doing significant agricultural research now, that is investing heavily in agricultural research besides the United States.

Dr. HUTCHINS. Senator, I am sure it would be China.

Senator SLOTKIN. It has got to be China. I am not trying to play gotcha. I am just saying that it is a zero-sum situation, right? We want to invent the next varietal. We want to figure out the next best farming technique. China is stealing our technology, our intellectual property, and then investing boatloads into their own research. I do not want to be second to them. I want to always be the world leader. I would just offer that not only do I want that kind of as a national security thing, but our farmers want to be able to compete, right?

We have closed the legume research facility at Michigan State University, the potato variety. When I do townhalls with farmers who are, I promise you, not people I consider woke or wasteful, they are the ones who are saying, can you bring that back? Can you help me figure out how to get that? Because otherwise, what are we going to be investing in? How are we going to stay competitive?

I would just ask for you to stand up on behalf of that research, which is not woke, which is not wasteful, but is going to the farmers who we all, I think, on this Committee want to protect and want to see succeed. I just ask you to stand up for research when and if you are confirmed for this job.

Dr. HUTCHINS. Senator, Secretary Rollins has made it very clear her support for small farmers and their needs, and I will stand with her in that regard.

Senator SLOTKIN. Well, I hope you will. Let me just turn to Mr. Hoskins. You will be overseeing the departments that look at avian flu, right, that make sure that we do not have an outbreak. Michigan, we had an early outbreak, and we did, I think, a pretty darn good job of controlling it, and I think we have become a model around the country. Again, I am concerned that there has been firings from the Department of Agriculture of people who work on avian flu and then rehiring them the next week. There has been kind of this sloppy approach.

Then in terms of the buyouts that were offered, I understand that over half of the veterinarians who coordinate the testing and research on avian flu took the buyout. What are you going to do to make sure that with all the staffing firings and changing and voluntary departures, you are going to still be able to have a handle on the next version of avian flu?

Mr. HOSKINS. Thank you for the question, Senator, and for the time your staff gave me in your office before today's hearing. They raised this issue and a number of others. Obviously, with high-path in Michigan, you all have a diversity of production practices that are impacted both on the poultry and dairy side.

I have looked at Secretary Rollins' five-pronged approach in addressing and mitigating high-path AI, and if I were confirmed, I would do everything I could to implement that posthaste.

To your question on staffing, as someone who is not at the Department currently, I am not privy to the briefings or assessments of resource needs or gaps, if any, but what I would commit to if confirmed was making that assessment and supporting and standing by Secretary Rollins' public comments that she will ensure APHIS has an adequate workforce to address their core mission, which includes protecting U.S. agriculture from animal and plant diseases.

Senator SLOTKIN. Well, I wish you luck in that. I hope you do. Thank you. Yield back.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Senator Fischer.

Senator FISCHER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to both of our nominees that are here today. I really appreciate you putting yourselves forward in order to serve this country.

First, Mr. Hoskins, I thank you for taking the time to meet with me yesterday. As we discussed, there are clearly challenges facing USDA with animal disease, whether it is avian flu or New World screwworm. We also discussed the importance of having science being the driving force when it comes to regulatory actions that impact agriculture across the government, and I look forward to you helping to ensure that.

Dr. Hutchins, if confirmed for your role, you are going to oversee the Agricultural Research Service. I have talked to Secretary Rollins about the importance of ensuring that we are funding innovative and high-impact research that benefits our farmers and ranchers.

In Nebraska, we have been working to secure funding for an ARS facility that will be co-located at the University of Nebraska-Lin-

coln, and that is going to be focused on precision ag research. Last year, we broke ground on that facility with many agricultural stakeholders present and excited about the potential research to take place there.

Dr. Hutchins, should you be confirmed, can I get your commitment to continue to work with me on that facility and to bring high-impact precision agriculture research to fruition?

Dr. HUTCHINS. Senator, thank you for the question. Certainly, the University of Nebraska has a tremendous reputation and capability as a land grant institution, and I do not have any background or information on the specific laboratory and the mission and the purpose with it. What I will certainly commit to you is to learn that, and as we evaluate all the opportunities to work with you to ensure that it provides the best value to U.S. farmers and ranchers.

Senator FISCHER. Thank you. Secretary Rollins has also discussed that she is going to be releasing a reorganization plan for USDA that could entail moving agencies outside of the D.C. metro. I agree with Senator Rollins that having more USDA employees closer to farmers and ranchers that they serve is a good thing and could save taxpayer dollars.

I have also brought up to Secretary Rollins that Nebraska would be a great location for agencies like the ones that you two will be in charge of, close proximity to a number of leading land grant universities, a strong agricultural industry that is supported by the state, and a lower cost of living.

Dr. Hutchins, you were involved in the last Administration's move of ERS and NIFA to Kansas City. Could you talk about some of the benefits from that, and do you think that is something that should be under consideration again?

Dr. HUTCHINS. Senator, thank you for the question. In the case of ERS and NIFA, the business case for that or the case for the taxpayer was pretty clear in terms of cost savings and value and the opportunity to recruit and to retain, frankly, within that area. As I had mentioned previously today, I do not have a good handle right now on the status of that full situation, but those core principles that Secretary Perdue advocated for at that time are still true today, and so we will follow-up on that. Those same principles, I think, would carry over to any assessment that would be done for any agency in that context.

I think, you know, in every evaluation, you want to do the right thing for the agency, for the taxpayers, and for the farmers. In some cases, it will make a lot of sense. In other cases, it may not make as much.

Senator FISCHER. Thank you. In Nebraska, we are also proud of the work that is being done at the USDA's Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center and the strong relationship that they have with livestock producers in the state and across the country. We are the beef state.

Like many of the facilities across the ARS enterprise, they are in need of facility improvements. I have heard, though, that contracting requirements and other regulatory hurdles can increase the cost of these facility improvements, especially at a facility like USMARC that is a working farm and ranch. From your experience,

Doctor, and working with USDA, are there ways that the agency can be more efficient with taxpayer dollars when it comes to being able to identify these very valuable facilities and the work they do and maintaining them and improving them?

Dr. HUTCHINS. Senator, the simple answer is yes. In every organization I have ever worked in, public and private, there is always opportunity to improve efficiency and effectiveness and really focus on the goals and the outcomes there. That would be my commitment to do with these agencies and any enterprise I was involved with.

Senator FISCHER. Thank you both. I look forward to working with you in your new positions. Thank you.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Senator Klobuchar.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Yep, I just have one last question, and then I will put two questions on the record to save time with the votes on local foods of you, Mr. Hoskins, and then also on some specific ag research in Minnesota.

My last question here is the Ag Marketing Service has a mandate to ensure fair and transparent markets across livestock and commodities. Under the previous Administration, USDA used its authority with a Chief Competition Officer, Cattle Contracts Library, and some other interagency efforts.

Mr. Hoskins, how will you ensure that you are fulfilling this obligation and continuing on this progress of ensuring there is competition?

Mr. HOSKINS. Thank you for that question, Ranking Member Klobuchar. I recognize this was one of the issues you raised when I had a chance to meet with you in your office last week. What I could say, if I were confirmed, I would commit to ensuring AMS, the Fair Trade Practices Program, which includes Packers and Stockyards, PACA, the Perishable Ag Commodity Act, and the Bio-engineered Food Disclosure Rule, all kind of that suite of disclosure and transparency authorities Congress has passed and mandated the agency implement, I would commit to ensuring the agency was complying with the congressional spirit and intent of those laws and authorities.

Beyond that, as a nominee before the Committee, I personally feel like it would be inappropriate for me to speculate on potential or future rulemakings the Department may consider or may not consider. I could just commit to complying with the mandate Congress has given us.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Thank you very much. Thank you, both of you.

Mr. HOSKINS. Thank you.

Chairman BOOZMAN. We have got a high-level conference back here. We have got a Member that is trying to get over here, so we are going to give them a minute. If they come in a minute or so, we are in good shape. If not, then we will go ahead and adjourn, but let's give them a chance. We are going to not adjourn officially for another minute or two, but you can yawn, take a break, do whatever you want to do for a second.

It is hard with the votes. As many of you know, we have a new kind of a—we did not enforce the get-over-and-vote-on-time rule. It was very, very lax, so they have really tightened it up, and now,

if you are not over there within a certain period of time, they actually call the vote, and you just miss out. Some things we can do and not do, but primarily, we are here to vote. You guys got any other questions or comments?

Senator Schiff.

Senator SCHIFF. Thank you, Chairman.

The success of California's agriculture industry is at least partially thanks to the very specialized knowledge and work of USDA experts. It is principally the success of the hardworking people in the agriculture industry who are some of the hardest-working people I have ever met.

As two examples of the role that USDA experts play, and there are many more, APHIS protects California growers against citrus greening disease, and ARS conducts research on the efficacy and efficiency of irrigated agriculture in vine and tree orchards.

Mr. Hoskins and Dr. Hutchins, based on your experience at USDA, can you both briefly speak to the importance of APHIS, AMS, ARS, NIFA, and ERS staff at the Department in securing the safety, innovation, and overall success of California's specialty crop industry?

Mr. HOSKINS. Thank you for that question, Senator. I guess I will go first, just alphabetically, not in substance. I would just say, when I think about that question, first from just an APHIS programmatic side, the mandate and authorities, this Committee, this Congress, this chamber has given the agency to help work in support and collaboration with your growers, your ag community in California, the California Department of Food and Ag, which plays an essential role as a partner in identifying, mitigating, and preventing both the plant-pest side of the equation and animal disease surveillance and response activities. When I look at that portfolio, no matter where APHIS is or what issue we are talking about, the state partnership is absolutely essential. CDFA has been instrumental and indispensable in that equation for as long as I have had the privilege to work in this space.

To your question on staffing, as someone who is not at the Department currently and does not have the benefit of internal briefings or assessments of bodies or resources or capacity, all I can say is I have heard Secretary Rollins state publicly her support and mandate that APHIS will ensure an adequate workforce to meet their mandate.

Senator SCHIFF. Thank you. Dr. Hutchins?

Dr. HUTCHINS. Senator, thank you for the question. I have had the pleasure of traveling your state extensively. I have seen the great agriculture there, from the rice fields near Sacramento to the almond plantations to the Salinas Valley to the cotton. It is a wondrous place from an agricultural standpoint. It is a candy land for sure. Without a doubt, the federal agencies and USDA research, as well as the University of California and the local agencies have had a tremendous impact on the success of agriculture in your state, particularly with the areas where developing methods and technologies for drought tolerance and so forth. What I can speak to is the fact that those types of activities have been critically important to California, and they will continue to be.

Senator SCHIFF. Mr. Hoskins, can you comment on the work that can be done to reduce barriers to participation in the commodity procurement programs for small, medium, new or beginning farmers and how we can create more opportunities for more farmers to provide healthy food?

Mr. HOSKINS. Yes, thank you for that question, Senator. When I think about the Commodity Procurement Program, the Section 32 authority at AMS and their mandate to facilitate surplus removal and how their assessment is done to execute on that mandate, I also think about just some of the complexities that the agency is required to comply with under larger than just USDA authorities or compliance. It is the Federal Procurement Act and the cascade of regulations and steps vendors or participants have to go through to access that program.

I do not pretend to understand that matrix, but what I could commit to is if I were confirmed, I would want to work with you, your office, your staff, this Committee, the Senate, to better understand how or if or when the agency can reduce some of those impediments to participation for producers of all size.

Senator SCHIFF. Thank you. Thank you, Chairman.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Senator Justice.

Senator JUSTICE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Well, we are all doing a lot of running right now. You know that. Dudley Hoskins and Dr. Scott Hutchins, I can tell you without any question, we need you in place, and we need you in place right now. Your duties are going to be unbelievable, and I hope that you really truly know that and will not go through the motions, but you will really try to do what Muhammad Ali, of all people, said years and years ago. He shook up the world, and that is really what we really need to be doing.

Now, just think about this. You know, a lot of times I do not put these notes together, but our folks, you know, just jotted down just a few notes. Think about one of the notes says, one U.S. farmer feeds 169 people in this country or in the world. It says agriculture, our lifeblood. It says things like how critical the research of our land grant universities are.

With all that being said, you know, Mr. Hoskins, you said earlier, you know, that your dad said, you know, wow, the good Lord created the Earth or the universe in seven days, the Earth, and with all that being said, but still has not figured out the cattle market. I can positively guarantee you that in the last couple of years, the good Lord figured out the cattle market because the cattle market has moved, and it has moved in a great way. We need the same thing to happen for all of our folks in agriculture.

You know, see, my family has been in the agriculture business forever, and I truly know exactly what is going on out there. You know, you got a lot of people that are scared to death right now. We need your marketing arm. We need absolutely in every way for you to step up and really make that difference to where you are shaking up the whole world.

You know, with all that being said, I would say to you from the bottom of my heart, it is so important, it is so unbelievably important today that we get a farm bill, that we absolutely put our great farmers to where they can at least rest while they are doing the

most unbelievable work. You know, so, like I said, I have run from vote to vote or whatever and committee to committee in a lot of different directions today.

I wanted to speak because I think our Chairman is a superstar. That is all there is to it. There is so many, you know, whether it be your Ranking Members or other folks on the Committee here that do great work. All these people out here depend now on you in every way, so do not let us down. Have an unbelievable passion for what you are doing.

You know, one of the things, I am really—not only am I a business guy, I am not a politician. You know, I am really proud of the fact of how in tune that I am with our farming industry all across this great land. With that said, in addition to that, I am a conservationist. I have done so many programs for wildlife it is unbelievable. You know, and the only question I think that I could possibly ask, you know, of all is just one thing. In the State of West Virginia, we are trying to reintroduce elk into West Virginia. My question here would be just this, is what steps, what additional steps can be taken to the survivability of this majestic creature that is being absolutely reintroduced into West Virginia today?

Mr. Hoskins, maybe that is a question for you, sir.

Mr. HOSKINS. Yes, thank you for that question, Senator. Dr. Hutchins may have other equities here under the ARS umbrella, but my recollection working with APHIS in the first Trump Administration under Secretary Perdue, there are some protocols and processes that Veterinary Services works with stakeholder groups and state veterinarians to facilitate the transfer and reintroduction of certain species, including elk. All I could say, if I were confirmed, I would do my level best to ensure APHIS and VS were working closely with the state animal health officials and the stakeholders interested in promoting that relocation and introduction to facilitate that in a way that did not compromise animal health.

Senator JUSTICE. Well, thank you both. I know you will do great work, and I will stand ready to try to help any way I possibly can.

Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Thank you, Senator Justice. Senator Welch.

Senator WELCH. Thank you very much. Thank you, gentlemen. I am very delighted to have you here.

I wanted to ask a question to Mr. Hoskins about the National Organic Program. In Vermont, we have got 690 USDA organic certified farms, and that is about \$153 million in sales. It is a big deal. Our organic farmers want clear, consistent organic regulations. That is the foundation of a thriving organic market. My hope is that you will—given the recent staff reductions at the National Organic Program, how does USDA intend to maintain support both for transitioning and existing organic producers so that this organic sector that does have a lot of value added can continue to grow?

Mr. HOSKINS. Thank you for that question, Senator, and to your staff for making themselves available to me to meet in your office before today's hearing. They raised this issue and a number of other priorities you have on behalf of Vermont agricultural producers.

In my experience with the AMS National Organic Program, you have absolutely the most committed, informed career officials working to implement that program consistent with the National Organic Food Production Act that this Committee and the Senate passed, I think, in 1990.

There are challenges at times, in my recollection, with the agency working with different certifiers, especially certifiers that are overseas certifying product coming into the U.S. I do not know that there is an answer to all of those challenges, but I would say in the 2018 Farm Bill, this Committee and the Congress passed the Organic Safety Act. I have got the acronym wrong; I apologize. It basically mandated the Department would update and modernize their ability to protect the integrity of the organic seal. There were ways to do that, both with partnerships with CBP and DHS, and also modernizing technology and resources the agency could use to better pierce that veil in certifiers overseas to ensure products that were coming in were consistent with the same level of attention and practices that our producers execute.

Senator WELCH. Thank you. Mr. Hutchins, welcome.

Dr. HUTCHINS. Thank you.

Senator WELCH. You know, you have been a champion of acknowledging just the hardship that wild weather is imposing on a lot of our producers. You know, we had floods in Vermont in 2023 and 2024, the same day in July 2023 and 2024. You have previously told this Committee that USDA is fully committed to supporting research that ensures U.S. producers will be able to adapt to a changing climate. That is welcome news because our farmers think any information we can get will help us.

One of the things I wanted to ask is, how can the Research, Education, and Economics mission at USDA help make rural communities and farmers more resilient?

Dr. HUTCHINS. Senator, thank you for the question. As I alluded to earlier, I believe that we have a great opportunity in front of us with regard to the science that leads to the technology that will allow us to develop crops and animals to be more resilient to heat, to be more resilient to drought, whatever the case may be. We need to be able to utilize those tools that exist.

Senator WELCH. You will maintain that? You will do all you can to help there?

Dr. HUTCHINS. Farmers have been dealing with weather year in and year out since farming, and so that will always continue. The good news is we will have the tools. We do have the tools now to allow them to succeed.

Senator WELCH. I am almost out of time so I want to move on to one other question.

There was a lot of support in Vermont for the Local Food for Schools Program and the Local Food Purchasing Assistance programs. I was very disappointed that those programs were canceled a few months ago. If you are confirmed, can you work with us to help restart programs like that? They have been shown to strengthen local food supply chains. That is a big deal for us.

Mr. HOSKINS. Thank you for that question, Senator. This is another issue your staff raised when I had a chance to meet with them. I understand your concern and frustration. I heard a number

of different offices and staff raise those same questions. Not being at the Department and not privy to the internal briefings or assessments on what programs or needs are being met or should be met, I do not know if I can speak to that directly. What I would say is under the Ag Marketing Service Agency, this Committee and the Senate have directed that agency through different farm bills and other authorities to facilitate local agricultural marketing production and connecting some of that local food resiliency system.

I do not know that it would be carbon copy to what you are hearing or looking at under the LFPA, but there are existing programs where AMS may be able to meet some of those similar needs that Congress has already mandated the agency undertake. If committed, I would continue to work with the agencies to ensure compliance with the law.

Senator WELCH. Okay, thank you.

I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Thank you and thank you again to Mr. Hoskins and Dr. Hutchins for appearing before the Committee and again to our Committee Members for their participation, the hard work of the staff to make all this happen, as always, on both sides.

The record will remain open for two business days. With that, today's hearing is now adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 12:16 p.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

A P P E N D I X

MAY 21, 2025

Opening Statement of Dudley Hoskins
Nominee for Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Before the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

May 21, 2025

Chairman Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, and distinguished members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as President Trump’s nominee to serve as the Under Secretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP) mission area. I want to thank President Trump for nominating me to serve in this role, and I want to thank Secretary Rollins for her trust and confidence in supporting my nomination.

I also want to thank the members of this committee, your respective staffs, and the non-designated clerks for the incredible honor and privilege to serve in support of this committee’s members and mission over the past four years. Regardless of whether I am fortunate enough to be confirmed, I will forever treasure the time, experiences, and relationships I have been blessed with throughout my tenure serving this committee. Finally, I want to thank my family for your often-tested but never-wavering love and support.

I did not grow up in agriculture, but through happenstance, dumb luck, and great fortune I fell into, and ultimately, fell in love with it. After graduating law school, I came to D.C. with my dog, Huckleberry, a law license, and no malpractice insurance. Like most experiences in my life, I have been a recipient of goodwill I didn’t earn and good luck I didn’t deserve. The combination of those two dynamics allowed me to work for the American Horse Council, the Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, and before joining the committee, the opportunity and privilege to serve at USDA in the first Trump Administration under then-Secretary Perdue in multiple capacities. One of which was in the MRP mission area for then-Under Secretary Greg Ibach. Those experiences exposed me to the countless challenges and innerworkings of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), which in my very biased estimation, are the two most critical, complex, and impactful agencies informing the health and viability of U.S. agriculture.

The people serving in the APHIS and AMS agencies are on the clock and at their post “twenty-four seven” as stewards and sentries: protecting our producers from incursions of devastating animal and plant pests and diseases; traveling across our rural communities to ensure price transparency through Market News reporting; conducting bird control at airports; ensuring the highest confidence in our grading standards; reviewing and regulating certain agricultural biotechnologies; mitigating the impacts of feral hogs and other invasive species; and ensuring the integrity of Research and Promotion Boards and countless Marketing Orders – just to name a few.

In short, the career officials and subject matter experts tasked with this incredibly diverse mission set are the best in the world at what they do, and if confirmed, I commit to following Secretary Rollins' leadership and working every day to support the APHIS and AMS missions in helping U.S. farmers, ranchers, and foresters produce the safest, most affordable, and most abundant food and fiber in the world.

To the members of the Committee, I am grateful for the time and opportunity to have met with many of you and your respective staffs before today's hearing. Those conversations were incredibly instructive in helping me better understand some of the challenges and opportunities impacting producers in your states and across the country. If confirmed, I will dedicate myself to delivering a transparent, predictable, and science-based regulatory structure to protect the health and viability of U.S. agriculture, mitigate the impact of animal and plant pests and diseases, and facilitate the timely delivery of critical marketing programs consistent with the spirit and intent of the law.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to appear before you today, and I look forward to answering any questions you may have for me.

**STATEMENT OF SCOTT HUTCHINS, OF INDIANA TO BE UNDER SECRETARY
FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, & ECONOMICS,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Good morning. Chairman Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, and members of the Committee, I am pleased to appear before you today as President Trump’s nominee to the position of Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE) within the U.S. Department of Agriculture. I’d like to thank President Trump for this opportunity and Secretary Rollins for her confidence and support in this nomination. I am myself a product of the U.S. land-grant system and therefore feel a great sense of honor to be considered for this position and, if confirmed, I will dedicate myself to fulfilling the mission as outlined by Congress and achieve the goals of USDA as outlined by Secretary Rollins. I would also like to introduce and thank my wife, Janet Hutchins, from Alabama. We celebrate 45 years of marriage in June, and we have three wonderful adult children and seven grandchildren, all age 12 and under—no one could ask for a better lifelong partner and supportive family.

Throughout my career, I have dedicated my professional contributions toward developing innovations and novel technologies in support of agricultural production—working every day to provide tools that allow farmers to not only succeed in their businesses, but to do so while using fewer inputs. For example, I was the global product development manager for spinosad, an EPA Green Chemistry Award Winner and naturally derived insect management tool that is today one of the most widely used insect management tools in both organic agriculture and conventional agriculture within the U.S., and globally. Indeed, I have witnessed extraordinary progress and positive changes in agricultural production and sustainability over my career.

My professional journey as a scientist began at Auburn University as an undergraduate student in the late 1970’s, where I benefitted from excellent teachers and mentors in agricultural entomology and became passionate about helping growers manage devastating pest problems. One formative experience, as a Cotton Scout in central Alabama in 1980, exposed me to the practical realities of pest management farmers faced daily. Devastating crop losses from the cotton boll weevil required extensive chemical control, which subsequently “released” several species of secondary pests (e.g., “worms”, thrips, whiteflies, and plant bugs) that required further chemical control. If you compare that reality of 1980 to cotton production systems of today, the

boll weevil has been largely eradicated due to the great work of USDA and land-grants, worm species are controlled via biotechnology-powered host plant resistance, and the remaining species are managed with tools safer than their predecessors. Similar progress has been made for many other commodities within the United States, and I am pleased and proud to have contributed in some measure to this progress. However, agricultural systems are living and evolving, so the need for innovation in every aspect of agricultural production and nutrition is never ending.

Impacted by this experience, I elected to pursue graduate studies at Mississippi State University, where I studied the impact of narrow-row soybean production on insect pest populations, beneficial species, and pest control options while learning the art of research. I became a student of integrated pest management (IPM) and followed this interest to Iowa State University to study under the tutelage of Dr. Larry Pedigo, who was a world-renowned pioneer in the field. Through his mentorship and an extraordinary graduate student team environment, I developed a passion for understanding how and when farmers should control pest problems and elected to also pursue a minor in agricultural economics to link farm management to IPM. I have carried these learnings and lessons from all three outstanding land-grants with me throughout many roles.

I also have been fortunate to have worked closely with numerous university teams and administrators throughout my career, along with scientific societies, to create and advance public-private partnerships. Notably, as a member of the Governing Board of the Entomological Society of America (ESA) for 9 years, including as ESA President in 2007, I have sought to build consensus on positive change while encouraging a culture of engagement for all members and member categories in planning the future role ESA will play for its members. I was deeply honored to have been elected as a Fellow of ESA in 2009, the first member with a long career in the private sector to receive that honor in the history of that society. I was also elected as an Honorary Member in 2019.

After a nearly 32-year career in the private sector, I was honored to serve as Deputy Under Secretary for REE from January 2019 to January 2021 under the leadership of Secretary Perdue. I learned firsthand about the expansive talent and commitment of our Federal Agencies in REE and, if confirmed, I look forward to continuing to support the critical mission of REE

under the leadership of Secretary Rollins to fulfill the expectations of Congress and the Trump Administration to ensure American agriculture remains the most effective and efficient producer of food and feed in the world. Because any model for sustained progress requires a focus on best practices and land stewardship, the land-grant mission is timeless in not only research, but also research made relevant through education and extension. This includes research on the healthy and productive use of the land, and on the animal and human consumers of these agricultural products. I was honored to have met the Nobel Laureate, Dr. Norman Borlaug, who inspired all of us to pursue earnest innovation in agriculture as the best way to ensure food security for all and enable the diversification of society into other industries and endeavors.

If confirmed, I commit to actively working with and leading the REE team to create strategic initiatives and national priorities for REE in line with the goals and objectives of President Trump, Secretary Rollins, and Congress. The women and men of the REE agencies are truly world class and have a tremendous history of impact. My goal is to ensure that their full potential is realized for the continued benefit of American agriculture with a renewed focus on tangible results and innovative discovery goals aligned with the needs of both producers and consumers. I have many years of applicable experience in administering large, complex, and diverse research organizations. I am also fortunate to have had unique professional experiences through two major mergers with roles in Human Resources, Six Sigma Quality Improvement, and numerous program and portfolio management assignments that, I believe, will prove useful to the administrative goals of USDA, if confirmed by the Senate.

Chairman Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, members of the Committee, I am truly honored to have been nominated for this critical USDA role and, if confirmed, I pledge to do all I can each and every day to expand the competitiveness of American agriculture and further develop the framework and capabilities of REE scientists and professionals in pursuit of agricultural innovation. In closing, I would like to thank you for allowing me the privilege of appearing in front of the Committee today. I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

**DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED FOR THE
RECORD**

MAY 21, 2025

May 20, 2025

The Honorable John Boozman
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boozman and Ranking Member Klobuchar:

We write in strong support for the nomination of Dudley Hoskins to be the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP). The Under Secretary is critical in overseeing the administration of a wide variety of marketing and regulatory programs crucial for ensuring the health, quality, availability, and fair marketing value of U.S. agricultural products and resources, both domestically and internationally.

Mr. Hoskins' prior experiences show he is dedicated to serving farmers, ranchers, growers, grain handlers, food and feed processors, and biofuels by supporting the efficient and effective marketing of agricultural goods. These experiences and his deep background knowledge make Hoskins uniquely qualified to serve as the USDA's next Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP).

His understanding of agriculture can be traced back to his extensive policy background as a staffer with trade associations representing equine, pesticide manufacturers and state agriculture departments. These experiences benefited him when he served as Chief of Staff to the Under Secretary of MRP in President Trump's first administration and worked directly with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) leadership to ensure the operational integrity of both agencies. This experience served Hoskins well when he then served as a Senior Advisor to Secretary Sonny Perdue to implement MRP policy initiatives and ensure efficient program delivery.

As a senior professional staff member and Counsel with the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, he has continued his service on issues important to American agriculture.

We strongly urge the Committee to advance Dudley Hoskins nomination in a timely manner, so he can quickly get to work in this important role. We believe Hoskins' depth and breadth of experience and knowledge in the quality, availability and fair marketing of agricultural products will make him an excellent Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

Regards,

Agribusiness Council of Indiana
Agricultural Council of Arkansas
Agricultural Retailers Association

American Beekeeping Federation
American Cotton Shippers Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Honey Producers Association
AmericanHort
American Livestock Markets and Dealers Association
American Seed Trade Association
American Sheep Industry Association
American Soybean Association
American Sugar Alliance
American Sugarbeet Growers Association
Amcot
Arkansas Rice Federation
California Alfalfa and Forage Association
California Association of Wheat Growers
California Bean Shippers Association
California Cherry Growers and Industry Association
California Grain and Feed Association
California Pear Growers
California Prune Board
California Rice Commission
California Seed Association
California State Beekeepers Association
California State Floral Association
California Sweetpotato Council
California Walnut Commission
California Warehouse Association
Cotton Growers Warehouse Association
Cotton Warehouse Association of America
Council of Producers & Distributors of Agrotechnology
CropLife America
Delta Council
Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative
Farm Credit Council
Florida Citrus Mutual
Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association
Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association
Georgia Agribusiness Council
Georgia Blueberry Commission
Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association
Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association
Illinois Seed Trade Association, Inc.
Indiana Soybean Alliance
International Dairy Foods Association
International Fresh Produce Association
Iowa Seed Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association

Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Kansas Soybean Association
Livestock Marketing Association
Louisiana Rice Producers' Group
MBG Marketing
Michigan Agribusiness Association
Midwest Dry Bean Coalition
Mississippi Rice Council
Mississippi Soybean Association
Missouri Rice Council
National Association of Landscape Professionals
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Chicken Council
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Grain and Feed Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Pecan Federation
National Pork Producers Council
National Potato Council
National Sorghum Producers
National Sunflower Association
National Turkey Federation
National Watermelon Association
NC AgriBusiness Council
Nebraska Soybean Association
New York State Agribusiness Association
North American Meat Institute
North Dakota Grain Dealers Association
Northarvest Bean Growers Association
Northeast Agribusiness & Feed Alliance
NW Ag Cooperative Council
Ohio Agribusiness Association
Oregon Seed Association
Pacific Coast Renderers Association
Pacific Seed Association
Pet Food Institute
Snake River Sugarbeet Growers Association
Society of American Florists
South Carolina Peach Council
Southern Crop Production Association
Southwest Council of Agribusiness
Texas Ag Industries Association
Texas Cattle Feeders Association
Texas Citrus Mutual

Texas Rice Producers Legislative Group
Texas Seed Trade Association
The Fertilizer Institute
United Dairymen of Arizona
United Egg Producers
USA Rice
U.S. Canola Association
U.S. Cattlemen's Association
U.S. Dairy Export Council
U.S. Peanut Federation
U.S. Wheat Associates
Vidalia Onion Business Council
Virginia Agribusiness Council
Virginia Farm Bureau
Virginia Grain Producers Association
WA Friends of Farms and Forests
Walnut Alliance
Washington Red Raspberry Commission
Western Growers Association
Western Peanut Growers Association



May 21, 2025

The Honorable John Boozman
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, &
Forestry
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, &
Forestry
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Boozman and Ranking Member Klobuchar,

As president of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), I am pleased to express my support for President Trump's nomination of Scott Hutchins as Undersecretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). I urge the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry to advance the nominee.

APLU is a membership organization that fosters a community of university leaders collectively working to advance the mission of public research universities. The association's U.S. membership consists of more than 230 public and land-grant research universities and systems across all 50 states. The association and its members collectively focus on student success and workforce readiness; promoting pathbreaking scientific research; and bolstering economic and community engagement.

USDA is an important partner in supporting agricultural research, cooperative extension, and education that is necessary to stay ahead of international competition, threats to our food supply, and to educate and train the next generation of farmers, ranchers, and agricultural innovators. Dr. Hutchins served in the first Trump Administration as Deputy Undersecretary for REE and previously held academia and corporate positions—viewpoints that provide him the needed perspective to set priorities and drive innovation.

Dr. Hutchins' REE leadership is the first step toward ensuring the U.S. remains a leader in agricultural research, cooperative extension, and education. I am confident Dr. Hutchins will build bridges between the private sector, other federal research agencies, and the academic research community. APLU stands ready to partner with Dr. Hutchins in this effort. I urge the Committee and U.S. Senate to confirm Dr. Hutchins as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Mark Becker, President
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities


National Association of State Departments of Agriculture

4350 North Fairfax Drive
Suite 810
Arlington, VA 22203
Tel: 202-296-9680 | Fax: 703-880-0509
www.nasda.org

May 20, 2025

The Honorable John Boozman
Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senators Boozman and Klobuchar:

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) is extremely encouraged that the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry has scheduled a confirmation hearing of Mr. Dudley Hoskins to serve as Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs and Dr. Scott Hutchins to serve as Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.

NASDA supports the nominations of both of these highly experienced and well-qualified individuals and requests that you approve their nominations promptly.

State departments of agriculture work collaboratively with our federal partners in the Marketing and Regulatory Programs mission area through numerous cooperative funding agreements, such as those administered by USDA-APHIS to safeguard animal and plant health and ensure supply chain resiliency across the United States. These cooperative agreements are driven by risks of plant pests and disease, as well as foreign animal disease incursions into the United States.

Likewise, state departments of agriculture are crucially positioned at the intersection of agriculture and nutrition security. Our nonpartisan membership is dedicated to connecting the food that farmers and ranchers grow with consumers in every community across the U.S. and around the world.

To fulfill our obligations effectively and efficiently, we need highly qualified candidates like Dudley Hoskins to serve in these crucial positions to maintain and enhance the cooperative relationships between USDA and the state departments of agriculture.

NASDA also works closely with the USDA Research, Education, and Economics mission area through numerous programs and initiatives, most notably through the National Agricultural Statistics Service. In 1972, NASDA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service entered into a federal partnership for NASDA to employ enumerators, pay their salaries, travel expenses and other costs associated with data collection

for specific surveys. Over time, the agreement has expanded to encompass all data collection work for surveys conducted in all states.

The valuable information provided by agricultural statistics gathered through this cooperative agreement is crucial for planning and administering federal and state programs. Congressional action on any farm bill relies heavily on acreage, production potential, stocks, prices, costs of production and income data.

Farmers, ranchers and others in agriculture also require reliable information on production, supplies, marketing, prices, weather and a vast array of other inputs. Up-to-date agricultural statistics provide valuable information that helps develop a stable economic atmosphere and reduce risk in production, marketing and distribution operations.

Dr. Scott Hutchins possesses the leadership to advance policies that promote agricultural research, education, and economics programs.

NASDA enthusiastically supports the nominations of Dudley Hoskins and Dr. Scott Hutchins and asks the committee to quickly advance their nominations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ted McKinney", is written over a faint, dotted grid background.

Ted McKinney
Chief Executive Officer
NASDA



NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S BEEF ASSOCIATION
CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY

April 4, 2025

The Honorable John Boozman
 Chairman
 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
 United States Senate
 328A Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC, 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
 Ranking Member
 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
 United States Senate
 328A Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Chairman Boozman and Ranking Member Klobuchar:

We write today to express our strong support for Dudley Hoskins to serve as the next Undersecretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs. As the nation's oldest and largest trade association representing American cattle producers, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) advocates for policies that support and uphold agriculture's essential role in driving America's economy. With more than 26,000 direct members and over 178,000 members through our 44 affiliate states. The cattle industry is the single largest sector of U.S. agriculture, leaving an undeniable mark on our nation's history, economic growth, cultural heritage, and environmental conservation. Cattle producers steward one-third of the U.S. continental landmass and serve as the backbone of rural communities. Our livelihoods – and the food security of the nation – depend on commonsense, collaborative leadership at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. That is why we urge the Senate to confirm Mr. Hoskins to the position of Undersecretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs without delay.

A nation's most fundamental responsibility is ensuring its own food security. The USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP) mission area plays a crucial role in fulfilling this duty—not only for the families who rely on a safe and abundant food supply at home but also for consumers around the world and the producers whose dedication has made American agriculture the most productive and sustainable in the world. The role of Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs is vital to the future of U.S. agriculture, requiring a leader with deep expertise, sound judgment, and a commitment to ensuring the industry's long-term success. Cattle producers are directly affected by the USDA's efforts in facilitating domestic and international marketing of U.S. agricultural products and ensuring the health and welfare of animals and plants. We have long valued our partnership with the USDA and look forward to continuing this collaborative relationship with Mr. Hoskins.

Mr. Hoskins's extensive background in agriculture policy and law, coupled with his deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing American agriculture, makes him uniquely qualified to oversee the USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Programs. Throughout his career, he has been a steadfast advocate for agricultural producers, working to protect their interests while ensuring that policies are practical, science-based, and supportive of a strong and sustainable industry. In his role as Chief of Staff for the Marketing and Regulatory Programs at USDA, Mr. Hoskins demonstrated his capacity for providing leadership that directly supported American farmers and ranchers. He has worked extensively on policy issues that directly impact the cattle industry, including agricultural trade, market access, regulatory reform, and animal health. His ability to navigate complex challenges while keeping

the needs of livestock producers at the forefront has earned him the trust and respect of stakeholders across our industry.

Dudley Hoskins's leadership will bring a much-needed focus on promoting policies that strengthen U.S. agriculture's competitiveness, safeguard American food security, and ensure that rural communities remain vibrant and resilient. His deep knowledge of the issues facing cattle producers, coupled with his commitment to practical, producer-focused solutions, will be invaluable as he leads the USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

The Undersecretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs plays a crucial role in supporting American agriculture and shaping the future of our rural communities. With Mr. Hoskins's demonstrated experience and commitment to the industry, we are confident that he will continue to uphold the values of American agriculture while addressing its most pressing challenges.

NCBA appreciates the opportunity to provide our input in support of Dudley Hoskins's nomination, and we strongly urge the Senate to confirm his appointment without delay.

Sincerely,

National Cattlemen's Beef Association
 Alabama Cattlemen's Association
 Arizona Cattle Feeders' Association
 Arizona Cattle Growers' Association
 Arkansas Cattlemen's Association
 California Cattlemen's Association
 Colorado Cattlemen's Association
 Colorado Livestock Association
 Florida Cattlemen's Association
 Georgia Cattlemen's Association
 Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
 Idaho Cattle Association
 Illinois Beef Association
 Indiana Beef Cattle Association
 Iowa Cattlemen's Association
 Kansas Livestock Association
 Kentucky Cattlemen's Association
 Louisiana Cattlemen's Association
 Michigan Cattlemen's Association
 Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association
 Mississippi Cattlemen's Association
 Missouri Cattlemen's Association
 Montana Stockgrowers Association
 Nebraska Cattlemen
 Nevada Cattlemen's Association
 New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association

New York Beef Producers' Association
North Carolina Cattlemen's Association
North Dakota Stockmen's Association
Ohio Cattlemen's Association
Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association
Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association
South Carolina Cattlemen's Association
South Dakota Cattlemen's Association
Tennessee Cattlemen's Association
Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association
Texas Cattle Feeders Association
Utah Cattlemen's Association
Virginia Cattlemen's Association
Washington Cattle Feeders Association
Washington Cattlemen's Association
West Virginia Cattlemen's Association
Wyoming Stock Growers Association



NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

May 20th, 2025

The Honorable John Boozman
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry
United States Senate
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry
United States Senate
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boozman and Ranking Member Klobuchar,

The National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NCFAR) writes to express our support for Dr. Scott Hutchins, whom President Trump has nominated to serve as Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE) at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

As the former Deputy Under Secretary, Dr. Hutchins has the experience and scientific expertise to lead U.S. research, education, and economics into a new era of innovation. Dr. Hutchins understands the immense challenges facing USDA's research, education, and Extension enterprise, the envy of the world. He is well-respected by his peers and has put forward an innovation strategy that can continue to advance USDA REE. As America's agricultural, food, and nutrition research must compete on a level playing field with China, we welcome Dr. Hutchins to lead an agenda that promotes American interests.

Dr. Hutchins, a board-certified entomologist and nationally recognized industry leader, is prepared to lead the USDA REE mission area. NCFAR respectfully endorses Dr. Hutchins for Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics.

Sincerely,

Andy LaVigne
President, NCFAR & Chief Executive Officer, ASTA



May 21, 2025

The Honorable John Boozman
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boozman and Ranking Member Klobuchar:

The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) writes in strong support for the nomination of Dudley Hoskins to be the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP) at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). This position plays a vital role in ensuring fair and competitive domestic and international markets for U.S. agricultural products. We look forward to working with Mr. Hoskins to advance programs that promote the overall health, quality, and productivity of the American agriculture economy—especially those that impact corn growers.

Mr. Hoskins offers extensive experience and a proven understanding of key MRP operations. Serving as the Chief of Staff for the Under Secretary of Marketing and Regulatory programs during the first Trump Administration gave him direct insight into the mission and functions of the department. His work with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) in the past has uniquely prepared him to lead these essential agencies effectively. The MRP mission area, notably its implementation of the Grain Standards Act and regulation of biotechnology, are important to our nation's corn growers. Mr. Hoskins possesses the expertise, integrity, and passion necessary to lead these programs with distinction.

NCGA has had the privilege to work alongside Mr. Hoskins in various capacities over the years, from the private sector, to USDA, and the U.S. Senate, and his dedication to American agriculture has been a consistent asset. On behalf of corn farmers across America, we strongly urge the Agriculture Committee to advance Dudley Hoskins' nomination in a timely manner, so he can advance the interest of the agriculture industry in this important role. We believe that Mr. Hoskins' broad experience, leadership, and expertise in the quality, health, and fair marketing of agricultural products will allow him to serve as an exceptional Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

Sincerely,

Neil Caskey
Chief Executive Officer
National Corn Growers Association

NATIONAL OFFICE: MAIL TO: P.O. BOX 407 | CHESTERFIELD, MO 63006
632 CEPI DR. CHESTERFIELD, MO 63005 | 636-733-9004

WASHINGTON DC: 20 F STREET NW, SUITE 900, WASHINGTON, DC 20001 | 202-628-7001

JOHN FETTERMAN
PENNSYLVANIA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

<https://www.fetterman.senate.gov>

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

May 1, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins,

Thank you for the work you've done for U.S. farmers, ranchers, and producers since February 13th, 2025. As we discussed when we met last December, I knew we would disagree in some areas, but I am encouraged by the way you've used your platform and voice to put producers first and support their livelihoods. That's why I am asking you to reinstate funding for two program that have been directly benefiting farmers: the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA) and the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). Your department recently cancelled both the third round of LFPA funding and TEFAP purchases.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (PA) has received nearly \$30 million through two rounds of LFPA funding (see Appendix A). Their allocation represents just 4% of the total LFPA amount, but the PA Department of Agriculture (PDA) has successfully leveraged this money to help farmers feed hungry Pennsylvanians. Of their allocation, PDA has purchased \$6.39 million in dairy products, \$5.09 million in eggs, \$4.46 million in meat and poultry products, and \$7.56 million in fresh produce, from a total of 189 independent farmers (see Appendix B). The funding has allowed the agricultural industry in PA to flourish (see Appendix C).

PDA also purchases TEFAP commodities—including fresh milk and canned/frozen vegetables—that are sourced from hundreds of local farms in PA. For example, PDA has told my staff that \$213,306.21 worth of dairy products from as many as 150-200 PA dairy farms was on order to be purchased, but recently cancelled. This cancellation of a contract throws my constituents into economic uncertainty, as input costs continue to rise and their supply chains become more volatile due to trade concerns.

While I appreciate that Section 32 purchases are making up for some of the value of the cancelled contracts, you must agree that Section 32 and TEFAP are separate programs serving distinct functions. Section 32 purchases serve a market stabilizing function, while TEFAP primarily serves hungry families. Though *both* programs support farmer livelihoods. The Section 32 purchases are also not a one-for-one replacement for the TEFAP purchases, and do not make farmers whole after their TEFAP contracts were cancelled.

Farmers—like all business owners—need certainty that the government will honor their contracts when they enter into business agreement with the USDA.

I appreciate our conversation on Tuesday, March 25, to discuss this issue. My staff was told by your team that the third round of LFPA (LFPA 25) was rescinded because PA does not need it. My staff was further told that PDA still had \$23 million left of unspent LFPA funds from the first two rounds, and later that number was updated to \$12 million by your staff. This is false, according to PDA's records, demonstrated by Appendix D, a claim receipt the PA Comptroller submitted for reimbursement. As you'll see, on March 27, PDA submitted a request for \$9,100,281.88. As the claim shows, they had already received \$17,859,688. Subtracting these two amounts from PA's total disbursement shows only \$2,964,640.12 left over. PDA affirms to my staff that they will spend this amount through July, and easily continue their implementation of this beneficial program with the third round of funding they deserve.

Further, I appreciate your response (see Appendix E) to Ranking Member Klobuchar's and my questions, along with our colleagues, about USDA actions under Executive Orders and Presidential Memoranda, dated April 3, 2025. In that response, however, you stated, "The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and all other nutrition programs have remained uninterrupted." This is inaccurate, as shown by USDA's demonstrated cancellation of TEFAP contracts. This decision interrupted PDA's operations and farmer incomes in my commonwealth. I ask that you honor the intent of your April 3rd letter by allowing PDA to fulfill these farmer contracts under TEFAP.

With this information in mind, no later than Friday, May 9, 2025, I ask that you 1) answer the following questions and 2) commit in writing to both disburse LFPA25 funds to PA and reinstate all of PDA's TEFAP contracts, as quickly as possible.

- 1) On what date did you—or an authorized staff—internally approve rescinding LFPA25 funds?
- 2) On what date did you—or an authorized staff—internally approve cancelling TEFAP contracts?
- 3) What is your justification—especially in light of evidence contradicting USDA's stated justification to my staff—for rescinding LFPA25 funds? Please provide all relevant internal communications, documents, and authority justifying this decision.
- 4) What is your justification for cancelling TEFAP contracts? Please provide all relevant internal communications, documents, and authority justifying this decision.
- 5) What plans exist to use the rescinded LFPA and cancelled TEFAP funds?
 - a. If such plans exist, has the money already been spent on those other plans?
 - b. Specifically, how much of the money has been spent on what other plans and programs?
 - c. Through what statutory authority did you move this money to other programs?

Thank you in advance for your helpful responses to my questions, and your continued commitment for our staffs to work together on this. I look forward to our

continued work to promote U.S. agricultural success, which LFPA and TEFAP contribute towards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Fetterman', with a large, stylized initial 'J' and 'F'.

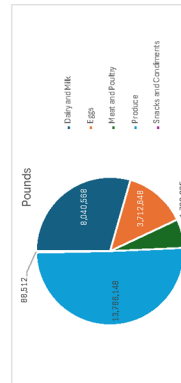
John Fetterman
U.S. Senator

Business Unit	Financial Performance			Operational Metrics			Market Position			Growth & Innovation			Risk & Compliance		
	Revenue (\$M)	Profit (\$M)	Margin (%)	Units Produced	Units Sold	Inventory (Units)	Market Share (%)	Customer Sat. (1-5)	R&D Spend (\$M)	New Products	Patent Apps	ESG Score	Compliance Rating		
1. Consumer Electronics	\$120.5	\$15.2	12.6%	1.2M	1.1M	0.1M	15.3%	4.2	5.0	12	5	A-	High		
	\$85.3	\$10.1	11.9%	0.8M	0.7M	0.1M	12.1%	4.1	4.5	8	3	B+	Medium		
	\$95.7	\$22.5	23.5%	0.5M	0.5M	0.0M	18.7%	4.5	6.0	15	10	A+	Low		
	\$110.2	\$18.9	17.1%	0.9M	0.8M	0.1M	14.5%	4.3	5.5	10	7	A	Medium		
	\$78.9	\$9.5	12.0%	1.5M	1.4M	0.1M	11.2%	4.0	4.8	6	4	B	Medium		
2. Industrial Machinery	\$135.1	\$20.3	15.0%	0.3M	0.3M	0.0M	16.8%	4.4	5.8	9	6	A	Low		
	\$62.4	\$7.8	12.5%	0.4M	0.3M	0.1M	9.7%	3.9	4.6	5	3	B-	Medium		
	\$145.6	\$19.7	13.5%	0.6M	0.5M	0.1M	17.2%	4.2	5.2	11	8	A	Medium		
	\$105.8	\$25.1	23.7%	0.7M	0.7M	0.0M	19.5%	4.6	6.2	18	12	A+	Low		
	\$92.1	\$11.3	12.3%	0.5M	0.4M	0.1M	10.8%	4.1	4.9	7	5	B+	Medium		
3. Software Solutions	\$118.4	\$14.6	12.3%	1.8M	1.7M	0.1M	13.9%	4.0	4.7	9	6	B+	Medium		
	\$73.5	\$8.9	12.1%	0.9M	0.8M	0.1M	8.5%	3.8	4.5	6	4	B-	Medium		
	\$88.2	\$10.5	11.9%	1.1M	1.0M	0.1M	10.2%	3.9	4.6	7	5	B	Medium		
	\$125.7	\$16.8	13.3%	0.7M	0.6M	0.1M	16.1%	4.1	5.1	10	7	A	Medium		
	\$150.3	\$19.4	12.9%	2.1M	2.0M	0.1M	14.8%	4.0	4.8	11	8	B+	Medium		
4. Healthcare Devices	\$138.9	\$18.1	13.0%	0.4M	0.3M	0.1M	17.5%	4.2	5.3	12	9	A	Medium		
	\$67.8	\$8.2	12.1%	0.3M	0.2M	0.1M	7.9%	3.7	4.4	5	3	B-	Medium		
	\$99.4	\$12.7	12.7%	0.6M	0.5M	0.1M	11.5%	4.0	4.9	8	6	B+	Medium		
	\$112.6	\$15.5	13.8%	0.4M	0.3M	0.1M	12.8%	4.1	5.0	9	7	A	Medium		
	\$87.5	\$10.8	12.3%	0.5M	0.4M	0.1M	9.3%	3.9	4.7	7	5	B+	Medium		
5. Automotive Components	\$148.2	\$21.5	14.5%	0.2M	0.2M	0.0M	18.2%	4.4	5.9	11	9	A	Low		
	\$160.1	\$24.3	15.2%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	19.8%	4.5	6.1	13	11	A+	Low		
	\$102.3	\$17.8	17.4%	0.3M	0.3M	0.0M	17.1%	4.3	5.7	14	10	A	Low		
	\$94.7	\$13.2	13.9%	0.4M	0.3M	0.1M	15.4%	4.2	5.4	12	9	A	Medium		
	\$115.9	\$20.1	17.3%	0.2M	0.2M	0.0M	18.9%	4.4	5.8	15	12	A	Low		
6. Aerospace Systems	\$75.4	\$9.8	13.0%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	12.3%	4.1	5.1	8	6	A	Medium		
	\$68.2	\$8.5	12.5%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	11.7%	4.0	5.0	7	5	B+	Medium		
	\$82.1	\$10.2	12.4%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	13.1%	4.1	5.2	9	7	A	Medium		
	\$91.5	\$11.5	12.6%	0.2M	0.2M	0.0M	14.2%	4.2	5.3	10	8	A	Medium		
	\$105.8	\$14.8	14.0%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	16.5%	4.3	5.6	11	9	A	Medium		
7. Marine Equipment	\$118.7	\$16.9	14.2%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	17.8%	4.4	5.7	12	10	A	Medium		
	\$132.5	\$19.1	14.4%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	19.1%	4.5	5.9	13	11	A	Low		
	\$146.3	\$21.3	14.6%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	20.4%	4.6	6.0	14	12	A	Low		
	\$160.1	\$23.5	14.7%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	21.7%	4.7	6.1	15	13	A+	Low		
	\$173.9	\$25.7	14.8%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	23.0%	4.8	6.2	16	14	A+	Low		
8. Power Generation	\$187.7	\$27.9	14.9%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	24.3%	4.9	6.3	17	15	A+	Low		
	\$201.5	\$30.1	15.0%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	25.6%	5.0	6.4	18	16	A+	Low		
	\$215.3	\$32.3	15.1%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	26.9%	5.1	6.5	19	17	A+	Low		
	\$229.1	\$34.5	15.2%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	28.2%	5.2	6.6	20	18	A+	Low		
	\$242.9	\$36.7	15.3%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	29.5%	5.3	6.7	21	19	A+	Low		
9. Environmental Solutions	\$256.7	\$38.9	15.4%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	30.8%	5.4	6.8	22	20	A+	Low		
	\$270.5	\$41.1	15.5%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	32.1%	5.5	6.9	23	21	A+	Low		
	\$284.3	\$43.3	15.6%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	33.4%	5.6	7.0	24	22	A+	Low		
	\$298.1	\$45.5	15.7%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	34.7%	5.7	7.1	25	23	A+	Low		
	\$311.9	\$47.7	15.8%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	36.0%	5.8	7.2	26	24	A+	Low		
10. Construction Equipment	\$325.7	\$49.9	15.9%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	37.3%	5.9	7.3	27	25	A+	Low		
	\$339.5	\$52.1	16.0%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	38.6%	6.0	7.4	28	26	A+	Low		
	\$353.3	\$54.3	16.1%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	39.9%	6.1	7.5	29	27	A+	Low		
	\$367.1	\$56.5	16.2%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	41.2%	6.2	7.6	30	28	A+	Low		
	\$380.9	\$58.7	16.3%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	42.5%	6.3	7.7	31	29	A+	Low		
11. Mining Machinery	\$394.7	\$60.9	16.4%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	43.8%	6.4	7.8	32	30	A+	Low		
	\$408.5	\$63.1	16.5%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	45.1%	6.5	7.9	33	31	A+	Low		
	\$422.3	\$65.3	16.6%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	46.4%	6.6	8.0	34	32	A+	Low		
	\$436.1	\$67.5	16.7%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	47.7%	6.7	8.1	35	33	A+	Low		
	\$449.9	\$69.7	16.8%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	49.0%	6.8	8.2	36	34	A+	Low		
12. Agriculture Machinery	\$463.7	\$71.9	16.9%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	50.3%	6.9	8.3	37	35	A+	Low		
	\$477.5	\$74.1	17.0%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	51.6%	7.0	8.4	38	36	A+	Low		
	\$491.3	\$76.3	17.1%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	52.9%	7.1	8.5	39	37	A+	Low		
	\$505.1	\$78.5	17.2%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	54.2%	7.2	8.6	40	38	A+	Low		
	\$518.9	\$80.7	17.3%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	55.5%	7.3	8.7	41	39	A+	Low		
13. Defense Systems	\$532.7	\$82.9	17.4%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	56.8%	7.4	8.8	42	40	A+	Low		
	\$546.5	\$85.1	17.5%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	58.1%	7.5	8.9	43	41	A+	Low		
	\$560.3	\$87.3	17.6%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	59.4%	7.6	9.0	44	42	A+	Low		
	\$574.1	\$89.5	17.7%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	60.7%	7.7	9.1	45	43	A+	Low		
	\$587.9	\$91.7	17.8%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	62.0%	7.8	9.2	46	44	A+	Low		
14. Space Exploration	\$601.7	\$93.9	17.9%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	63.3%	7.9	9.3	47	45	A+	Low		
	\$615.5	\$96.1	18.0%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	64.6%	8.0	9.4	48	46	A+	Low		
	\$629.3	\$98.3	18.1%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	65.9%	8.1	9.5	49	47	A+	Low		
	\$643.1	\$100.5	18.2%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	67.2%	8.2	9.6	50	48	A+	Low		
	\$656.9	\$102.7	18.3%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	68.5%	8.3	9.7	51	49	A+	Low		
15. Biotechnology	\$670.7	\$104.9	18.4%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	69.8%	8.4	9.8	52	50	A+	Low		
	\$684.5	\$107.1	18.5%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	71.1%	8.5	9.9	53	51	A+	Low		
	\$698.3	\$109.3	18.6%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	72.4%	8.6	10.0	54	52	A+	Low		
	\$712.1	\$111.5	18.7%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	73.7%	8.7	10.1	55	53	A+	Low		
	\$725.9	\$113.7	18.8%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	75.0%	8.8	10.2	56	54	A+	Low		
16. Robotics Development	\$739.7	\$115.9	18.9%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	76.3%	8.9	10.3	57	55	A+	Low		
	\$753.5	\$118.1	19.0%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	77.6%	9.0	10.4	58	56	A+	Low		
	\$767.3	\$120.3	19.1%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	78.9%	9.1	10.5	59	57	A+	Low		
	\$781.1	\$122.5	19.2%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	80.2%	9.2	10.6	60	58	A+	Low		
	\$794.9	\$124.7	19.3%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	81.5%	9.3	10.7	61	59	A+	Low		
17. Artificial Intelligence	\$808.7	\$126.9	19.4%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	82.8%	9.4	10.8	62	60	A+	Low		
	\$822.5	\$129.1	19.5%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	84.1%	9.5	10.9	63	61	A+	Low		
	\$836.3	\$131.3	19.6%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	85.4%	9.6	11.0	64	62	A+	Low		
	\$850.1	\$133.5	19.7%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	86.7%	9.7	11.1	65	63	A+	Low		
	\$863.9	\$135.7	19.8%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	88.0%	9.8	11.2	66	64	A+	Low		
18. Quantum Computing	\$877.7	\$137.9	19.9%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	89.3%	9.9	11.3	67	65	A+	Low		
	\$891.5	\$140.1	20.0%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	90.6%	10.0	11.4	68	66	A+	Low		
	\$905.3	\$142.3	20.1%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	91.9%	10.1	11.5	69	67	A+	Low		
	\$919.1	\$144.5	20.2%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	93.2%	10.2	11.6	70	68	A+	Low		
	\$932.9	\$146.7	20.3%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	94.5%	10.3	11.7	71	69	A+	Low		
19. Nanotechnology	\$946.7	\$148.9	20.4%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	95.8%	10.4	11.8	72	70	A+	Low		
	\$960.5	\$151.1	20.5%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	97.1%	10.5	11.9	73	71	A+	Low		
	\$974.3	\$153.3	20.6%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	98.4%	10.6	12.0	74	72	A+	Low		
	\$988.1	\$155.5	20.7%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	99.7%	10.7	12.1	75	73	A+	Low		
	\$1001.9	\$157.7	20.8%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	100.0%	10.8	12.2	76	74	A+	Low		
20. Photonics Research	\$1015.7	\$159.9	20.9%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	101.3%	10.9	12.3	77	75	A+	Low		
	\$1029.5	\$162.1	21.0%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	102.6%	11.0	12.4	78	76	A+	Low		
	\$1043.3	\$164.3	21.1%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	103.9%	11.1	12.5	79	77	A+	Low		
	\$1057.1	\$166.5	21.2%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	105.2%	11.2	12.6	80	78	A+	Low		
	\$1070.9	\$168.7	21.3%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	106.5%	11.3	12.7	81	79	A+	Low		
21. Materials Science	\$1084.7	\$170.9	21.4%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	107.8%	11.4	12.8	82	80	A+	Low		
	\$1098.5	\$173.1	21.5%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	109.1%	11.5	12.9	83	81	A+	Low		
	\$1112.3	\$175.3	21.6%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	110.4%	11.6	13.0	84	82	A+	Low		
	\$1126.1	\$177.5	21.7%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	111.7%	11.7	13.1	85	83	A+	Low		
	\$1139.9	\$179.7	21.8%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	113.0%	11.8	13.2	86	84	A+	Low		
22. Space Technology	\$1153.7	\$181.9	21.9%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	114.3%	11.9	13.3	87	85	A+	Low		
	\$1167.5	\$184.1	22.0%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	115.6%	12.0	13.4	88	86	A+	Low		
	\$1181.3	\$186.3	22.1%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	116.9%	12.1	13.5	89	87	A+	Low		
	\$1195.1	\$188.5	22.2%	0.1M	0.1M	0.0M	118.2%	12.2	13.6						

LFP Year 1/2/3 Report Materials

	Dollars	Pounds	
Q3 2024	\$2,389,349.26	2,594,987	Q3 2024 (Aug/Sep)
Q4 2024	\$3,304,209.58	3,525,545	Q4 2024
Q1 2025	\$2,630,429.31	1,913,725	Q1 2025 (Jan/Feb...)
Q2 2025			Q2 2025
Q3 2025			Q3 2025 (July)
Total	\$8,223,886.15	8,034,257	

Dairy and Milk
Eggs
Meat and Poultry
Produce
Snacks and Condiments



Appendix C

LOCAL FOOD PURCHASE ASSISTANCE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PROGRAM (USDA)

SUPPORTING PENNSYLVANIA FARMERS, FOOD BANKS & FAMILIES

The Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA) provides funding for states to purchase local foods to help support farmers and feed families. While increasing local food consumption, these funds help build and expand economic opportunities for farmers who operate small businesses, are just beginning, may not have access to limited resources.

**27.2 MILLION
POUNDS OF FOOD**



purchased from PA farmers
and producers via LFPA

EXPANDING MARKETS FOR PRODUCERS

The LFPA Program is designed to help farms and vendors of all sizes manage risk and create markets for new product, providing an economic safety net while vendors build their customer base. Additionally, vendors can work with food banks to plan for needed products for the upcoming season. As supply is available for the food bank, it can then be purchased using LFPA funds to be distributed locally.

**\$23.6 MILLION
DOLLARS INVESTED**



from LFPA in PA's food
and agricultural economy

INVESTING IN AGRICULTURE

Supporting local agriculture and small producers as well as food banks, Feeding Pennsylvania manages the program in collaboration with partners at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. From August 2022 to February 2025, purchases made by food banks from producers via the LFPA program totaled more than \$23.6 million.

**22.6 MILLION
MEALS PROVIDED**

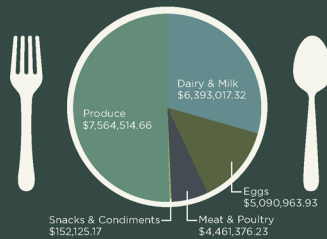


to more than 5.5 million
households throughout PA

IMPACTING COMMUNITIES

LFPA is designed to strengthen independent agribusinesses; over 89% of participating vendors are small businesses. LFPA vendors are passionate about supporting their communities, and many vendors choose to deliver directly to their local food pantries. Collectively, these pantries coordinate with over 2,000 distribution sites to provide food purchased through LFPA to Pennsylvanians facing hunger.

VALUE OF LFPA COMMODITIES



AIDING UNDER-RESOURCED AREAS

78%

of locations in Pennsylvania that
distribute food purchased by food
banks through LFPA are located
in under-resourced rural and
densely populated urban areas.



All figures reference data collected between August 2022 and February 2025.

LOCAL FOOD PURCHASE ASSISTANCE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PROGRAM (USDA)

PROVEN TO STRENGTHEN PA AGRIBUSINESSES

“

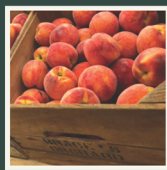
**Think We Not Me Farming Program**📍 **State College, Centre County**

As an organization, Think We Not Me donated over 46,000 pounds of fresh produce in 2024 to over twenty local food banks and organizations that provide food for the food insecure. Probably one third of our budget includes reimbursement from the LFPA program through the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. If we did not have this reimbursement to cover part of our expenses, we probably would only be able to donate half the amount of produce that we provide.

-Bill Zimmer, President

”

“

**Brace's Orchard**📍 **Dallas, Luzerne County**

Our relationship with the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg NEPA Regional Food Bank has been a tremendous help for our business. Since LFPA funds have been available, we have worked together the past three seasons and look forward to continuing the relationship in 2025. The food bank places regular orders and purchases some extra skids when we have surplus. These orders help cover the costs for harvesting and storing produce throughout the winter and spring.

-Logan Brace, Owner and Ninth-Generation Farmer

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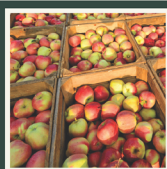
**Backpack Yogurt (Country Foods)**📍 **Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County**

Working with the food banks through LFPA funding has provided a crucial opportunity for us to expand our reach and improve our production, allowing us to deliver high-quality dairy products to those in need. By partnering with food banks, Backpack Yogurt has been able to indirectly support over sixty small dairy farms in PA. The increased demand for our products has created a ripple effect, providing these farms with more consistent sales and enhancing their economic stability.

-Mike Baysal, Owner

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**John Schultz & Sons**📍 **North East, Erie County**

We are a sixth-generation family fruit farm. Our apples are grown, packed and delivered to folks within a 100-mile radius of our farm. We have supported our local food banks for decades and continue to see their needs grow as declining SNAP benefits and rising prices leave people in need of a helping hand. LFPA funding provides more locally sourced food to food banks while spending less on freight, warehousing and spoilage.

-Roger Schultz, Partner

”

Appendix D

Claim (CLM-144496)**Claim Information:**

1a. Request for Advance or Reimbursement
REIMBURSEMENT

1b. Type of Payment Requested:
PARTIAL

2. Basis of Request
ACCRUAL

3. Federal Sponsoring Agency and Organizational Element to Which This Report is Submitted
Agricultural Marketing Service

4. Federal Grant or Other Identifying Number Assigned by Federal Agency
AM22LFPA0000C029

5. Partial Payment Request Number for this Request
#4

6. Employer Identification Number:
— —

7. Recipient's Account or Identifying Number:
M42223

8. Period Covered By This Request
From **To**
7/1/24 3/27/25

9. Recipient Organization
Name: AGRICULTURE, PENNSYLVANIA
 DEPARTMEN T OF
Number and Street: 2301 NORTH CAMERON STREET
City: HARRISBURG
State: PA
Zip: 17110-9408

10. Payee (Where check is to be sent if different than item 9)
Name:
Number and Street:
City:
State:
Zip:

Claim Amount:

11. Computation of Amount of Reimbursements/Advances Requested

Programs/ Functions/ Activities	As of Date	(a)	(b) Agency Calculations (For your reference only)	(c) Programs/ Functions/ Activities	Total
a. Total program outlays to date	3/27/25	\$15,182,027.06			\$15,182,027.06
b. Less: cumulative program income		\$0.00			\$0.00
c. Net program outlays (line a minus line b)		\$15,182,027.06			\$15,182,027.06
d. Estimated net cash outlays for advance period		\$0.00			
e. Total (sum of lines c & d)		\$15,182,027.06			\$15,182,027.06
f. Non-Federal share of amount on line e		\$0.00			\$0.00
g. Federal share of amount on line e		\$15,182,027.06			\$15,182,027.06
h. Federal payments previously requested		\$6,080,000.00	\$0.00		\$6,080,000.00
i. Federal share now requested (line g minus line h)		\$9,102,027.06			\$9,102,027.06
j. Advances required by month, when					

requested by Federal grantor agency for use in making prescheduled advances	1st month				
	2nd month				
	3rd month				

12. Alternate Computation for Advances Only

	Amount
a. Estimated Federal cash outlays that will be made during period covered by the advance	\$
b. Less: Estimated balance of Federal cash on hand as of beginning of advance period	\$
c. Amount requested (line a minus line b)	\$

13. Certification

I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the data on the reverse are correct and that all outlays were made in accordance with the grant conditions or other agreement and that payment is due and has not been previously requested.	SIGNATURE OR AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL Alfredo Rivera	DATE REQUEST SUBMITTED 03/27/25
	TYPED OR PRINTED NAME OR TITLE Alfredo Rivera, Accountant 3	TELEPHONE (AREA CODE, NUMBER, EXTENSION) (717) 425-6777

14. Requested Amounts by Cost Element

Cost Element	Disbursed Amount	Open Balance	Direct Requested Amount	Indirect Requested Amount	Total Requested Amount
Personnel	\$0.00	\$0.00	---	---	\$0.00
Fringe Benefit	\$0.00	\$0.00	---	---	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	---	---	\$0.00
Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	---	---	\$0.00
Contractual	\$0.00	\$0.00	---	---	\$0.00
Other	\$17,859,688.00	\$12,064,922.00	\$9,100,281.88	\$1,745.18	\$9,102,027.06
Travel	\$0.00	\$0.00	---	---	\$0.00
Total	\$17,859,688.00	\$12,064,922.00	\$9,100,281.88	\$1,745.18	\$9,102,027.06

Signature

Select a Partner by typing in the name of the individual in the box. Matching names will appear in a drop down box for your selection.

A Primary Certifying Official is a required Partner and notifications and work items will be sent to all listed Certifying Official.

Primary Certifying
Official

Secondary Certifying
Official

Alfredo Rivera

Attachments

Title	Operator	Date/Time
ARPA Worksheet	PATRICK RUSSO	3/27/2025 2:09 PM

Comments

Comment	Commented By	Date/Time
Add attachment	Alfredo Rivera	3/27/25 2:02 PM

Appendix E



Secretary Brooke L. Rothman

Washington, D.C. 20250

April 3, 2025

THE HONORABLE AMY KLOBUCHAR
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
United States Senate
 425 Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar,

Thank you to you and your colleagues for your letter sent on February 5, 2025, to Acting Secretary Gary Washington regarding recent Executive Orders and Presidential Memoranda. As you know, the Acting Secretary responded February 7. Additionally, thank you for your subsequent letter on February 10. Today, I wanted to provide further insight as I approach my 50th day in office.

First, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) appreciates your commitment to farmers and ranchers. But as part of my responsibility during a transition, I undertook a substantive review of contracts, personnel, and spending.

I realize this review process has caused concern among producers and consumers who participate in longstanding USDA programs. However, as this review continues, program funding has been released. To date, funds have been released for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), the Dairy Business Innovation (DBI) Initiatives grant program, the Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Cooperative Agreement Program, Assisting Specialty Crop Exports (ASCE) initiative, the Land-Grant University Capacity grants, Market Access Program and Foreign Market Development, the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), Empowering Rural America (New ERA) and Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) programs.

It is also so important to note that programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and all other nutrition programs have remained uninterrupted. While the Biden Administration inflated statutory programs with Commodity Credit Corporation dollars without any plans for long-term solutions, and even in 2024, used the pandemic as a reason to make funding announcements, USDA will not lose focus on its mission of strengthening food security, supporting agricultural markets, and ensuring access to nutritious foods. For example, earlier this month, USDA released over half a billion in

previously obligated funds for local procurement programs to fulfill existing commitments and support ongoing local food purchases. Additionally, USDA recently announced \$261 million in available fruits, vegetables, and tree nuts, made possible through Section 32 purchases. These foods go directly to food banks and other charitable organizations. The Department will continue to use its procurement authority to support producers and consumers where appropriate, and with 16 nutrition programs under its purview, ensure families continue to have access to affordable and abundant food.

Each underscore the Trump Administration's commitment to rural communities, including the farmers, ranchers, and small businesses and their essential role in building a stronger, more resilient, and more secure America. As this review continues, I hope our staff can convene in regularly scheduled updates. Not only does that allow me to share information, but it allows us to collaborate.

My goals are many, including to make certain American agriculture remains the most competitive in the world. I also want to ensure we return the Department to one that puts farmers first and revitalizes rural America. And no matter the goal, each have one thing in common: to protect the food and national security of our great nation.

Please note a version of this letter will be shared with your colleagues. If you have further questions or concerns, please call me directly or have a member of your staff contact USDA's Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720-7095 or ocr@usda.gov.

Sincerely,



Brooke L. Rollins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture

April 22, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
 Secretary of Agriculture
 U.S. Department of Agriculture
 1400 Independence Ave., SW
 Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins,

The undersigned farmers, ranchers, schools, and food pantries write to express our appreciation for your commitment to a thriving rural America, a healthy next generation of farmers and ranchers, and [connecting farmers to nutrition programs](#). We believe the Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) and the Local Food in Schools and Child Care Centers (LFSCC) Programs have and can play an important role in achieving that commitment, and the termination of their funding harms farmers and weakens their connection to nutrition assistance programs. We ask that you reconsider the decision to terminate funding for LFPA and LFSCC.

By design, LFPA and LFS¹ reached farmers and communities across the nation, developing new and strengthening existing regional food supply chains across 50 states, Washington, D.C., 68 Tribes, and 3 territories. USDA created programmatic efficiencies by entering into agreements with States, Tribes and territories so decision-making happened at the state and local level. This local decision-making reduced barriers for participation in burdensome federal procurement processes, allowing for purchases from more than 8,000 farmers and ranchers.

Even with a short tenure, LFPA and LFS have proven to be a robust economic development tool in rural communities, generating significant impacts across the country. Every \$1 of federal spending for local food purchases has spurred \$1.95 of economic activity.² Between Spring 2022 and Fall 2024, LFPA and LFS have:

- Spurred roughly \$400 million in new direct food purchases from farmers generating \$747 million in economic activity in rural communities.
- Expanded purchases of a wide variety of local farm products, including fresh fruits and vegetables, meat and poultry, dairy, fish and seafood.
- Stimulated new sales for small, mid-size, and beginning farmers, allowing them to scale operations, hire additional employees, and invest their own resources in cold storage and processing infrastructure.
- Developed new market relationships between farmers, distributors, schools, and community based food pantries.

The termination of future funding for these programs brings this progress to a halt. Across the country, many farmers have already purchased inputs or leased land in anticipation of continuation of these programs. For example, an orchard in Iowa planted 1,500 new apple trees

¹ Associated outcomes and impacts documented throughout the letter reflect LFPA and LFS only since the local food in child care program had not began on March 7th

² Economic impact calculations are derived by authors using publicly available purchase data from USDA and research from Colorado State University: <https://calculator.localfoodeconomics.com/>

and employed additional staff over the winter to meet future program demand, but now find their farm and livelihood threatened. Unfortunately, farmers are facing similar circumstances in [Arkansas](#), [Arizona](#), [Texas](#), [Kentucky](#), [Nevada](#) and other states.

First and foremost, we ask that you reconsider the decision to terminate funding for LFPA and associated programs. We also recognize Congress should work on a bipartisan basis to establish and fund a program that builds upon LFPA and its associated programs. We ask USDA to work closely with the leadership of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees, key stakeholders including State Departments of Agriculture, and others, to develop a durable version of this and similar past programs. We believe that USDA's ongoing support for farmers through procurement at the local level makes sense. These programs are essential to maintaining the integrity of food supply chains, promoting farmer viability, and renewing connectivity between local farmers and their communities.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics	National Organic Coalition
Alliance to End Hunger	National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
American Agriculture Movement	National Young Farmers Coalition
American Farmland Trust	North American Food Systems Network (NAFSN)
Center for Good Food Purchasing	Organic Farmers Association
Chef Ann Foundation	Organic Trade Association
Farm Action	Rural Coalition
Farm Aid	School Nutrition Association
Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance (FARFA)	Share Our Strength
FoodCorps	The Association Of Gleaning Organizations
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	The Society of Saint Andrew Inc.
Mobile Market Coalition (MMC)	Union of Concerned Scientists
National Farm to School Network	Wallace Center at Winrock International
National Farmers Union	

State and Regional Organizations and Associations

Abundant Montana	Cumberland County (Maine) Food Security Council (CCFSC)
Activate Food Arizona	
Agroecology Commons	Detroit Food Policy Council
Alaska Farmers Union	Fair Food Network
Alaska Food Policy Council	Farm2People
Appalachian Center for Economic Networks	Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project (FLAP)
Appalachian Resource Conservation and Development Council	Feeding New York State
Arizona Food Systems Network (AZFSN)	Flagstaff Foodlink
Arkansas Farmers Market Association	Food Bank of the Southern Tier
Arkansas Farmers Union	Food Bank of Western Massachusetts
Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance	Food Bank of Wyoming
Asian Community Farmers	Foodshed Alliance
Black Farmers United, New York State (BFU-NYS)	Foundation for Agricultural and Rural Resources Management and Sustainability (FARRMS)
Boston Local Food Program	Friends of Family Farmers
California Center for Cooperative Development (CCCD)	Grow Montana Food Policy Coalition
California Farmers Union	Hawai'i Farmers Union
Center for an Agricultural Economy	Hawaii Institute of Pacific Agriculture (HIP Ag)
Center for Rural Culture	Illinois Farm to School Network
Chester Agricultural Center	Illinois Stewardship Alliance
Chicago Food Policy Action Council (CFPAC)	Inter-Faith Food Shuttle
Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger	Iowa Farmers Union
Community Farm Alliance	Iowa Food System Coalition
Conservation Law Foundation	Jefferson County Food Policy Council
	Just Harvest

Kansas Farm Bureau	Montana Food Bank Network (MFBN)
Kansas Farmers Union	Nebraska Farmers Union
Kansas Rural Center	New Connecticut Farmer Alliance
Kentucky Farm to School Network	New England Farmers Union
Kentucky Food Action Network (KFAN)	New Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Council
Keystone Development Center (KDC)	North Dakota Farmers Union
Land For Good	Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust
Land Stewardship Project (LSP)	Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut (CT-NOFA)
Louisiana Food Policy Council	Northeast Organic Farming Association of Massachusetts (NOFA-MA)
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association	Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Hampshire (NOFA-NH)
Makoce Agriculture Development	Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey (NOFA-NJ)
Marbleseed (MS)	Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York (NOFA-NY)
Maryland Food Bank	Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT)
Massachusetts Farm to School	Northwest Tennessee Local Food Network
Massachusetts Food System Collaborative	Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association
Michigan Association of Conservation Districts (MACD)	Ohio Farmers Union
Michigan Department of Education Office of Nutrition Services	Oklahoma Farmers Union
Michigan Farmers Union	Oregon Farm to School Network
Michigan Food and Farming Systems (MIFFS)	Pasa Sustainable Agriculture
Milwaukee Food Council	Pennsylvania Farmers Union
Minneapolis Public Schools Culinary and Wellness Services	Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
Minnesota Farmers Union	Pocasset Pokanoket Land Trust
Missouri Farmers Union (MFU)	
Montana Farmers Union	

Renewing the Countryside	Tennessee Local Food
Rhode Island Food Policy Council (RIFPC)	Texas Farmers Union
Rhode Island Healthy Schools Coalition	The Alliance for a Hunger Free New York
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union (RMFU)	The Foodshed Network
Rural Vermont	The Northern Colorado Foodshed Project
San Diego Food System Alliance (SDFSA)	The School Nutrition Association of Pennsylvania
School Nutrition Association of Pennsylvania	The Western New York Foundation
South Dakota Farmers Union (SDFU)	Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians
Southcoast Food Policy Council	Tyonek Tribal Conservation District
Southeast Iowa Food Hub	United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma
Southeast Tennessee Young Farmers Coalition	Utah Farmers Union
Sprout New Orleans	Virginia Association for Biological Farming
Sustainable Business Network of Massachusetts	Virginia Community Food Connections (VCFC)
Sustainable Food Center	West Virginia Food and Farm Coalition
Syracuse Onondaga Food Systems Alliance (SOFSA)	Wisconsin Farmers Union (WFU)

Participating Farmers, Producers, and Food Businesses

19 By 1950 Family Farm LLC	Ada's Farm
3lfarms	Adamaah's Bedouin Farms
4P Foods	Addison County Relocalization Network (ACORN)
A + H Urban Farm	Adolphs Produce and Bakery
A Mother's Heart LLC	Against the Grain
ABC Beef	Agri-Cultura Cooperative Network
Ackerman Certified Organic Farm	Al Hamka Farm and Bakery LLC.

Al Munir LLC	Bechdolt Orchards
Alaska Farmers Market Association	Beck Orchards
All Farm Organics	Behneman Farm
And The Plot Chickens	Belafonte Farm
Anders Family Farm	Bella Vita Farm LLC
Anita's AREA Farms Arizona	Belluso's 1871 Farm
Annabessacook Farm	Berries and Flour Bakery & Harvest Goods
Another Spring farm	Better Day Farms
Appalachian Sustainable Development	Big Daddy Produce Farms
Apples on the Avenue	Birdsong Farm
Armstrong Farms	Black Chick Farm
Arnold's Farm	Black Dog Farm
Ashton Farms	Black Earth Gardens LLC
Askiya	Black Food Sovereignty Coalition
Atla's Conchas	Black Mountain Farm
Aulgur Livestock	Blooming Reed Farm
Awada Farms	Blosser Urban Garden
Ayni Herb Farm	Blue Barrel Farm
Babylon Micro-Farms	Blue Gate Farm
Backyard Harvest Co.	Blue Herons Farm and Native Nursery
Baladna Farm LLC	Blue Merle Farm
Baliss farms	Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture
Ballena Bees	Blue Shed Urban Gardens
Barnswallow & Co. LLC	Bluebird Farm
BearFruit & Grow	Bombeta farms
Beauvine Enterprises	Boonville Barn Collective
Bebe Bitez Food	Boreal Woods Mushroom Farm

Botanical Bites & Provisions LLC	Chaseholm Farm
Boulder County Farmers Markets	Chee Fresh Produce
Bowlin Farms LLC	Chirp Creek Farm
Boyden Farm Holdings LLC	Choy Division
Bright Oasis Farm	Clatskanie Farmer Collective
Broadview Farm and Gardens LLC	CLiCK Inc
Brookside Farm	Coastal Foodshed
Brun Ko Farm	Common Harvest Colorado
Bryant Farms	Community Farmers Market
Buffalo Go Green Inc.	Compass Plant Community Supported Agriculture
Buffalo Ridge Orchard	Connecticut Food 4 Thought
Calypso Farm & Ecology Center	Cooper Farms
Camp Creek Organic Produce	Correll Farms LLC
Campbell Crossing Farm	Cottle organics
CAMPO Collective	Country View Dairy LLC
Carney Family Farms	Creative Kitchen Garden
Casa Canaan Farm LLC	Crossroads Community Farm LLC
Casa Visco and 518Foods	Crosswicks Farm
Casad Family Farms	Crown Town Farms LLC
Catskills Agrarian Alliance (CAA)	CS Fishery
Cattail Organics	D & S Gardens
Cattle Run Farm LLC	Daily Blessings Farm
Cedar Circle Farm	Dan-Harton Farm
Cedar Valley Sustainable Farm	Danish Honey Farms LLC
Central New York Regional Market	Dahps Farm LLC
Chanticleer Acres	Daphine's Fresh
Charlotte's Farm	

Davis Farms Sandy Creek LLC	FAITH Farms & Orchards
Daybreak Dreamfarm	Farm Fresh Caribbean Growers
Daybreak Growers Alliance	Farm Story Meats
Daybreak Homestead	Farm Table Delivery
Daydream Farm	Farm to Fork 716
Debs Berry Farm LLC	Farmer Foodshare
DeLaTerre Permaculture Farm	Faul Family Riverside Farm
Delta Harvest	Faverolles Gardens
Dilish Farm	Feed'em Freedom
Dinah's Ancient Grains and Seeds	Fernbrook Farms
Dirt-Pig Farm	Ferndean Farm
Dixie Chile Ranch	Ferry Farms and Carnico Foods
Dodo Farms	Field to Family
Doe Mountain Produce	Fiery Ginger Farm and Spork Food Hub
Doudlah Farms Organics LLC	Finding Justice A Flower and Vegetable Garden
Dowell Farm and Gardens	Firsthand Foods
Down at the Farms LLC	Flat Tack Farm
DuChick Ranch LLC	Florey Farm
Durgon Farms	Foggy Mountain Pasta
Dusty Bees	FoodLoop Northwest (FLNW)
E&A Produce Market	Forestdale Farm
Eat Greater Des Moines	Fort Collins Winter Farmers Market
Elkhead Farm	Fortunate Farm LLC
Enbat Sudan	Four Elements Farm
Evergreen Farm	Free Verse Farm LLC
F2K LLC	Freshlist
Fab Farms	

Fresno BIPOC Produce Inc.	Granite Springs Farm
FriedenHof Farm	Grapewood Farm
Friendly Neighbor Gardens	Grateful Plains
From the Ground Farmers Market Collective	Gray Farms
Fruit Haven Orchards LLC	Great Lakes Farm to Freezer
Fruitqueen	Green Gate Family Farm LLC
Fry Family Farm	Green Solution Roots LLC
Funks Grove Heritage Fruits & Grains	Green Valley Farm
G&G Farms	Green Wagon Farm
Garden Hoes Local Farm Goods	GreenGold Gardens
Garden of Paradise	Greenshine Farms
Garuda Farms LLC	Grimm Family Farm
Gauker Farms	Grinnell Farm to Table (GFTT)
Geek Gardens	Groundswell Farm LLC
Genevieve Farm	Growers for Grace PBC
Genuine Local	Growing Atypical Roots LLC
Get To-Gather Farm	Guided By Mushrooms
Ghost House Farm	Half Section Plus LLC
Glorified Dirt Farm	Halfacre Farms Inc.
Glorious Goat Ranch LLC	Hall Consulting Services LLC
Glow House Agriculture Inc.	Hall's Orchard
Golden Stock Farms LLC	Hansen's Farm Fresh Dairy
Good Keeper Farm LLC	Harvest Haven
Good Rain Farm	Harvest Hill Farm
Good Work Farm LLC	Harvest Of Joy Farm LLC
Goodness Gracious Grocery	Hazzard Free Grains
Gorge Farmer Cooperative	Healthy Flavors Arkansas

Healthy Harvest	Ironwood Farm
Heartwood Farm	Island End Farms Inc
Hedberg Garden Group LLC	J&G Green Farms
Hedge Way Farm	J4 Cattle Company
Heidi's Fancy Goods LLC	Jakes Farm
Heirloomista	Janet Lawson Herbal Services
Heron Pond Farm	Janie's Mill
Hertzog's Premium Beef LLC.	JarHead Farms
High Energy Agriculture	JAS Family Farms Organics
Highwater Farm	Jim's Farm
Hillside Farms	Joe Czajkowski Farm LLC
Hilltop Greens	Joe's Brook Farm
Holdeman Capon Cuts	John Chenier Family Farm LLC
Hooligan Harvest	Johnston Creek Beef
Hornet Hill Farm LLC	Joia Food & Fiber Farm
Howell Family Farms Inc.	Jon Henry General Store
Howling Flats Farm LLC	Juarez Pico De Gallo
Hukama Produce	Jubilee Climate Farm
Humble Hands Harvest	Julie's Duck Eggs
Hundred Acre	Junebug Organics LLC
Hungry Heart Farm	Jupiter Ridge Farm
Hunter Hill CSA	Jwakis Farms
Hurd Orchards Springbrook Farms LLC	Kakadoodle
Idle Acres Farm	Kalenauskas Farm LLC
Indigo Acres	Kansas City Food Hub
Iowa Food Cooperative	Kasama Farm
Irene's Garden	Kennedy Meadows Beef

Kentucky Greens Co.	Mahara Farms LLC
Kilimo Minnesota	Mai's FarmFresh
Kindness Farm	Makeshift Farm
Kindred Micro Farms	Maple Bank Farm
Knob Hill Farm	Marcellus Orchards LLC
Koenigs' Acres Farm	March Farms LLC
KwaSha Enterprise LLC	Marie's farm
La Finquita	Mariposa Ranch
Lakeside Farm	Martinez Farm
Late Bloom Farm	Mauch Family Farm
Lee's Edible Acres	Meadow Lane Farm
Legacy Taste of the Garden	Medicine Creek Farm
Letterbox Farm LLC	Mendenhall Farm
Lexavah Farms	Mendo Grass
Liberty Gardens Specialty Produce	Mi Tierra Farm LLC
Lilliputopia Farm	Mi'kmaq Farms
Little Colorado Meats	Micmac Farms
Little Farm North Carolina LLC	Micro Mama's
Little Hat Creek Farm	Misigaro Farms
Living Light Farms	Mitchell Blueberries
Lockard's Produce LLC	MLP Farms LLC
Lor Farm	Mogo Farms
Low Tide Farms	Monocacy Farm Project
Lowcountry Street Grocery	Moonlighter Farm
Lucky Star Farm	Mossycup Farms
Lutheran Services In Iowa-Global Greens	Mother Earth Farm PA
Machokoto Family Farms	Mountain Freshies

Mountain State Co-Hop Inc.	Olusanya LLC
Muckleshoot Seafood Company	One Ocean Seafood
Mustard Seed Community Farm	Open Farms Retreat
Nalwoodi Denzhone Community (NDC)	Orchard Landing Co.
Nashville Farmers' Market	Organic Planet LLC
New Beat Farm	Othello Group
New Entry Sustainable Farming Project	Outlaw Livestock LLC
New Mexico Harvest Inc.	Outlier Farm
New Way Aquaponic Farms	Over the Moon Farm
Noel's Farm	Owl Bluff Farm
Nordica Street Community Farm	Pak Express
North Coast Growers Association	Patchwork Green Farm
North Forty Gardens	Peace Tree Farm LLC
Northeast Kingdom Potato Co.	People's Provisions LLC
Northwest Organic Farm	Pepper Berries Farm
Northwoods Test Kitchen	Persephone Gardens
Nupolu's Emerging Farms LLC	Persephone's Garden
Nye Ranch Farm	Pete's Produce
OConnell Organic Acres LLC	Pete's Stand
Oertel's Roots Family Farm	Phocas Farm
Offbeet Farm	Picadilly Farm LLC
Offbeet Seafood Collaborative	Pieri Farm & Vineyard
Old Grove Orange	Pivot Produce
Olde Moon Farm	Pleasant Grove Homestead
Olivino Inc.	Plow and Stars Farm LLC
Olsen Farms	Podunk's Ranch
Olson Garden Market	Pollard's Farm

Potter's Farm	Rise & Root Farm
Prairie Fruits Farm and Creamery	River Ridge Farm
Prairie Oasis Farm	River Street Market
Preserve Farmstead	Riverbank Farm LLC
Project Roots	Riverside Farm
Providence Farm Collective	Rock Steady Farm
Prudent Produce	Root Mass Farm
Purple Corn	Rose West
Purple Mountain Grown	Rosie Creek Resources
Purple Ribbon Beef	Rots Bounty Gourmet Fungi LLC
Quarry Farms of Illinois LLC	Round River Farm
R Farm	Rue de Bungalow Farm
Radical Roots Farm	Rural Roots Ranch
Rainbow Produce	Rusty Bird Farm
Ralph's Ranch	Salvation Farms
Ramona Farms	Sandhill Acres
Rancho Durazno	Sandhill Farm
Random Rabbit LLC	Scarlette Acres
Raspberry Ridge Creamery LLC	Scholl Orchards LLC
Rebop Farm	Schultz Fruitridge Farms
Red Tomato	Seattle Neighborhood Farmers Markets (NFM)
Red Wing Area Farmers Market Association	Secret Garden Bees
ReFarming.ag	Seeds of Peace Farm
Restoring the Souil Farm	Sentinel Hill Farm LLC
Rhodesdale Farm	Serene Farm
Riamede Farm	Serene Mountain Farm LLC
Riggs Family Gardens	

Seven Farms and Bakery	Stout's Market
Shady Grove Farm	Sugarbush Valley LLC
Shagbark Seed and Mill	Sun Drop Gardens LLC
Shivers Farms	Sun Produce Cooperative
Silver Creek Farms	Sunbow Produce
Siriro'Farm	Sunset Berry Farm & Produce LLC
Small City Farm	Sunset Harvest Farm LLC
Smoke Camp Crafts	Superyard Farms
Snowville Creamery	Sustainable Designs
Soil Shine Farm & Ferments	Sweet Season Farm
Sola Gratia Farm	Sweet Tooth Farm
Solway Farms LLC	Sweet Union Farm
Somerset Farm and Tree LLC	Switch Gears Farm
Somi Farm	Sycamore Ridge Small Farm
Soul Food Project	Syd's Tempeh Co.
Sounding Stone Farm	Talking Earth Farm
South Mound Orchard	Tanager Farm
Sow and Savor Farm	Tangled Roots Farm
Sowed Up Farms	Tapestry Farms
Sprigs 'n Sprouts	Taylor Stevenson Ranch Meat Co.
Springfield Ranch	Ten Mothers Farm
Springhill Beef	Terra Fauna Farm
SquyreStudio Microfarm	Terra Flora LLC
Steadfast Acres LLC	TerraWalk Farm
Stepping Stone Farm	Teter Organic Farm
Sticky Spoons Jam	The Aquaponics Grower LLC
Stone Circle Farm	The Black Yard Farm Collective

The Common Market	Tre-Fin Day Boat Seafood
The Farm on St. Mathias	Trinity Farms
The Farm Standingford LLC	Troubadour Farms LLC
The Flatirons Famers Coalition	Trowel & Error Farm LLC
The Food Project	Turkey River Farm
The Fresh Patch	Turner Road Farm
The Garden For All	Tutuilla True Fish LLC
The Garden Sage	Tuuli Farm LLC
The Hines Garden	TVR Beef LLC
The Local Good Mini Market	Twin Maple Farms LLC
The Petit Teton LLC	Twitter Creek Gardens
The Produce Box	Two Gander Farm
The Smiley House Farm	Underground Mushroom Co.
The Thao Family Garden	Upper Grassy Greens
Theogene & Family Farming Project LLC	US Organic Farmers LLC
Three Creeks Produce	Valley Flora LLC
Three Sisters Garden Project	Vance Family Farm
Thunderbird Colony Gardens	Vermont Farm to School Inc.
Tikkun Olam Farm	Villageside Farm
Tipsy Roo's	Viscusi Wholesale Grocers Inc.
TJ's Poultry	Viva Farms
TKP Farms	VIVANDU
Toe River Aggregation Center Training Organization Regional Inc. (TRACTOR Food and Farms)	Walker Farms of Siletz
TomKat Ranch	Walker's Farm
Top of Texas Marketing Inc.	Walking Bird Farm
Tower View Farm	We Arose
	West Fork Farmstead

What's Growing On Chicago	Woodside Acres
Whippoorwill Creek Farm	Working Landscapes
Whispering Wild Market Farm	World Farmers
White Lotus Farm	WSBZ FARM
Whitsons	Yarrow Seafoods
Wiemerslage Farms	Yellow Table Farm
Wild Fern Farm	Yellow Wood Farms
Wild Rose Pastures	Yotemaisha
Williams Topsoil	Young Family Farm
Willow Wisp Organic Farm	Yubakami
Windy River Livestock	Zoie's Farm
Winter Moon Roots	Zone 7 LLC
Woodlyn Acres Farm LLC	Zunomi Garden LLC

Participating Organizations, Food Pantries, and Schools

A Greater Applegate	Bayview Hunters Point Multipurpose Senior Services
AgriWest	Benzie Area Christian Neighbors Inc. (BACN)
AIMHigh-Keep Pressing	Benzie Food Partners Northwest Food Coalition
Amistad Catholic Worker	Berkshire Grow Inc.
Among Friends Meal Program	Boston Area Gleaners
Ar-We-Va Community School	Boulder County Public Health
Auburn Public Schools	Bowling Green Independent School District - Nutrition
Azusa Unified School District	
Barre Unified Union School District	

Boys Grow	Community Health Innovations of Rhode Island
Brady Faith Center	Concordia Charter School
Bread Line Inc.	Conetoe Family Life Center
Bread of Life Ministry	Consuelo's Place
BRIDGE	Cook Inletkeeper
Butte County Local Food Network	Cultivate Kansas City
Caring for the Hungry and Homeless of Peekskill (CHHOP)	Cultivating Community
Carolina Farm Stewardship Association	DAISA Enterprises LLC
Cedar Rapids Xavier School	DC Central Kitchen
Change Today, Change Tomorrow	Delafield Co-Op Market
Charlottesville Food Not Bombs	Detroit Black Community Food Sovereignty Network
Chatham Outreach Alliance Inc.	Dig In! Yancey Community Garden
Chattanooga Food Center	District 10 Community Market
Chickasaw Neighborhood Federation	Do a Little Good
Circles of Jackson County	Down East Coal Ash E&SJ Coalition
Citizens for Citizens Inc. Food Pantry	Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen (DESK)
Clear Lake Community School District	Durham Congregations in Action
Clinica Esperanza (Hope Clinic)	Eagles Community Outreach
Coharie Tribe of North Carolina	Earth Neighborhood Productions
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission	Eastern Allamakee Community Schools
Come to the Altar Ministry Inc.	Economic Council Helping Others Inc. (ECHO Inc.)
Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley	El Monte Union High School District
Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona	Elepaio Social Services
Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF)	Elk Grove Unified School District
	Ellensburg School District

Empire Area Food Pantry	Food and Agriculture Action Coalition
End Hunger Durham	Toward Sovereignty (FAACTS)
Entrepreneurs Academy	Food Animal Concerns Trust
Facing Hunger Food Bank Inc.	Food Connects
Everyone's Harvest	Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
Faith Child Development Center	FOOD For Lane County
Farm Fresh Rhode Island (FFRI)	Food in Neighborhoods Community Coalition (FIN)
Farm to Institution New England (FINE)	Food Link Inc.
Farm to School Procurement Consulting	Food Pantry and Community Meal of Jubilee Outreach Ministries at Grace Episcopal Church
Farms Together	Food Rescue US of Northwest Connecticut
Feeding Champlain Valley	Food Security Network of Boulder & Broomfield Counties
Feeding South Dakota	FoodChain Inc.
FeedMore WNY	FoodShare South Carolina
Feed Iowa First	Foothills Food Hub
Filipino Bayanihan Center	Fort Lewis College Grub Hub
First Parish Newbury Food Pantry	Fresh Approach
First United Methodist Church of Murphy, North Carolina	Fresh Foundation
Fishline	FRESHFARM
Fitchburg Seventh-Day Adventist Church	Full Plates Full Potential
Flint Fresh Food Hub	Gardner Seventh-Day Adventist Church
Food Bank for the Heartland	Glen Alpine Food Pantry Inc.
Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina	Global Food Project
Food Bank of Eastern New Mexico	Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming
Food Bank of Lincoln	
Food Bank of Northeast Los Angeles	
Food Access Los Angeles	

Good Shepherd Food Bank	Holly Springs Food Cupboard
GoFarm	Hopelink
Goochland Nutrition Program of Goochland County Public Schools	Hudson Valley Food System Coalition
Greater Chicago Food Depository	‘Elepaio Social Services
Greater Kansas City Local Investment Commission (LINC) Inc.	Impacted Families Project
Green Mountain Farm-to-School (GMFTS)	ImpactHumanity Inc.
Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities	Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers (IVCG)
Grove Christian Outreach Center	Intervale Center
Grow Food Northampton	Iowa Food Hub
Grow Pittsburgh	Iowa Valley RC&D
Growing Gardens	Island Harvest Food Bank
Growing Home	Iskashitaa Refugee Network
Gunnison Country Food Pantry	Japanese Ancestral Society of Portland / Ikoi no Kai
Hall Hunger Initiative (HHI)	Jewels Outreach & Networking, Inc
Harvest Against Hunger	Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven Food Pantry
Harvest Home Farmer's Market Inc.	Jo Daviess Local Foods
Harvesters--The Community Food Network	Kaizen Food Rescue
Hayward Unified School District	Kentucky Council of Churches
Head Start of Lane County	Kentucky Equal Justice Center (KEJC)
Healdsburg Unified School District	Kingsbury County Food Pantry
Healthy Acadia	La Colaborativa
Healthy Harvest of North Iowa	Lakeshore Food Club
Healthy Kids Inc.	Leverett Elementary School
Hearts and Hands Food Pantry	Lift Urban Portland (Lift UP)
Hilltown Market	Littleton Public Schools
	Local Environmental Agriculture Project

Local Iowa Food Empowerment (L.I.F.E.) 5b	Mountain View School District
Locker Project	Mt. Mansfield Unified Union School District
Lopez Island Family Resource Center	Myrtle Point School District
Louisville Grows	Native Health
Louisville Senior Services	Neighborhood Food Action Collaborative
Lulus Local Food	Neighborhood House
Lutheran Social Service of Utah	New Community Project and Vine & Fig
Manna Harvest	New Growth Missouri
Meeting Essential Needs with Dignity Inc. (MEND)	North Coast Food Web
Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program (MCHPP)	North Valley Food Bank
Milan Special School District	North Coast Opportunities
Milk Crate Kitchen	North End Wellness Coalition
Millbrae Elementary School District	Northampton Survival Center
Mineral Springs Improvement Council Inc. (MSIC)	Northwest Food Coalition
Minority Veteran Farmers of the Piedmont	Northwest Indiana Food Council
Mission West Community Development Partners	Northwestern Michigan College Student Food Pantry
Montana Land to Hand	Nourish Colorado
Monte Rio Union Elementary School	Nuestras Raices Inc.
Monterey Peninsula Unified School District	OKC Food Hub
Morgan Hill Unified School District	Old Bedford Village
Mount Hope Recovery Center Food Pantry	Oregon Food Bank
Mountaineer Food Bank Inc.	Operation Spring Plant Inc. (OSP)
Mountain Resource Center	Orchard Community Learning Center
Mountain Roots Food Project	Osborn School District
	OtterBee's Market
	Our Core Inc.

Our Kitchen Table	Riceville Community School District
Parktown Food Hub	Ridge Fridge Grocer & Grange
Partnership for Providence Parks, Recreation Centers, and Streetscapes (P3)	Rio School District
Paso Robles Joint Unified School District	Roadrunner Food Bank
Pender County Christian Services Inc. (PCCS)	RiseBoro Community Partnership
People Affecting Community Change Global (PACC)	Riverside Community Schools
Philabundance	Rolling Harvest Food Rescue
Piedmont Fresh	Root Causes' Fresh Produce Program
Pinnacle Prevention	Rooted Inc.
Pittsburgh Food Policy Council	Russo Produce Co. Inc.
Portland Fruit Tree Project	Sacramento City Unified School District
Poway Unified School District	Sage Mountain Botanical Sanctuary
Prairie City School District #4	San Luis Coastal Unified School District Food
ProduceGood	San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition
Pueblo Food Project	San Marcos Unified School District Child Nutrition Services
Putney Central Pre-K, Elementary and Middle School	San Ramon Valley Unified School District
Ravalli County Economic Development Authority	Second Harvest Food Bank
RavenHook Bakehouse	Sauvie Island School (SIS)
REAP Food Group	Seed Change Strategies
Reconciliation House	Seedleaf
Redmond School District	Seven Generations Ahead
RESET INC	Share the Table Inc.
Rhode Island Farm & Sea to School Network	Shrimp Studio
	Sierra Harvest
	Skagit Gleaners
	Smoky Mountain Harm Reduction

Somali Bantu Community Association (SBCA)	The Food Depot
Soul Fire Farm Institute Inc.	The Food Group
Soup-n-Share Outreach (SNSOP)	The Food Trust
Southeast Asian Coalition of Central Massachusetts	The GrowHaus
Southside Community Land Trust	The Help Center NC
Springfield Food Policy Council	The Marion Institute Inc.
Sprout Minnesota	The Nashville Food Project
St. Joseph Catholic School	The Neighborhood Food Action Collaborative (NFAC)
St. Patrick Catholic School	The Nutrition Center
Standingcloud Fisheries	The Salvation Army
Streams of Hope	The Table
SupplyChange	The Urban Health Collaborative (TUHC)
Sustainable Hville	The Village School
Sustainable Nantucket Mentor Farmer Program	Three In One Family Center
Tabitha's Way Local Food Pantry	Thumb Blessing Boxes
Table to Table	Thumb Food Policy Council
Tahoe Truckee Unified School District	Toxic Free North Carolina
Tall Grass Food Box	Trenton Special School District
Ten Rivers Food Web (TFRW)	Tri-County Community Action Agency (Health Equity Zone-HEZ)
Tepeyac Inc.	Trimble County School Nutrition
The BIPOC Rise Moor Healing Center	Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
The Bless Cookies Community Network	Trinity Lutheran School CR
The Campaign Against Hunger	TrueNorth Community Services
The Community Pantry	Tucson CSA
The Family Pantry-Damien's Place	Ulster Immigrant Defense Network (UIDN)
	University of Minnesota

UpRoot Colorado	West Contra Costa Unified School District
Urban Community AgriNomics (UCAN)	Western Colorado Alliance
Urban Outreach Center	Western North Carolina From the Ground Up
Vashon Island School District	Westminster Presbyterian Church - Downtown Food Pantry
VeggieLution	Windham Southeast Supervisory Union
Vermont FEED	Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union
Vietnamese American Initiative for Development (VietAID)	Women of Color Farmers Network
WACO Community Schools	WSU Extension Clallam County
We Care of Pulaski County	YMCA of Greater Boston

**Testimony of Deputy Under Secretary for Research, Education, & Economics
Scott Hutchins
U.S. Department of Agriculture before the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry
Agricultural Research and 2018 Farm Bill Implementation**

Good morning. Chairman Roberts, Ranking Member Stabenow and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you all today to discuss agricultural research and implementation of related provisions in the 2018 Farm Bill. The Research, Education, & Economics (REE) Mission Area at USDA is an incredible team and powerful force for the good of U.S. Agriculture – we have fantastic success stories each and every day, and I appreciate the opportunity to share a few of those with you today, as well as inform you on the progress we have made in the implementation of the 2018 Farm Bill.

The REE Mission Area is comprised of four agencies; the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the Economic Research Service (ERS), the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Each of these agencies provide services that are critical to the well being of the American agriculture system- provider of the most affordable, abundant, and safe supply of food and fiber in the world.

ARS

The Agricultural Research Service is United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) primary intramural research agency. ARS has approximately 2,000 scientists and post-doctoral researchers and 6,000 additional staff supporting around 690 research projects over 90 locations. These researchers produce an immense output of scientific and technical knowledge. ARS scientists produced over 4,500 peer-reviewed journal articles in 2018 alone. Without a doubt,

ARS has produced, and continues to produce, a wide range of scientific breakthroughs that benefit U.S. Producers and Consumers.

Among these are a new bio-based insect repellent that uses fatty acids derived from coconut oil to ward off blood-sucking insects that cost the cattle industry more than \$2.4 billion annually, a test strip for major foodborne pathogens that reduces testing time from 24-72 hours to about 30 minutes, and a new insecticide for use on the fruit fly – methyl benzoate.

As you know, ARS is one of the two USDA agencies, along with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), responsible for the stand up and management of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF). NBAF will be a state-of-the-art science facility whose capability will ensure the U.S. is best prepared for threats to agricultural and food security. Recently USDA signed a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to enable the transfer of responsibilities for this facility to USDA.

ERS

The Economic Research Service continues to be a trusted source of high-quality and objective economic research to inform and enhance public and private decision making. ERS research covers a range of topics which fit generally into six buckets: Agricultural Economy, Food and Nutrition, Food Safety, Global Markets and Trade, Resources and Environment, and the Rural Economy. ERS reports provide information to decision makers across the Federal government. I personally request briefings on many reports and analysis of key topics and find them insightful and informative.

Recent ERS reports have highlighted trends in sales and development of veterinary antibiotics, a slowing of retail food price inflation, and food loss amounts at the farm level.

Additionally, ERS has provided studies showing the impact that agriculture has on the larger economy. For instance, ERS found that U.S. Agricultural Exports supported 1.2 million full time jobs in 2017.

NASS

The mission of the National Agricultural Statistics Service is to provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service of U.S. Agriculture. They conduct hundreds of surveys each year and produce reports on the entire agricultural sector, including production and supplies of food and fiber, prices paid and received by farmers, farm labor and wages, farm finances, chemical use, and changes in the demographics of U.S. Agriculture.

Earlier this year we were proud to have the opportunity to provide NASS's largest and most visible report, The Census of Agriculture. Conducted every five years, the Census of Agriculture provides a complete count of U.S. farms, ranches, and the people who operate them. The Census also looks at ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures.

Highlights from the 2017 Census include:

- One in four producers is a beginning farmer with 10 or fewer years of experience.
- Thirty-six percent of all producers are female, and 56 percent of all farms have at least one female decision maker.
- Ninety-six percent of farms and ranches are family owned.
- Farms with Internet access rose from 69.6 percent in 2012 to 75.4 percent in 2017.

NIFA

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture is USDA's extramural research agency, providing funding and leadership to support research, education, and extension programs that address national agricultural priorities. NIFA primarily does this through competitive and formula grants.

The competitive grant portion is comprised of different grant programs with the largest being the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). Because of AFRI, grants researchers across the country were able to conduct research and find solutions to problems that face our producers. For instance:

- Researchers at the University of Illinois found that cooperating with neighboring farmers to make decisions about how to manage herbicide-resistant weeds delays the spread of herbicide resistance. Corn and soybean producers in North America lose more than \$40 billion per year to herbicide resistance.
- Clemson University researchers are using new nutrient-management drone and camera technology to save up to \$54 per acre on cotton production.
- Fellow entomologists at my Alma Mater, Auburn University, have discovered a wasp that may help soybean producers and other farmers in the Southeast rid their fields of the invasive pest known as the kudzu bug, enabling them to produce more crops and see higher yields.
- And researchers at Kansas State University are using the gene editing tool CRISPR to improve the wheat genes that control several yield component traits, such as seed size and the number of seeds per plant.

Formula grants are grants that go to land-grant universities to support them in conducting agricultural research and extension. While much of this funding is used to support research projects similar to those conducted on the competitive grant side, formula funding is also used to support the basic research and extension infrastructure needed to disseminate knowledge and provide training to individuals in a variety of ways.

One example of this is at North Carolina State University, where extension professionals and volunteers provided 13,000 educational programs to 1.9 million residents. Their efforts improved the health and well-being of 115,000 North Carolinians through food and nutrition programs, prepared more than 263,000 youth through 4-H programs, and provided \$300 million of economic impact to the state.

However, it is not just farmers and ranchers who benefit from these programs. There are millions of family caregivers and more than 80 percent of them feel they don't have the information or training they need. With a NIFA formula grant, Family & Consumer Sciences educators from Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension have developed a comprehensive health education curriculum that includes lessons in proper nutrition, aging and finances, and prevention of elder abuse and exploitation.

An additional aspect of NIFA is to support workforce development, including the 4-H organization. In 2018, NIFA-funded programs supported 104,149 students through recruitment/retention, curriculum development, and faculty development. Through 4-H, NIFA supports a new generation of community leaders.

Office of the Chief Scientist

In addition to serving as Deputy Under Secretary, I oversee the Office of the Chief Scientist. The Office of the Chief Scientist supports scientific prioritization and coordination across the entire Department and regularly convenes the USDA Science Council. The council facilitates cross-Departmental scientific coordination and collaboration, and ensures research supported by and scientific advice provided to the Department and its stakeholders is held to the highest standards of intellectual rigor and scientific integrity.

Recent media reports of suppression of climate change research simply could not be further from the truth. USDA has no policy, no practice, and no intent to minimize, discredit, de-emphasize, or otherwise influence the excellent climate-based science of any agency or partner institution. We support the work done by our scientists in this area of our research. Tools such as USDA's Climate Hubs and the Long-Term Agroecosystem Research (LTAR) Network communicate climate research *directly* to the producers these changes most directly impact. Additionally, the National Climate Hub Coordinator compiles a quarterly report that provides information on publications, outreach events, and technical support. We are fully committed to supporting research that ensures U.S. producers will be able to adapt to a changing climate, even as we develop and advocate for a wide range of sustainable intensification practices that will help mitigate any contribution from agriculture to the broader core issues of greenhouse gas emissions.

2018 Farm Bill Implementation

REE held a special listening session on March 21, 2019 to begin the process of Farm Bill implementation, with all REE leadership present. While each of the four REE agencies and the Office of the Chief Scientist were included in the Farm Bill, the vast majority of the provisions pertain to NIFA. Thus far, NIFA has:

- Published the Request for Applications (RFA) for the Organic agriculture research and extension initiative (OREI).
- Published the updated matching requirements chart and indirect cost chart on its website and sent an update to all stakeholders.
- Published the RFA for The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) component of the Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach.
- Published a Federal Register Notice regarding new Non Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture certification process. Currently, NIFA has certified 39 Non Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture using the updated definition.
- Held multiple listening sessions and webinars for feedback on how to best implement the new 1890 Scholarship program.
- Provided guidance to 1890 universities regarding the change to carryover of funds for extension at these institutions.
- Published the RFA for the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (Formally known as FINI)

ERS/NIFA

In August 2018, Secretary Perdue announced that the Department would be relocating both the Economic Research Service (ERS) and the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) outside of the National Capital Region. We believe this decision will improve USDA's future ability to attract and consistently retain highly qualified staff with training and interests in agriculture from numerous land-grant universities to complement the current talented staff, to place these important USDA resources closer to many of our stakeholders and to benefit the American taxpayer. Following a rigorous site selection process, on June 13, 2019, the Secretary

announced the final selection of the Kansas City Region as the new home for these agencies. A short driving distance from multiple land-grant and research universities, Kansas City is a vibrant urban center in the heartland of America and a growing agriculture hub. It is also already home to a considerable Federal workforce, including a significant presence of USDA employees and the Kansas City 'Ag Bank' Federal Reserve. Potential savings will allow more funding for research of critical needs like rural prosperity and agricultural competitiveness, and for programs and employees to be retained in the long run, especially in the face of tightening budgets.

As a result of this move, no ERS or NIFA employee will be involuntarily separated. Every employee who wants to continue working in their position will have an opportunity to do so, although that will mean moving to a new location for most. Employees will be offered relocation assistance and will receive the same base pay as before in tandem with the locality pay for the new location.

The work of NIFA and ERS is essential, and we know that our employees are our most valuable asset. ERS and NIFA leadership, under the direction of the REE Mission Area, are working diligently to implement this transition efficiently and with minimal disruption to our employees and mission critical work.

In conclusion, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to highlight some of the fantastic research being done in the Research, Education, & Economics mission area, provide an update on the status of Farm Bill Implementation as well as address some specific topics of interest. Thank you for your continued support of this vital aspect of the services USDA provides in our quest to "Do Right and Feed Everyone." I look forward to answering your questions and I thank you for the unwavering bipartisan support that this Committee has always shown for Agriculture and Agricultural research and innovation.

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, & FORESTRY
Questions for Executive Nominees
119th Congress: Part I

1. Basic Biographical Information

Please provide the following information.

<i>Position to Which You Have Been Nominated</i>	
<u>Name of Position</u>	<u>Date of Nomination</u>
Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs	01/20/2025

<i>Current Legal Name</i>			
<u>First Name</u>	<u>Middle Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Suffix</u>
Dudley	Whitworth	Hoskins	

<i>Addresses</i>					
<u>Residential Address</u> (do not include street address)			<u>Office Address</u> (include street address)		
			Street: 2 Constitution Ave NE		
City: Washington	State: DC	Zip: 20003	City: Washington	State: DC	Zip: 20002

<i>Other Names Used – N/A</i>						
<u>First Name</u>	<u>Middle Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Suffix</u>	Check if Maiden Name	<u>Name Used From</u> (Year) (Check box if estimate)	<u>Name Used To</u> (Month/Year) (Check box if estimate)
					Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/>
					Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/>

<i>Birth Year and Place</i>	
Year of Birth (Do not include month and day.)	Place of Birth
1978	Houston, Texas

<i>Marital Status</i>					
Check All That Describe Your Current Situation:					
Never Married	Married	Separated	Annulled	Divorced	Widowed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<i>Spouse's Name (current spouse only)</i>			
<u>Spouse's First Name</u>	<u>Spouse's Middle Name</u>	<u>Spouse's Last Name</u>	<u>Spouse's Suffix</u>
Jessica	Brooke	Morse	

<i>Spouse's Other Names Used (current spouse only) – N/A</i>						
<u>First Name</u>	<u>Middle Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Suffix</u>	Check if Maiden Name	<u>Name Used From</u> (Year) (Check box if estimate)	<u>Name Used To</u> (Month/Year) (Check box if estimate)
					Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/>
					Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/>

<i>Children's Names (if over 18) – N/A</i>			
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Suffix

2. Education

List all post-secondary schools attended.

<u>Name of School</u>	<u>Type of School</u> (vocational/technical/trade school, college/university/military college, correspondence/distance/extension/online school)	<u>Date Began School</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate)	<u>Date Ended School</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check "present" box if still in school)	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Date Awarded</u>
Tulane University	University	08/1997 <input type="checkbox"/> Est	12/2002 <input type="checkbox"/> Est <input type="checkbox"/> Present	BSM	12/2002
Texas Wesleyan University School of Law (<i>now Texas A&M University School of Law</i>)	Law School	08/2004 <input type="checkbox"/> Est	12/2007 <input type="checkbox"/> Est <input type="checkbox"/> Present	JD	12/2007

3. Employment

(A) In reverse chronological order, list all of your employment activities, including unemployment and self-employment. If the employment activity was military duty, list separate employment activity periods to show each change of military duty station. Do not list employment before your 18th birthday unless to provide a minimum of two years of employment history.

Type of Employment (Active Military Duty Station, National Guard/Reserve, USPHS Commissioned Corps, Other Federal employment, State Government (Non-Federal Employment), Self-employment, Unemployment, Federal Contractor, Non-Government Employment (excluding self-employment), Other)	Name of Your Employer/Assigned Duty Station	Most Recent Position Title/Rank	Location (City and State only)	Date Employment Began (month/year) (check box if estimate)	Date Employment Ended (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check "present" box if still employed)
Other Federal Employment	U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry	Senior Professional Staff & Counsel	Washington, DC	02/2021 Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other Federal Employment	U.S. Department of Agriculture/NCR	Senior Advisor to the Secretary	Washington, DC	10/2017 Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present 01/2021 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Government Employment	National Association of State Departments of Agriculture	Public Policy Counsel	Arlington, VA	11/2013 Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present 09/2017 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Government Employment	Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment	Manager, Regulatory Policy	Arlington, VA	08/2012 Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present 10/2013 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Government Employment	American Horse Council	Director of Health and Regulatory Affairs	Washington, DC	12/2009 Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present 08/2012 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Government Employment	Adams & Grayson	Contract Attorney Document Reviewer	N/A	08/2009 Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present 11/2009 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Internship	U.S. Senate office of David Vitter (R-LA)	Intern	Washington, DC	01/2009 Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present 07/2009 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Unemployment/Other	Full time law school, pro bono work for the Combined Law Enforcement of Texas, and bar exam	N/A	Fort Worth, TX	09/2007 Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present 12/2008 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Government Employment	Law Office of William K. Berenson	Law Clerk	Fort Worth, TX	09/2004 Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Est Present 09/2007 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Unemployment	N/A	N/A	Houston, TX	12/2003	Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est 08/2004	Present <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Government Employment	McDermott International	Internal Audit Associate and Treasury Department Associate	New Orleans, LA	09/2002	Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est 11/2003	Present <input type="checkbox"/>
Unemployment/Other	Full time student	N/A	New Orleans, LA	01/2001	Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est 09/2002	Present <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Government Employment	AG Dillard Construction	Laborer	Charlotte sville, VA	09/2000	Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est 12/2000	Present <input type="checkbox"/>
Unemployment/Other	Full time student	N/A	New Orleans, LA	09/1998	Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est 08/2000	Present <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Government Employment	Foley Fish Market	Laborer	Boston, MA	06/1998	Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est 08/1998	Present <input type="checkbox"/>

(B) List any advisory, consultative, honorary or other part-time service or positions with federal, state, or local governments, not listed elsewhere.

<u>Name of Government Entity</u>	<u>Name of Position</u>	<u>Date Service Began</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate)	<u>Date Service Ended</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check "present" box if still serving)
U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission	Agricultural Advisory Committee	Est 2014 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Est 2015 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/>
		Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/>
		Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/>

(C) List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other for profit or nonprofit organization that is not otherwise listed in response to question 3(A). –
N/A

<u>Name of Entity</u>	<u>Name of Position</u>	<u>Date Service Began</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate)	<u>Date Service Ended</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check "present" box if still serving)
		Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/>

		Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Present <input type="checkbox"/>
		Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Present <input type="checkbox"/>

(D) Please submit a copy of your resume with this questionnaire.

Copy attached.

4. Honors and Awards

List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, civilian service citations, military medals, academic or professional honors, honorary society memberships and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievement. – *N/A*

5. Memberships

List all memberships that you have held in professional, social, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, or charitable organizations in the last 10 years.

Unless relevant to your nomination, you do NOT need to include memberships in charitable organizations available to the public as a result of a tax deductible donation of \$1,000 or less, parent-teacher associations or other organizations connected to schools attended by your children, athletic clubs or teams, automobile support organizations (such as AAA), discounts clubs (such as Groupon or Sam's Club), or affinity memberships/consumer clubs (such as frequent flyer memberships).

<u>Name of Organization</u>	<u>Dates of Your Membership</u> (You may approximate.)	<u>Position(s) Held</u>
State Bar of Texas	04/2009 - present	Licensed Attorney
116 th Club	2021 – present	Member
Arkansas Farm Bureau	2022 - 2023	Member
Agribusiness Club of Washington DC	2014 – 09/2017	Member
American Agricultural Law Association	2015 – 2016	Member

6. Political Activity

(A) Have you ever been a candidate for or been elected or appointed to a political office? **No**

☐ Yes ☒ No (If yes, please complete the chart below)

<u>Name of Office</u>	<u>Elected/Appointed/ Candidate Only</u>	<u>Year(s) Election Held or Appointment Made</u>	<u>Term of Service (if applicable)</u>

(B) List any offices held in or services rendered, including volunteer services, to a political party or election committee during the last 10 years that you have not listed elsewhere. – **N/A**

<u>Name of Party/Election Committee</u>	<u>Office/Services Rendered</u>	<u>Responsibilities</u>	<u>Dates of Service</u>

(C) Itemize all individual political contributions of \$200 or more that you have made in the past five years to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity. Please list each individual contribution and not the total amount contributed to the person or entity during the year. – *N/A*

<u>Name of Recipient</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Year of Contribution</u>

7. Publications and Speeches

(A) List the titles, publishers and dates of books, articles, reports or other published materials that you have written, including articles published on the Internet. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the publication via email if available. Please list all required publications even if no copy of the publication is available to provide. – *N/A*

<u>Title</u>	<u>Publisher</u>	<u>Date(s) of Publication</u>

(B) List any formal speeches or presentations you have delivered during the last 10 years relevant to the position to which you have been nominated, and all speeches/presentations you have delivered related to any topic for the last five years. Include any testimony to Congress or any other legislative or administrative body. Include a link to each speech when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the publication via email if available. Please list all known required speeches even if no copy is available to provide.

<u>Title/Topic</u>	<u>Place/Audience</u>	<u>Date(s) of Speech</u>
NASDA Worker Protection Standards Panel	Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (https://aapco.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/nasda_wps-panel_aapco_03-07-17.pdf)	03/2017
NASDA Overview	Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (https://aapco.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/nasda_overview_bg-2016-aapco_final-03-04-16.pdf)	03/2016

8. Lobbying

In the past 10 years, have you registered as a lobbyist? **No**. If so, please indicate the state, federal, or local bodies with which you have registered (e.g., House, Senate, California Secretary of State). – **N/A**

9. Digital Platforms

Please list all digital platforms (including social media and other digital content sites) on which you currently operate, or have formerly operated, an account, regardless of whether the account was held in your name or an alias. Include the full “alias” or “handle”, including a link to each account if possible. Indicate whether the account is active, deleted, or dormant.

Facebook: Dudley Hoskins (active): <https://www.facebook.com/dudley.hoskins>

X (formerly Twitter): @dwhoskins1 (active): <https://x.com/dwhoskins1>

LinkedIn: Dudley Hoskins: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/dudley-hoskins-b5260112/>

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF
GOVERNMENT ETHICS

April 10, 2025

The Honorable John Boozman
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, I enclose a copy of the financial disclosure report filed by Dudley Hoskins, who has been nominated by President Trump for the position of Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture.

We have reviewed the report and have obtained advice from the agency concerning any possible conflict in light of its functions and the nominee's proposed duties. Also enclosed is an ethics agreement outlining the actions that the nominee will undertake to avoid conflicts of interest. Unless a date for compliance is indicated in the ethics agreement, the nominee must fully comply within three months of confirmation with any action specified in the ethics agreement.

Based thereon, we believe that this nominee is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing conflicts of interest.

Sincerely,

SETH JAFFE

Digitally signed by SETH JAFFE
Date: 2025.04.10 08:35:26
+04'00'

Seth Jaffe
Chief, Ethics Law and Policy Branch

Enclosures



April 8, 2025

Stuart Bender
Director, Office of Ethics
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 347-W
Washington, DC 20250-1400

Dear Mr. Bender:

The purpose of this letter is to describe the steps that I will take to avoid any actual or apparent conflict of interest in the event that I am confirmed for the position of Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs of the Department of Agriculture. It is my responsibility to understand and comply with commitments outlined in this agreement.

SECTION 1 – GENERAL COMMITMENTS

As required by the criminal conflicts of interest law at 18 U.S.C. § 208(a), I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter in which I know that I have a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the matter, or in which I know that a person whose interests are imputed to me has a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the particular matter, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2). I understand that the interests of the following persons are imputed to me:

- Any spouse or minor child of mine;
- Any general partner of a partnership in which I am a limited or general partner;
- Any organization in which I serve as an officer, director, trustee, general partner, or employee, even if uncompensated; and
- Any person or organization with which I am negotiating or have an arrangement concerning prospective employment.

In the event that an actual or potential conflict of interest arises during my appointment, I will consult with an agency ethics official and take the measures necessary to resolve the conflict, such as recusal from the particular matter or divestiture of an asset.

If I have a managed account or otherwise use the services of an investment professional during my appointment, I will ensure that the account manager or investment professional obtains my prior approval on a case-by-case basis for the purchase of any assets other than cash, cash equivalents, investment funds that qualify for the regulatory exemption for diversified mutual funds and unit investment trusts at 5 C.F.R. § 2640.201(a), obligations of the United States, or municipal bonds.

I will receive a live ethics briefing from a member of the ethics office after my confirmation but not later than 15 days after my appointment pursuant to the ethics program

regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2638.305. Within 90 days of my confirmation, I will submit my Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance which documents my compliance with this ethics agreement.

I will not modify this ethics agreement without your approval and the approval of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) pursuant to the ethics agreement requirements contained in the financial disclosure regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2634.803(a)(4).

SECTION 2 – DE MINIMIS EXEMPTION

If I rely on a *de minimis* exemption under 5 C.F.R. § 2640.202 with regard to any of my financial interests in securities, I will monitor the value of those interests. If the aggregate value of interests affected by a particular matter increases and exceeds the *de minimis* threshold, I will not participate personally and substantially in the particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the interests, unless I first obtain a written waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1).

SECTION 3 – SPOUSAL EMPLOYMENT

My spouse is employed by the American Feed Industry Association, in a position for which she receives a fixed annual salary and a bonus tied to her performance. Pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, for as long as my spouse continues to work for the American Feed Industry Association, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know the American Feed Industry Association, is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

SECTION 4 – PUBLIC POSTING

I have been advised that this ethics agreement and the Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance will be posted publicly, consistent with the public information law at 5 U.S.C. § 552, on the website of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics with ethics agreements of other presidential nominees who file public financial disclosure reports.

Sincerely,



Dudley Hoskins

Report Type: Nominee Report
Year (Annual Report only):
Date of Appointment:
Date of Termination:

Executive Branch Personnel
Public Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 278e)

Filer's Information

Hoskins, Dudley

Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture

Other Federal Government Positions Held During the Preceding 12 Months:

Senior Professional Staff & Counsel, U.S. Senate on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry (2/2021 - Present)

Names of Congressional Committees Considering Nomination:

- Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Electronic Signature - I certify that the statements I have made in this form are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ Hoskins, Dudley [electronically signed on 02/28/2025 by Hoskins, Dudley in Integrity.gov]

Agency Ethics Official's Opinion - On the basis of information contained in this report, I conclude that the filer is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations (subject to any comments below).

/s/ Bender, Stuart, Certifying Official [electronically signed on 04/09/2025 by Bender, Stuart in Integrity.gov]

Other review conducted by

U.S. Office of Government Ethics Certification
/s/ Jaffe, Seth, Certifying Official [electronically signed on 04/10/2025 by Jaffe, Seth in Integrity.gov]

Comments of Reviewing Officials (public annotations):

PART	#	REFERENCE	COMMENT
N/A	N/A	General	(03/27/2025, Bender, Stuart): U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) regulations require a \$200 late filing fee because the filer filed two days after the end of OGE's grace period. However, in accordance with OGE's regulations at 5 C.F.R. § 2634.704(b)(1), USDA's Designated Agency Ethics Official is waiving the late filing fee because the delay was due to circumstances outside of the filer's control.

1. Filer's Positions Held Outside United States Government

None

2. Filer's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	National Association of State Departments of Agriculture 401K	No			
1.1	Capitol Group American Funds 2045 Target Date-Class R3	Yes	\$50,001 - \$100,000		None (or less than \$201)

3. Filer's Employment Agreements and Arrangements

#	EMPLOYER OR PARTY	CITY, STATE	STATUS AND TERMS	DATE
1	National Association of State Departments of Agriculture	Arlington, Virginia	I will continue to participate in the defined contribution plan. The plan sponsor ceased my contributions at my separation.	11/2013

4. Filer's Sources of Compensation Exceeding \$5,000 in a Year

None

5. Spouse's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	American Feed Industry Association	N/A		Salary	
2	Ascensus Traditional IRA	No			
2.1	Lincoln Stable Value ATC FO	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3	Royal Bank of Canada IRA	No			
3.1	Hartford Equity Income Fund Class C Shares (HQICX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
4	Royal Bank of Canada Roth IRA	No			
4.1	3M Co. (MMM)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
4.2	Hartford Schroders US MidCap Opportunities Fund Class A Shares (SMDVX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
4.3	Dow, Inc. (DOW)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
4.4	Johnson & Johnson (JNJ)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
4.5	Microsoft Corp. (MSFT)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
4.6	Olin Corp. (OLN)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
4.7	Hartford Schroders US MidCap Opportunities Fund Class A Shares (SMDVX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
4.8	Uit Ft Elite Earnings Growth	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
4.9	Uit Ft Vest Small Cap	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
5	American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) (401(k)) Profit sharing plan	No			

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
5.1	American Funds 2045 Target Date Retirement Fund Class R6 Sits (RPHIX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
6	U.S. bank (cash account)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
7	DuPont de Nemours, Inc. (DD)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
8	Solvantum Corporation (SOLV)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
9	Target Corp. (TGT)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)

6. Other Assets and Income

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	U.S. bank (cash account)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
2	Brokerage Account #1	No			
2.1	AT&T	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000	Dividends	\$201 - \$1,000
2.2	Bridge Investment Group Holdings Inc. Class A Common Stock (BRDG)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000	Dividends	None (or less than \$201)
2.3	Comcast Corp. (CMCSA)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000	Dividends	None (or less than \$201)
2.4	Lumen Technologies Inc. Common Stock (LUMN)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
2.5	NCR Atleos Corporation (NATL)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
2.6	Ncr Voyix Corporation (VYX)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
2.7	Nokia Corporation Sponsored American Depositary Shares (NOK)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
2.8	Teradata Corp. (TDC)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
2.9	Verizon Communications, Inc. (VZ)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000	Dividends	\$201 - \$1,000
2.10	Vodafone Group Plc American Depositary Shares (VOD)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
2.11	Warner Bros. Discovery Inc. Series A Common Stock (WBD)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.12	Hartford Equity Income Fund Class A Shares (HQAAX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3	Brokerage Account #2	No			
3.1	AeroVironment, Inc. (AVAV)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3.2	Agilon health inc. Common Stock (AGL)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3.3	Alamos Gold Inc. Class A Common Shares (AGI)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.4	Amazon.com, Inc. (AMZN)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.5	Arcutis Biotherapeutics Inc. Common Stock (ARQT)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.6	Aritzia Inc Common Shares (ATZAF)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.7	AYA Gold & Silver Common Shares (AYASF)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
3.8	Arvinas, Inc. (ARVN)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.9	BridgeBio Pharma, Inc. (BBIO)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.10	Bumble Inc. Class A Common Stock (BMBL)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3.11	Bunker Hill Mining Corp Com New ISN (BHLL)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.12	Calix, Inc. (CALX)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.13	Chart Industries, Inc. (GTLS)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.14	Cloudflare Inc. Class A Common Stock (NET)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.15	Core Natural Resources Inc Common Shares (CNR)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.16	Diversified Energy Company PLC ORD	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.17	DR ING F.Porsche AG PFD ISIN (DRPRF)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3.18	Eli Lilly & Co. (LLY)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.19	Embraer S.A. Common Stock (ERJ)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.20	Endeavour Mining PLC ORD USD0.01 ISIN (EDVMF)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.21	Enovix Corporation Common Stock (ENVX)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
3.22	Enphase Energy, Inc. (ENPH)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.23	The Ensign Group, Inc. (ENSG)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3.24	Evolus, Inc. (EOLS)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.25	First Watch Restaurant Group Inc. Common Stock (FWRG)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.26	Glaukos Corp. (GKOS)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.27	i-80 Gold Corp. Common Shares (IAUX)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.28	Illumina, Inc. (ILMN)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3.29	Janux Therapeutics Inc. Common Stock (JANX)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.30	Klaviyo Inc COM SER A	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3.31	Knife River Corp Common Stock	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.32	Kohl's Corp. (KSS)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3.33	Komit Digital Ltd. Ordinary Shares (KRNT)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.34	Kymera Therapeutics Inc. Common Stock (KYMR)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.35	K92 MNG INC COM NPV ISIN	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
3.36	LGI Homes, Inc. (LGIH)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.37	LOAR Holdings Inc. Common Shares (LOAR)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3.38	Lucid Group Inc. Common Stock (LCID)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3.39	lululemon athletica, Inc. (LULU)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3.40	MAG Silver Corporation Ordinary Shares (MAG)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.41	Magnolia Oil & Gas Corp. (MGY)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.42	Marqeta Inc. Class A Common Stock (MQ)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.43	Martin Marietta Materials, Inc. (MLM)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.44	Medifast, Inc. (MED)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3.45	Micron Technology, Inc. (MU)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.46	Murphy USA, Inc. (MUSA)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.47	Natera, Inc. (NTRA)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.48	Navitas Semiconductor Corporation Common Stock (NVTX)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3.49	Netflix, Inc. (NFLX)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
3.50	NuScale Power Corporation Class A Common Stock (SMR)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3.51	OKLO Inc Common Class A (OKLO)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3.52	Omega Healthcare Investors, Inc. (OHI)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3.53	Oscar Health Inc. Class A Common Stock (OSCR)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.54	Oxford Industries, Inc. (OXIM)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3.55	Quanta Services, Inc. (PWR)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.56	QuantumScape Corporation Class A Common Stock (QS)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3.57	Savers Value VLG Inc. COM (SVV)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3.58	Servicetitan Inc. Class A Shares (SVV)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.59	SoundHound AI Inc Class A Common Stock (SOUN)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3.60	Starbucks Corp. (SBUX)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3.61	Suncor Energy Inc. Common Stock (SU)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.62	Sweetgreen Inc. Class A Common Stock (SG)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.63	Tesla, Inc. (TSLA)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
3.64	Ulta Beauty, Inc. (ULTA)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3.65	Veeva Systems, Inc. (VEEV)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3.66	Verses AI Inc. Subordinate Voting Shares	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.67	ViaSat, Inc. (VSAT)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3.68	Warby Parker Inc. Class A Common Stock (WRBY)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.69	Wayfair, Inc. (W)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)

7. Transactions

(N/A) - Not required for this type of report

8. Liabilities

#	CREDITOR NAME	TYPE	AMOUNT	YEAR INCURRED	RATE	TERM
1	Chase bank	Credit Card	\$15,001 - \$50,000	2024	20.24%	revolving
2	Netnet	Student Loan	\$100,001 - \$250,000	2005	3.5	20 years

9. Gifts and Travel Reimbursements

(N/A) - Not required for this type of report

Endnotes

Summary of Contents

1. Filer's Positions Held Outside United States Government

Part 1 discloses positions that the filer held at any time during the reporting period (excluding positions with the United States Government). Positions are reportable even if the filer did not receive compensation.

This section does not include the following: (1) positions with religious, social, fraternal, or political organizations; (2) positions solely of an honorary nature; (3) positions held as part of the filer's official duties with the United States Government; (4) mere membership in an organization; and (5) passive investment interests as a limited partner or non-managing member of a limited liability company.

2. Filer's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

Part 2 discloses the following:

- Sources of earned and other non-investment income of the filer totaling more than \$200 during the reporting period (e.g., salary, fees, partnership share, honoraria, scholarships, and prizes)
- Assets related to the filer's business, employment, or other income-generating activities (1) that ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) from which more than \$200 in income was received during the reporting period (e.g., equity in business or partnership, stock options, retirement plans/accounts and their underlying holdings as appropriate, deferred compensation, and intellectual property, such as book deals and patents)

This section does not include assets or income from United States Government employment or assets that were acquired separately from the filer's business, employment, or other income-generating activities (e.g., assets purchased through a brokerage account). Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF).

3. Filer's Employment Agreements and Arrangements

Part 3 discloses agreements or arrangements that the filer had during the reporting period with an employer or former employer (except the United States Government), such as the following:

- Future employment
- Leave of absence
- Continuing payments from an employer, including severance and payments not yet received for previous work (excluding ordinary salary from a current employer)
- Continuing participation in an employee welfare, retirement, or other benefit plan, such as pensions or a deferred compensation plan
- Retention or disposition of employer-awarded equity, sharing in profits or carried interests (e.g., vested and unvested stock options, restricted stock, future share of a company's profits, etc.)

4. Filer's Sources of Compensation Exceeding \$5,000 in a Year

Part 4 discloses sources (except the United States Government) that paid more than \$5,000 in a calendar year for the filer's services during any year of the reporting period.

The filer discloses payments both from employers and from any clients to whom the filer personally provided services. The filer discloses a source even if the source made its payment to the filer's employer and not to the filer. The filer does not disclose a client's payment to the filer's employer if the filer did not provide the services for which the client is paying.

5. Spouse's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

Part 5 discloses the following:

- Sources of earned income (excluding honoraria) for the filer's spouse totaling more than \$1,000 during the reporting period (e.g., salary, consulting fees, and partnership share)
- Sources of honoraria for the filer's spouse greater than \$200 during the reporting period
- Assets related to the filer's spouse's employment, business activities, other income-generating activities (1) that ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) from which more than \$200 in income was received during the reporting period (e.g., equity in business or partnership, stock options, retirement plans/accounts and their underlying holdings as appropriate, deferred compensation, and intellectual property, such as book deals and patents)

This section does not include assets or income from United States Government employment or assets that were acquired separately from the filer's spouse's business employment, or other income-generating activities (e.g., assets purchased through a brokerage account). Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF). Amounts of income are not required for a spouse's earned income (excluding honoraria).

6. Other Assets and Income

Part 6 discloses each asset, not already reported, (1) that ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) from which more than \$200 in investment income was received during the reporting period. For purposes of the value and income thresholds, the filer aggregates the filer's interests with those of the filer's spouse and dependent children.

This section does not include the following types of assets: (1) a personal residence (unless it was rented out during the reporting period); (2) income or retirement benefits associated with United States Government employment (e.g., Thrift Savings Plan); and (3) cash accounts (e.g., checking, savings, money market accounts) at a single financial institution with a value of \$5,000 or less (unless more than \$200 in income was received). Additional exceptions apply. Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF).

7. Transactions

Part 7 discloses purchases, sales, or exchanges of real property or securities in excess of \$1,000 made on behalf of the filer, the filer's spouse or dependent child during the reporting period.

This section does not include transactions that concern the following: (1) a personal residence, unless rented out; (2) cash accounts (e.g., checking, savings, CDs, money market accounts) and money market mutual funds; (3) Treasury bills, bonds, and notes; and (4) holdings within a federal Thrift Savings Plan account. Additional exceptions apply.

8. Liabilities

Part 8 discloses liabilities over \$10,000 that the filer, the filer's spouse or dependent child owed at any time during the reporting period.

This section does not include the following types of liabilities: (1) mortgages on a personal residence, unless rented out (note: certain PAS nominees and appointees are required to report all mortgages); (2) loans secured by a personal motor vehicle, household furniture, or appliances, unless the loan exceeds the item's purchase price; and (3) revolving charge accounts, such as credit card balances, if the outstanding liability did not exceed \$10,000 at the end of the reporting period. Additional exceptions apply.

9. Gifts and Travel Reimbursements

This section discloses:

- Gifts totaling more than \$480 that the filer, the filer's spouse, and dependent children received from any one source during the reporting period.
- Travel reimbursements totaling more than \$480 that the filer, the filer's spouse, and dependent children received from any one source during the reporting period.

For purposes of this section, the filer need not aggregate any gift or travel reimbursement with a value of \$192 or less. Regardless of the value, this section does not include the following items: (1) anything received from relatives; (2) anything received from the United States Government or from the District of Columbia, state, or local governments; (3) bequests and other forms of inheritance; (4) gifts and travel reimbursements given to the filer's agency in connection with the filer's official travel; (5) gifts of hospitality (food, lodging, entertainment) at the donor's residence or personal premises; and (6) anything received by the filer's spouse or dependent children totally independent of their relationship to the filer. Additional exceptions apply.

Privacy Act Statement

5 U.S.C. § 13101 et seq., and 5 C.F.R. Part 2634 of the U. S. Office of Government Ethics regulations require the reporting of this information. Failure to provide the requested information may result in separation, disciplinary action, or civil action. The primary use of the information on this report is for review by Government officials to determine compliance with applicable Federal laws and regulations. This report may also be disclosed upon request to any requesting person in accordance with 5 U.S.C. §§ 13107 and 13122(b)(1) or as otherwise authorized by law. You may inspect applications for public access of your own form upon request. Additional disclosures of the information on this report may be made: (1) to any requesting person, subject to the limitation contained in section 208(c)(1) of title 18, any determination granting an exemption pursuant to sections 208(b)(1) and 208(b)(3) of title 18; (2) to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency if the disclosing agency becomes aware of violations or potential violations of law or regulation; (3) to a source when necessary to obtain information relevant to a conflict of interest investigation or determination; (4) to the National Archives and Records Administration or the General Services Administration in records management inspections; (5) to the Office of Management and Budget during legislative coordination on private relief legislation; (6) when the disclosing agency determines that the records are arguably relevant to a proceeding before a court, grand jury, or administrative or adjudicative body, or in a proceeding before an administrative or adjudicative body when the adjudicator determines the records to be relevant to the proceeding; (7) to reviewing officials in a new office, department or agency when an employee transfers or is detailed from one covered position to another, a public financial disclosure report and any accompanying documents, including statements notifying an employee's supervising ethics office of the commencement of negotiations for future employment or compensation or of an agreement for future employment or compensation; (8) to a Member of Congress or a congressional office in response to an inquiry made on behalf of and at the request of an individual who is the subject of the record; (9) to contractors and other non-Government employees working on a contract, service or assignment for the Federal Government when necessary to accomplish a function related to this system of records; (10) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any written ethics agreement, including certifications of ethics agreement compliance, filed with OGE by an individual nominated by the President to a position requiring Senate confirmation; (11) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any certificate of divestiture issued by OGE; (12) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any waiver of the restrictions contained in Executive Order 13989 or any superseding executive order; (13) to appropriate agencies, entities and persons when there has been a suspected or confirmed breach of the system of records, the agency maintaining the records has determined that there is a risk of harm to individuals, the agency, the Federal Government, or national security, and the disclosure is reasonably necessary to assist in connection with the agency's efforts to respond to the suspected or confirmed breach or to prevent, minimize, or remedy such harm; and (14) to another Federal agency or Federal entity, when the agency maintaining the record determines that information from this system of records is reasonably necessary to assist the recipient agency or entity in responding to a suspected or confirmed breach or in preventing, minimizing, or remedying the risk of harm to individuals, the recipient agency or entity, the Federal Government, or national security. See also the OGE/GOVT-1 executive branch-wide Privacy Act system of records.

Public Burden Information

This collection of information is estimated to take an average of ten hours per response, including time for reviewing the instructions, gathering the data needed, and completing the form. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Program Counsel, U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) 250 E Street, S.W., Suite 750, Washington, DC 20024-3249.

Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act, as amended, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and no person is required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB (that control number 3209-0001, is displayed here and at the top of the first page of this OGE Form 278e).

May 19, 2025

The Honorable John Boozman, Chairman Committee on
Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar, Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boozman and Ranking Member Klobuchar:

The Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (the Act), as amended, provides that Presidential nominees for a position requiring the advice and consent of the Senate shall provide any necessary updates to their public financial disclosure report with respect to any outside earned income and honoraria received through the period ending no more than five days prior to the commencement of the Senate hearing of their nomination. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 13103(b)(1) and 5 C.F.R. § 2634.606(a).

Please be advised that I have informed the appropriate ethics officials that the information required by section 102(a)(1)(A) of the Act with respect to income and honoraria contained in OGE Form 278e (Executive Branch Public Financial Disclosure Report) executed by me on February 28, 2025, is current as of May 19, 2025. This date is within five days prior to the date of the hearing scheduled to consider my nomination.

Sincerely,



Dudley Hoskins

cc: Stuart Bender, Designated Agency Ethics Official and Director, USDA Office of Ethics

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, & FORESTRY
Questions for Executive Nominees
119th Congress: Part I

1. Basic Biographical Information

Please provide the following information.

<i>Position to Which You Have Been Nominated</i>	
<u>Name of Position</u>	<u>Date of Nomination</u>
Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics	02/11/2025

<i>Current Legal Name</i>			
<u>First Name</u>	<u>Middle Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Suffix</u>
Scott	Hasting	Hutchins	

<i>Addresses</i>					
<u>Residential Address</u> (do not include street address)			<u>Office Address</u> (include street address)		
			Street:		
City: Carmel	State: IN	Zip: 46032	City:	State:	Zip:

<i>Other Names Used</i>						
<u>First Name</u>	<u>Middle Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Suffix</u>	<small>Check if Maiden Name</small>	<u>Name Used From</u> (Year) (Check box if estimate)	<u>Name Used To</u> (Month/Year) (Check box if estimate)
					Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/>
					Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/>

<i>Birth Year and Place</i>	
Year of Birth (Do not include month and day.)	Place of Birth
1959	Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, USA

<i>Marital Status</i>					
Check All That Describe Your Current Situation:					
Never Married	Married	Separated	Annulled	Divorced	Widowed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<i>Spouse's Name</i> (current spouse only)			
<u>Spouse's First Name</u>	<u>Spouse's Middle Name</u>	<u>Spouse's Last Name</u>	<u>Spouse's Suffix</u>
Janet	Marie	Hutchins	

<i>Spouse's Other Names Used</i> (current spouse only)						
<u>First Name</u>	<u>Middle Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Suffix</u>	<div>Check if Maiden Name</div>	<u>Name Used From</u> (Year) (Check box if estimate)	<u>Name Used To</u> (Month/Year) (Check box if estimate)
Janet	Marie	Clark		X	1956 <div>Est <input type="checkbox"/></div>	06/1980 <div>Est <input type="checkbox"/></div>
					<div>Est <input type="checkbox"/></div>	<div>Est <input type="checkbox"/></div>

<i>Children's Names (if over 18)</i>			
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Suffix
Jamison	Scott	Hutchins	
Jacqueline	Marie	Gregg	
Brittany	Jean	Ballard	

2. Education

List all post-secondary schools attended.

<u>Name of School</u>	<u>Type of School</u> (vocational/technical/trade school, college/university/military college, correspondence/distance/extension/online school)	<u>Date Began School</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate)	<u>Date Ended School</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check "present" box if still in school)	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Date Awarded</u>
Auburn University	University	9/1977 <input type="checkbox"/> Est	3/1981 <input type="checkbox"/> Est <input type="checkbox"/> Present	B.S.	3/1981
Mississippi State University	University	6/1981 <input type="checkbox"/> Est	5/1983 <input type="checkbox"/> Est <input type="checkbox"/> Present	M.S.	5/1983
Iowa State University	University	5/1983 <input type="checkbox"/> Est	12/1987 <input type="checkbox"/> Est <input type="checkbox"/> Present	Ph.D.	12/1987
		<input type="checkbox"/> Est	<input type="checkbox"/> Est <input type="checkbox"/> Present		

3. Employment

(A) In reverse chronological order, list all of your employment activities, including unemployment and self-employment. If the employment activity was military duty, list separate employment activity periods to show each change of military duty station. Do not list employment before your 18th birthday unless to provide a minimum of two years of employment history.

<u>Type of Employment</u> (Active Military Duty Station, National Guard/Reserve, USPHS Commissioned Corps, Other Federal employment, State Government (Non-Federal Employment), Self-employment, Unemployment, Federal Contractor, Non-Government Employment (excluding self-employment), Other)	<u>Name of Your Employer/Assigned Duty Station</u>	<u>Most Recent Position Title/Rank</u>	<u>Location</u> (City and State only)	<u>Date Employment Began</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate)	<u>Date Employment Ended</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check "present" box if still employed)
Non-Government Employment	University of Nebraska, Department of Entomology	Adjunct Professor	Lincoln, NE	01/1997 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Est	<input type="checkbox"/> Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present
Self-Employment	Self/Home	Consultant/Owner	Carmel, Indiana	03/2021 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Est	<input type="checkbox"/> Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present
Government Employment	USDA/Washington, D.C.	Deputy Under Secretary, Research, Education, Economics (REE)	Washington, D.C.	1/2019 <input type="checkbox"/> Est	1/2021 <input type="checkbox"/> Est
Non-Government Employment	The Dow Chemical Company (Dow Agrosciences) (Note: Dow Chemical merged with DuPont to form DowDuPont and subsequently created Corteva™ AgriSciences)	Global R&D Leader, Dow Agrosciences	Indianapolis, IN	2016 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Est	11/2018 <input type="checkbox"/> Est
Non-Government Employment	The Dow Chemical Company (Dow Agrosciences)	Global R&D Leader for Crop Protection and Seeds Business Portfolio and Crop Protection R&D Function	Indianapolis, IN	9/2009 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Est	2016 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Est

Non-Government Employment	The Dow Chemical Company (Dow Agrosciences)	Global Leader for Crop Protection R&D	Indianapolis, IN	2006	Est □	8/2009	Est □
Non-Government Employment	The Dow Chemical Company (Dow Agrosciences)	Global Leader for Supply R&D	Indianapolis, IN	3/2004	Est □	2006	Est □
Non-Government Employment	The Dow Chemical Company (Dow Agrosciences)	Global Leader, Pest Management R&D	Indianapolis, IN	2002	Est □	3/2004	Est □
Non-Government Employment	The Dow Chemical Company (Dow Agrosciences)	Process Leader for Global Product Development Project Management Systems	Indianapolis, IN	11/1999	Est □	2002	Est □
Non-Government Employment	The Dow Chemical Company (Dow Agrosciences)	Leader, North America Technology Development	Indianapolis, IN	6/1997	Est □	11/1999	Est □
Non-Government Employment	The Dow Chemical Company (Dow Agrosciences)	Manager, Global Field Research and Product Development	Indianapolis, IN	1995	Est □	6/1997	Est □
Non-Government Employment	The Dow Chemical Company (Dow Agrosciences)	Manager, U.S. Crops R&D	Indianapolis, IN	1992	Est □	1995	Est □
Non-Government Employment	The Dow Chemical Company (Dow Agrosciences)	R&D Human Resources Manager	Indianapolis, IN	8/1991	Est □	1992	Est □
Non-Government Employment	The Dow Chemical Company (Dow Agrosciences)	R&D Recruitment and Professional Development Manager	Indianapolis, IN	11/1989	Est □	8/1991	Est □
Non-Government Employment	The Dow Chemical Company (Dow Agrosciences)	Technical Training Manager	Midland, MI	6/1989	Est □	11/1989	Est □
Non-Government Employment	The Dow Chemical Company (Dow Agrosciences)	Senior Development Biologist	Minneapolis, MN	5/1987	Est □	6/1989	Est □
Non-Government Employment	Iowa State University, Department of Entomology	Graduate Research Assistant	Ames, IA	05/1983	Est □	05/1987	Est □

Non-Government Employment	Mississippi State University, Department of Entomology	Graduate Research Assistant	Starkville, MS	03/1981	Est <input type="checkbox"/>	05/1983	Est <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Government Employment	Auburn University, Department of Entomology	Laboratory and Field Technician	Auburn, AL	01/1980	Est <input type="checkbox"/>	03/1981	Est <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Government Employment	Agricon/AgResearch	Summer Employee	Pike Road, AL	05/1980	Est <input type="checkbox"/>	09/1980	Est <input type="checkbox"/>

(B) List any advisory, consultative, honorary or other part-time service or positions with federal, state, or local governments, not listed elsewhere.

<u>Name of Government Entity</u>	<u>Name of Position</u>	<u>Date Service Began</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate)	<u>Date Service Ended</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check "present" box if still serving)
USDA Competitive Grants Program	Intermittent Reviewer for Entomology and Nematology	01/1986 Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	01/2018 Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/>
Indiana Pesticide Review Board, State Chemist Office	Board Member, Governor Appointed	1/1996 Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/2000 Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/>
USDA/EPA Expert Panel: Pests, Plant Protection Strategies, and Climate Change Interaction- Impacts on Midwestern Agriculture	Panel Member	1/1996 Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8/1996 Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/>
USDA/CSREES Grant Program on IPM Centers	Panelist	1/2003 Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	12/2003 Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/>

(C) List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other for profit or nonprofit organization that is not otherwise listed in response to question 3(A).

<u>Name of Entity</u>	<u>Name of Position</u>	<u>Date Service Began</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate)	<u>Date Service Ended</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check "present" box if still serving)
Indiana Soybean Alliance and Indiana Corn Marketing Council	Consultant	3/2021 Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/2024 Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/>
Texas A&M AgriLife and Responsive Ag Task Force	Consultant	11/2022 Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Purdue University	Consultant	5/2021	Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7/2021	Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Present <input type="checkbox"/>
Barnes & Thornburgh Law Firm	Consultant	9/2021	Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11/2023	Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Present <input type="checkbox"/>
Dolphin Club Condominium Association of Charlotte County, Florida	Board President and Director	5/2021	Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(D) Please submit a copy of your resume with this questionnaire.

4. Honors and Awards

List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, civilian service citations, military medals, academic or professional honors, honorary society memberships and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievement.

-Recipient of 1982 Redd Pest Control Scholarship, Twenty-ninth Annual Mississippi Insect Control Conference.

-Recipient of 1985 N. Central Branch (Entomological Society of America) Student Competition Award (Popularization of Entomology Category).

-Recipient of 1986 N. Central Branch (Entomological Society of America) Student Competition Award (Teaching Entomology Category).

-Finalist in 16th National Alfalfa Symposium Student Competition.

-Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges (1986).

-Recipient of 1987 N. Central Branch (Entomological Society of America) Student Competition Award (Doctoral Research Category).

-Recipient of 1987 John Henry Comstock Outstanding Graduate Student Award of the Entomological Society of America.

-Who's Who in Science and Engineering (1987-Present).

- Dow Chemical Pacesetter or Recognition Performance Awards (1988, 1989, 1991-1995, 1997, 2001).
- Outstanding Young Alumnus, Iowa State University (1997).
- Recipient of the 2008 Award for Service to the Certification Program of the Entomological Society of America.
- Fellow of the Entomological Society of America (2009).
- Honorary Member of the Entomological Society of America (2019)
- Henry A. Wallace Distinguished Alumni Award, Iowa State University (2024)

5. Memberships

List all memberships that you have held in professional, social, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, or charitable organizations in the last 10 years.

Unless relevant to your nomination, you do NOT need to include memberships in charitable organizations available to the public as a result of a tax deductible donation of \$1,000 or less, parent-teacher associations or other organizations connected to schools attended by your children, athletic clubs or teams, automobile support organizations (such as AAA), discounts clubs (such as Groupon or Sam's Club), or affinity memberships/consumer clubs (such as frequent flyer memberships).

<u>Name of Organization</u>	<u>Dates of Your Membership</u> (You may approximate.)	<u>Position(s) Held</u>
Entomological Society of America (Scientific Society)	1981 to Present	Governing Board Representative Vice President Elect (2005) Vice President (2006) President (2007) Past President (2008) Fellow (2009) Honorary Member (2019)
Ulen Country Club	2016 to Present	Member

Isles Yacht Club	2023 to Present	Member
AgriNovus Indiana	2017 to 2019	Board Member Member of Executive Committee

6. Political Activity

(A) Have you ever been a candidate for or been elected or appointed to a political office?

☐ Yes ☒ No (If yes, please complete the chart below)

<u>Name of Office</u>	<u>Elected/Appointed/ Candidate Only</u>	<u>Year(s) Election Held or Appointment Made</u>	<u>Term of Service (if applicable)</u>

(B) List any offices held in or services rendered, including volunteer services, to a political party or election committee during the last 10 years that you have not listed elsewhere.

<u>Name of Party/Election Committee</u>	<u>Office/Services Rendered</u>	<u>Responsibilities</u>	<u>Dates of Service</u>

(C) Itemize all individual political contributions of \$200 or more that you have made in the past five years to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity. Please list each individual contribution and not the total amount contributed to the person or entity during the year.

<u>Name of Recipient</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Year of Contribution</u>
Trump 47 Committee	\$516.53	2024

7. Publications and Speeches

(A) List the titles, publishers and dates of books, articles, reports or other published materials that you have written, including articles published on the Internet. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the publication via email if available. Please list all required publications even if no copy of the publication is available to provide.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Publisher</u>	<u>Date(s) of Publication</u>
	BOOK CHAPTERS, REVIEWS, AND INVITED MANUSCRIPTS	
Economic-injury levels in theory and practice	Ann. Rev. Entomol. Vol 31: 341-368	1986
Potato leafhopper injury to alfalfa with emphasis on support and leaf component analysis	Proc. Sixteenth National Alfalfa Symposium (Invited Manuscript)	1986
Insect diagnostic boxes	Entomology and Pest Management. Macmillan, New York, NY	1989
Impact of insect feeding on alfalfa regrowth: A review of physiological responses and economic consequences	Agronomy Journal 82: 1035-1044 (Invited Review)	1990
Injury guilds: A new concept for managing pest losses to soybeans	Agricultural Zoology Reviews, Vol. 4: 1-21 (Invited Review)	1991
Soybean Pests (Chapter 6)	Vegetable Crop Pests. MacMillan Press, pp. 181-198	1992
Techniques for Sampling Arthropods for /PM (Chapter 5)	Handbook of Sampling Methods for Arthropod Pests in Agriculture. CRC Press, pp. 73-97	1994
Free enterprise: The only sustainable solution to IPM implementation	J. Agric. Entomol. 12(4):211-217 (Invited Manuscript)	1995
Thresholds Involving Plant Quality and Phenological Disruption (Chapter 16)	Economic Thresholds for Integrated Pest Management. Univ. of Nebraska Press, pp. 275-290	1997
Opportunities and challenges for the private sector	IPM World Classroom (http://www.ent.agri.umn.edu/academics/classes/ipm). 7 pp	1997
Technology -A Key to More Productivity and Stability	Sustainable Agriculture. Some Contributions of GCPF Member Companies and Associations (Anonymous), pp. 12-14	1999
Development of Spinosad and Attributes of a New	IPM World Classroom (http://www.ent.agri.umn.edu/academics/classes/ipm). 12 pp	1999

Class of Insect Control Products		
The Role of Technology in Sustainable Agriculture	Ted Radcliffe's IPM World Classroom (http://www.ent.agri.umn.edu/academics/classes/ipm). 4 pp	2000
Phenological Disruption and Yield Loss from Insects (Chapter 6)	Biotic Stress and Yield Loss. Univ. of Nebraska press, pp. 73-81	2001
Technology and Service Innovation as a Unifying Focus for the Future of /PM	Proceedings of the National IPM Symposium (Plenary Session): Building Alliances	2003
The Entomological Society of America: A proposal to members for organizational renewal	Amer. Entomol. 52(3): 150-163	2006
Future of entomology - casting a wider net	Midsouth Entomologist 1(1): 37-39	2008
Novel delivery systems for integrated pest management	Journal of ASTM International, Special Technical Publication 1507, Pesticide formulations and delivery systems: 281h volume: Global trends and regulatory drivers in the Crop Protection Industry, pp. 3-9	2008
Natural Products for Crop Protection: Evolution or Intelligent Design?	Discovery and Synthesis of Crop Protection Products, ACS Books, Symposium Series 1204 (pp. 55-62)	2015
Sustainable Agriculture in the U.S. vs. the EU: a comparative look at different approaches to similar objectives.	CSA News (Opinion/Perspectives)	2021
	JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS	
Effects of soybean row spacing on spray penetration and efficacy of insecticides applied with aerial and ground equipment	Environ. Entomol. 13: 948-953	1984
Linear programming model to optimize management decisions with multiple pests: An integrated soybean pest management example	Bull. Entomol. Soc. of Am. 32: 96-102	1985
Differences in penetration and efficacy of insecticides applied by aerial and ground equipment	J. Entomol. Sci. 20: 34-41	1985
Equipping an all-terrain vehicle to apply pesticides for small-plot research	J. Econ. Entomol. 80: 548-552	1987

Soybean row spacing: Effects on insecticide efficacy against three common lepidopteran defoliators of different size classes	J. Econ. Entomol. 80: 169-174	1987
Differential mortality response of lepidopteran defoliators to insecticides deposited within three strata of wide- and narrow-row soybean	J. Econ. Entomol. 80: 1244-1248	1987
Evaluation of corn inbred lines for resistance to stalk borer (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae)	J. Agric. Entomol. 4: 66-71	1987
Injury equivalency as a basis for developing multiple-species economic-injury levels	J. Econ. Entomol. 81: 1-8 (Forum Section)	1988
Insect migration: Atmospheric modelling and industrial application of an ecological phenomenon	Bull. Entomol. Soc. of Am. 34: 9-16 (Feature Section)	1988
Graduate education in entomology: Preparing for science and employment	Bull. Entomol. Soc. of Am. 35: 13-21 (Feature Section)	1989
Forage quality of alfalfa as affected by potato leafhopper feeding	Crop Sci. 29: 1541-1545	1989
Potato leafhopper-induced injury on growth and development of alfalfa	Crop Sci. 29: 1005-1011	1989
Correcting misconceptions concerning traditional economic thresholds and injury equivalency	J. Econ. Entomol. 82: 2-4	1989
Phenological disruption and economic consequence of injury to alfalfa induced by potato leafhopper (Homoptera: Cicadellidae)	J. Econ. Entomol. 83: 1587-1594	1990
Perspective on the value, regulation, and objective utilization of pest control technology	Amer. Entomol. 39: 12-15	1993
A feed-value approach for establishing economic-injury levels	J. Econ. Entomol. 91: 347-351	1998
Spinosad - A New Class of Fermentation-derived Insect Control Agents	Pesticide Outlook, 10: 78-81	1999.

Publish or perish: A business argument for private-sector scientists to publish in refereed journals	Amer. Entomol. 47: 69-72	2001
Agricultural technology: Safely sustaining the capacity for world food production	AgroFood Industry Hi-Tech. 13: 4-5	2002
Indifference analysis: A practical method to assess uncertainty in IPM decision making	J. of Integ. Pest Mngmt. 1: 1-3	2010
	TECHNICAL RESEARCH REPORTS	
Soybean looper control in narrow and wide row soybean plantings, 1981	Insect. Acar. Test. 8: 214	1983
Stalk borer control in field corn, 1984	Insect. Acar. Test. 10: 192	1985
Evaluation of insecticides for control of seedcorn maggot on navy beans, 1984	Insect. Acar. Test. 10: 191	1985
Evaluation of insecticide treatments for control of green cloverworm on soybean, 1984	Insect. Acar. Test. 10: 244	1985
Control of alfalfa insects in Iowa, 1984	Insect. Acar. Test. 10: 178-180	1985
Control of alfalfa insects in Iowa (early season), 1985	Insect. Acar. Test. 11: 210-12	1986
Control of alfalfa insects in Iowa (mid-season), 1985	Insect. Acar. Test. 11: 212-13	1986
Control of alfalfa insects in Iowa (early season), 1986	Insect. Acar. Test. Vol. 12: 168-169	1987
Control of alfalfa insects in Iowa (middle season), 1986	Insect. Acar. Test. Vol. 12: 169-170	1987
A new pyrethroid insecticide for corn and alfalfa	Dow Chemical Co. Report GH-P	1988
The impact of insect-induced stress on alfalfa developmental physiology with proposed use strategies for Dow insecticides	Dow Chemical Co. Report GH-P 1438. 41 pp	1989

Northern corn rootworm extended diapause in Minnesota: Research review and market prognosis	Dow Chemical Co. Report GH-P 1439. 26 pp	1989
Indifference analysis: A new technique to objectively assess the risk associated with sporadic pest outbreaks and quantify the broad-spectrum characteristics of LORSBAN 15G	Dow Chemical Co. Report GH-P 1448. 21 pp	1989
Performance of DOWCO-429 under increasing levels of corn rootworm infestation: A case study for applying quality assurance principles to product development	DowElanco Report GH-P 1477. 22 pp	1990
Free Enterprise: The Only Sustainable Solution to IPM Implementation	DowElanco DERBI Report No. 64255. 27 pp	1993
1996 Global Laboratory and Field Assessment of the Bayer Proprietary Chloronicotinyl Insecticide BAY YRC 2894	DowElanco DERBI Report No. 49391. 22 pp	1997
The Field Efficacy of Spinosad Containing Different Ratios of Spinosyn A to Spinosyn D	DowElanco DERBI Report No. 63569. 22 pp	1997
Technology Goals: Feasibility Assessments for Information/Service Products for Use in Agricultural Markets	Dow AgroSciences DERBI Report No. 79079. 63 pp	1999
Private-sector entomology: Beyond the academy	DERBI Report No. NAFST-05-029. 32 pp	2005
	POPULAR ARTICLES	
Narrow rows may make insect control tougher	Progressive Farmer magazine, April issue (Soybeans Section)	1983
How leafhoppers damage your alfalfa crop	Hoard's Dairyman Magazine, June 10, 1986 issue	1986
Potato leafhopper management in alfalfa	Iowa St. Univ. Extension Serv. Pub. No. IC-433	1988

A call for objective management of chemical inputs	MN Ind. Crop Consultant Association Newsletter, July Issue	1989
The discovery of <i>Saccaropolyspora spinosa</i> and a new class of insect control products	Down-to-Earth Magazine	1997
The elusive IPM	Ag Consultant magazine, January issue	1998
Publish or perish: A professional and business argument for DAS scientists to publish in referred journals	Dow AgroSciences "R&D Perspectives" column, IntraNet R&D homepage	2000
Dow leader looks at future of IPM: Recent focus has been on reducing risks and use of pesticides	Delta Farm Press, Vol. 57, Number 49: 8	2000
Supply R&D: Our Team, Our Ambition, Our Strategy	Dow Chemical Technology Quarterly (internal). www.dasagtech.intranet.dow.com . 6 pp	2006
The future of curative pest control technologies	AG ROW Magazine. January, no. 583	2010

(B) List any formal speeches or presentations you have delivered during the last 10 years relevant to the position to which you have been nominated, and all speeches/presentations you have delivered related to any topic for the last five years. Include any testimony to Congress or any other legislative or administrative body. Include a link to each speech when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the publication via email if available. Please list all known required speeches even if no copy is available to provide.

<u>Title/Topic</u>	<u>Place/Audience</u>	<u>Date(s) of Speech</u>
Private Sector Agricultural Science.	National Meeting of the ESA jointly with ASA, CSSA, SSA, Minneapolis, MN	November, 2015
Inclusiveness: Planting, cultivating, and harvesting the insights of a multi-national team.	International Congress of Entomology, Orlando, FL	September, 2016
Example of Current Mergers: Dow and DuPont, a Merger of Equals.	Agronomy Society of America, Tampa, FL	October, 2017
Unearthing the potential of healthy soil.	Soil Regen Forum, Texas	August, 2019
Past and Future of Agricultural Research.	AAAS C.V. Riley Leadership Breakfast, Washington, D.C.	September, 2019

Five overarching themes that will define the next era of agriculture in the United States.	Auburn University York Memorial Lecture, Auburn, AL	September, 2019
Celebration of Land Grant Research. Univ. of Kentucky, Lexington, KY (19 September).	Univ. of Kentucky, Lexington, KY	September, 2019
Igniting Agricultural Innovation.	University of Idaho, virtual via Zoom	October 2020
Igniting Agricultural Innovation.	University of Nebraska, Department of Entomology, Lincoln, NE	October, 2020
Soybean systems innovation: Habits that will transform your future.	Keynote address, Inaugural Soybean Research Forum & Think Tank. Indianapolis, IN	August, 2023
Research and Innovation: The way forward for all nations seeking to achieve truly sustainable agriculture.	Keynote address, Agronomy Society of Italy, via Zoom	September, 2021
Effectiveness, efficiency, and customer focus: Skills to advance and transform a successful career.	National meeting of the ESA, Denver, CO	November, 2021
Leadership for sustainability: A focus on innovation, discovery, and research.	American Soybean Association Leadership Academy, Bonita Springs, FL	January, 2022
Beyond Research: Establishing Goals for Transformational Discoveries	Commodity Classic, New Orleans, LA	March, 2022
Reflections and Projections: Personal and Professional (Celebration of the Entomology and Plant Pathology Department merger)	Iowa State University, Ames, IA	September, 2022
Resiliency in Food (Panel)	SE Asia Cooperators Conference, Bangkok, Thailand	September, 2022
Sustainability (Panel)	SE Asia Cooperators Conference, Danang, Vietnam	September, 2023
Confirmation Hearing at the Senate Ag Committee for Scott H. Hutchins, nominee for USDA Research, Education, Economics	Hutchins Testimony	November, 2018

Testimony to the Senate Ag Committee related to the 2018 Farm Bill	Hearing: [2019-07-18] Agricultural Research and 2018 Farm Bill...	July, 2019
Testimony to the House Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research	Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research - RE: "To Review Implementation of USDA Farm Bill Research Programs" House Agriculture Committee	October, 2019

8. Lobbying

In the past 10 years, have you registered as a lobbyist? If so, please indicate the state, federal, or local bodies with which you have registered (e.g., House, Senate, California Secretary of State).

NO

9. Digital Platforms

Please list all digital platforms (including social media and other digital content sites) on which you currently operate, or have formerly operated, an account, regardless of whether the account was held in your name or an alias. Include the full "alias" or "handle", including a link to each account if possible. Indicate whether the account is active, deleted, or dormant.

Facebook: [Facebook](#)

Linked-in: www.linkedin.com/in/scott-hutchins-46272a214

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF
GOVERNMENT ETHICS

March 20, 2025

The Honorable John Boozman
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, I enclose a copy of the financial disclosure report filed by Scott H. Hutchins, who has been nominated by President Trump for the position of Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, Department of Agriculture.

We have reviewed the report and have obtained advice from the agency concerning any possible conflict in light of its functions and the nominee's proposed duties. Also enclosed is an ethics agreement outlining the actions that the nominee will undertake to avoid conflicts of interest. Unless a date for compliance is indicated in the ethics agreement, the nominee must fully comply within three months of confirmation with any action specified in the ethics agreement.

Based thereon, we believe that this nominee is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing conflicts of interest.

Sincerely,

SETH JAFFE Digitally signed by SETH JAFFE
Date: 2025.03.20 08:30:43
+0400

Seth Jaffe
Chief, Ethics Law and Policy Branch

Enclosures



March 19, 2025

Mr. Stuart Bender
Designated Agency Ethics Official
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250-0122

Dear Mr. Bender:

The purpose of this letter is to describe the steps that I will take to avoid any actual or apparent conflict of interest in the event that I am confirmed for the position of Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

SECTION 1 – GENERAL COMMITMENTS

As required by the criminal conflicts of interest law at 18 U.S.C. § 208(a), I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter in which I know that I have a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the matter, or in which I know that a person whose interests are imputed to me has a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the particular matter, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2). I understand that the interests of the following persons are imputed to me:

- Any spouse or minor child of mine;
- Any general partner of a partnership in which I am a limited or general partner;
- Any organization in which I serve as an officer, director, trustee, general partner, or employee, even if uncompensated; and
- Any person or organization with which I am negotiating or have an arrangement concerning prospective employment.

In the event that an actual or potential conflict of interest arises during my appointment, I will consult with an agency ethics official and take the measures necessary to resolve the conflict, such as recusal from the particular matter or divestiture of an asset.

If I have a managed account or otherwise use the services of an investment professional during my appointment, I will ensure that the account manager or investment professional obtains my prior approval on a case-by-case basis for the purchase of any assets other than cash, cash equivalents, investment funds that qualify for the regulatory exemption for diversified mutual funds and unit investment trusts at 5 C.F.R. § 2640.201(a), obligations of the United States, or municipal bonds.

I will receive a live ethics briefing from a member of the ethics office after my confirmation but not later than 15 days after my appointment pursuant to the ethics program regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2638.305. Within 90 days of my confirmation, I will submit my Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance which documents my compliance with this ethics agreement.

I will not modify this ethics agreement without your approval and the approval of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) pursuant to the ethics agreement requirements contained in the financial disclosure regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2634.803(a)(4).

SECTION 2 – RESIGNATIONS

Upon confirmation, I will resign from my position as president with the Dolphin Club Condominium Association. I previously resigned from my position with the Texas A&M Responsive Agriculture Task Steering Team. Pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, for a period of one year after my resignation from each of these entities, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know that entity is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

SECTION 3 – FAMILY REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST

I will retain my position as a trustee of Family Revocable Living Trust. I will not receive any fees for the services that I provide as a trustee during my appointment to the position of Under Secretary. I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of Family Revocable Living Trust, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2).

SECTION 4 – PUBLIC POSTING

I have been advised that this ethics agreement and the Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance will be posted publicly, consistent with the public information law at 5 U.S.C. § 552, on the website of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics with ethics agreements of other presidential nominees who file public financial disclosure reports.

Sincerely,



Scott H. Hutchins

Report Type: Nominee Report
Year (Annual Report only):
Date of Appointment:
Date of Termination:

Executive Branch Personnel
Public Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 278e)

Filer's Information

Hutchins, Scott

Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics, Department of Agriculture

Other Federal Government Positions Held During the Preceding 12 Months:
None

Names of Congressional Committees Considering Nomination:
• Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Electronic Signature - I certify that the statements I have made in this form are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.
/s/ Hutchins, Scott [electronically signed on 02/27/2025 by Hutchins, Scott in Integrity.gov]

Agency Ethics Official's Opinion - On the basis of information contained in this report, I conclude that the filer is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations (subject to any comments below).

/s/ Tobin, Andrew, Certifying Official [electronically signed on 03/19/2025 by Tobin, Andrew in Integrity.gov]

Other review conducted by

U.S. Office of Government Ethics Certification
/s/ Jaffe, Seth, Certifying Official [electronically signed on 03/20/2025 by Jaffe, Seth in Integrity.gov]

1. Filer's Positions Held Outside United States Government

#	ORGANIZATION NAME	CITY, STATE	ORGANIZATION TYPE	POSITION HELD	FROM	TO
1	Indiana Soybean Alliance	Indianapolis, Indiana	Non-Profit	Consultant	1/2023	12/2023
2	Indiana Corn Marketing Council	Indianapolis, Indiana	Non-Profit	Consultant	1/2023	12/2023
3	Barnes & Thornburgh	Indianapolis, Indiana	Law Firm	Consultant	9/2023	11/2023
4	Texas A&M Responsive Ag Task Steering Team	College Station, Texas	University/College	Consultant	5/2023	2/2025
5	Dolphin Club Condominium Association of Charlotte County, FL	Punta Gorda, Florida	Non-Profit	President	1/2023	Present
6	Family Revocable Living Trust	Carmel, Indiana	Trust	Trustee	1/2023	Present

2. Filer's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	Indiana Soybean Alliance	N/A		Consulting Fees	\$28,256
2	Indiana Corn Marketing Council	N/A		Consulting Fees	\$15,407
3	Barnes & Thornburgh	N/A		Consulting Fees	\$2,475
4	Texas A&M Responsive Ag Task Steering Team	N/A		Consulting Fees	\$6,975
5	IRA#2	No			
5.1	Schwab US Dividend Equity ETF (SCHD)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
5.2	Vanguard Financials Index Fund ETF Shares (VFH)	Yes	\$50,001 - \$100,000		None (or less than \$201)
5.3	Parnassus Core Equity Fund Institutional Shares (PRLX)	Yes	\$50,001 - \$100,000		None (or less than \$201)
5.4	US Brokerage Account (cash)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
6	IRA#1	No			
6.1	Vanguard FTSE All-World ex US Index Fund ETF Shares (VEU)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
6.2	Vanguard Dividend Appreciation Index Fund ETF Class Shares (VIG)	Yes	\$100,001 - \$250,000		None (or less than \$201)
6.3	Vanguard Extended Market Index Fund ETF Shares (VXF)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
6.4	US Brokerage Account (cash)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
7	IRA#1	N/A		cash payments	\$84,048
8	Dow Chemical, deferred compensation: tracks hypothetical investment benchmarks	No		cash payments	\$84,797
8.1	tracks BlackRock LifePath Index 2035 Fund	N/A	\$50,001 - \$100,000		
8.2	tracks 10-Year US T-Note	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		
8.3	tracks Interest Income Fund	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		
8.4	tracks Diverse Commodity Fund	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		
9	Dow Chemical 401k	No			

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
9.1	BlackRock LifePath Index 2035 Fund Institutional Shares (LJIX)	Yes	\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000		None (or less than \$201)
9.2	Blackrock Equity Index Fund	Yes	\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000		None (or less than \$201)
9.3	INTEREST INCOME FUND	Yes	\$500,001 - \$1,000,000		None (or less than \$201)
10	Dow Chemical Pension Plan, defined benefit plan (value not readily ascertainable); eligible for \$14,555/mo. at age 65	N/A			None (or less than \$201)
11	Dow Chemical Executive Supplemental Retirement, defined benefit plan (value not readily ascertainable)	N/A		Retirement Payments (monthly)	\$879
12	Health Savings Account, U.S. bank #1 (cash)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Cash Distribution	\$2,500
13	Dow Retirement Health Care Account Reimbursement (RHCAP)	See Endnote			
13.1	Northern Trust U.S. Investable Market Index	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
13.2	Northern Trust Aggregate Bond Index	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)

3. Filer's Employment Agreements and Arrangements

#	EMPLOYER OR PARTY	CITY, STATE	STATUS AND TERMS	DATE
1	Dow Chemical Elective Compensation Deferral Account (deferred compensation plan)	Midland, Michigan	I will continue to participate in the Dow Chemical Elective Compensation Deferral Program. Neither I nor my employer will make any further contributions. The account is managed by Fidelity for payout based on a fixed, established schedule at various intervals and amounts following separation.	1/2000

#	EMPLOYER OR PARTY	CITY, STATE	STATUS AND TERMS	DATE
2	Dow Chemical 401k	Midland, Michigan	I will continue to participate in this defined contribution plan, but the plan sponsor no longer makes contributions.	5/1987
3	Dow Chemical Pension Plan	Midland, Michigan	I will continue to participate in this defined benefit plan.	5/1987
4	Dow Chemical Executive Supplemental Retirement	Midland, Michigan	I will continue to participate in this defined benefit plan.	5/1987
5	Dow Chemical Health Savings Account	Midland, Michigan	I continue to participate in this health savings account. The account sponsor ceased making contributions at my separation.	5/1987
6	Dow Retirement Health Care Account Reimbursement (RHCAP)	Midland, Michigan	I will continue to participate in this RHCAP program where I can draw money paid pre-tax during employment to pay solely to cover medical premiums. The account sponsor ceased making contributions at my separation.	5/1987

4. Filer's Sources of Compensation Exceeding \$5,000 in a Year

#	SOURCE NAME	CITY, STATE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES
1	Indiana Soybean Alliance	Indianapolis, Indiana	Services as Consultant
2	Indiana Corn Marketing Council	Indianapolis, Indiana	Services as Consultant
3	Texas A&M Responsive Ag Task Steering Team	College Station, Texas	Services as Consultant

5. Spouse's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	IRA#3	N/A		cash payments	\$93,961
2	IRA#3	No			
2.1	Vanguard FTSE All-World ex US Index Fund ETF Shares (VEU)	Yes	\$50,001 - \$100,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.2	Vanguard Dividend Appreciation Index Fund ETF Class Shares (VIG)	Yes	\$100,001 - \$250,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.3	Vanguard Extended Market Index Fund ETF Shares (VXF)	Yes	\$100,001 - \$250,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.4	Parnassus Core Equity Fund Institutional Shares (PRILX)	Yes	\$100,001 - \$250,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.5	U.S. Brokerage Account (cash)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3	IRA#4	No			
3.1	Vanguard Intermediate-Term Corporate Bond Index Fund ETF Class Shares (VCIT)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.2	Vanguard Extended Market Index Fund ETF Shares (VXF)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.3	T Rowe Price US Equity Research Fund, Inc (PRCOX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.4	Parnassus Core Equity Fund Institutional Shares (PRILX)	Yes	\$50,001 - \$100,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.5	U.S. Brokerage Account (cash)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
4	U.S. bank Health Savings Account (cash)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Cash distributions	\$3,400

6. Other Assets and Income

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	Prudential and Mutual of Omaha, Fixed Annuity	N/A	\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	cash distributions	\$135,408
2	Brokerage Account #1	No			
2.1	Parnassus Core Equity Fund Investor Shares (PRBLX)	Yes	\$250,001 - \$500,000		\$50,001 - \$100,000
2.2	Schwab Value Advantage Money Fund Investor Class Shares (SWVXX)	Yes	\$500,001 - \$1,000,000		\$2,501 - \$5,000
2.3	U.S. Brokerage Account (Cash)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
3	Brokerage Account #2	No			
3.1	Apple, Inc. (AAPL)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Capital Gains Dividends	None (or less than \$201)
3.2	Accenture Plc (ACN)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Capital Gains Dividends	\$201 - \$1,000
3.3	Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. (AJG)	N/A	\$50,001 - \$100,000	Capital Gains Dividends	\$201 - \$1,000
3.4	Cisco Systems, Inc. (CSCO)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Capital Gains Dividends	\$201 - \$1,000
3.5	Genuine Parts Co. (GPC)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Capital Gains Dividends	\$201 - \$1,000
3.6	Illinois Tool Works, Inc. (ITW)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Capital Gains Dividends	\$201 - \$1,000
3.7	Johnson & Johnson (JNJ)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Capital Gains Dividends	\$201 - \$1,000
3.8	JPMorgan Chase & Co. (JPM)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Capital Gains Dividends	\$201 - \$1,000

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
3.9	Lockheed Martin Corp. (LMT)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Capital Gains Dividends	\$201 - \$1,000
3.10	Lowe's Cos., Inc. (LOW)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Capital Gains Dividends	\$201 - \$1,000
3.11	Microsoft Corp. (MSFT)	N/A	\$50,001 - \$100,000	Capital Gains Dividends	\$201 - \$1,000
3.12	Novartis AG Common Stock (NVS)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Capital Gains Dividends	\$201 - \$1,000
3.13	Oracle Corp. (ORCL)	N/A	\$50,001 - \$100,000	Capital Gains Dividends	\$201 - \$1,000
3.14	Procter & Gamble Co. (PG)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Capital Gains Dividends	\$201 - \$1,000
3.15	Parker-Hannifin Corp. (PH)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Capital Gains Dividends	\$201 - \$1,000
3.16	The TJX Cos., Inc. (TJX)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Capital Gains Dividends	\$201 - \$1,000
3.17	Texas Instruments Incorporated (TXN)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Capital Gains Dividends	\$201 - \$1,000
3.18	Walmart, Inc. (WMT)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Capital Gains Dividends	\$201 - \$1,000
3.19	Watsco, Inc. (WSO)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Capital Gains Dividends	\$201 - \$1,000
4	U.S. bank account #1 (cash)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
5	Brokerage Account #3	No			
5.1	VanEck Vectors JP Morgan EM Local Currency Bond ETF (EMLC)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		\$201 - \$1,000
5.2	Schwab Fundamental US Small Company Index ETF (FNDA)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
5.3	Schwab Fundamental International Small Company Index ETF (FNDC)	Yes	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
5.4	Schwab Fundamental Emerging Markets Large Company Index ETF (FNDE)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		\$201 - \$1,000
5.5	Schwab Fundamental International Large Company Index ETF (FNDF)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		\$201 - \$1,000
5.6	Schwab Fundamental US Large Company Index ETF (FNDX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		\$201 - \$1,000
5.7	Xtrackers International Real Estate ETF (HAUZ)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
5.8	Invesco FTSE RAFI Developed Markets ex-US Small-Mid ETF (PDN)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
5.9	Invesco FTSE RAFI US 1500 Small-Mid ETF (PRFZ)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
5.10	Invesco FTSE RAFI Developed Markets ex-US ETF (PXF)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
5.11	Schwab US Small-Cap ETF (SCHA)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
5.12	Schwab Emerging Markets Equity ETF (SCHE)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
5.13	Schwab International Equity ETF (SCHF)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
5.14	Schwab 5-10 Year Corporate Bond ETF (SCHl)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
5.15	Schwab Intermediate-Term US Treasury ETF (SCHR)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
5.16	Schwab US Large-Cap ETF (SCHX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		\$201 - \$1,000

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
5.17	SPDR Portfolio Intermediate Term Corporate Bond ETF (SPIB)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		\$201 - \$1,000
5.18	SPDR Portfolio TIPS ETF (SPIP)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
5.19	iShares Core US REIT ETF (USRT)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
5.20	Vanguard Developed Markets Index Fund ETF Shares (VEA)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		\$201 - \$1,000
5.21	Vanguard Mortgage-Backed Securities Index Fund ETF Class Shares (VMBS)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
5.22	Vanguard FTSE All-World ex-US Small-Cap Index Fund ETF Shares (VSS)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
6	Brokerage Account #4	No			
6.1	ARLINGTON TEX Independent Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
6.2	CALIFORNIA State Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
6.3	CONNECTICUT State Special Bond	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
6.4	CONNECTICUT State Health System Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Interest	\$201 - \$1,000
6.5	Washington DC Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
6.6	GEORGIA State Ports Authority	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
6.7	HARRIS County Texas Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Interest	\$1,001 - \$2,500
6.8	HOUSTON Texas Utility Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
6.9	ILLINOIS State Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
6.10	ILLINOIS State Highway Toll Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
6.11	INDIANA State Financial Authority Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Interest	\$201 - \$1,000
6.12	INDIANA State Financial Authority Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Interest	\$201 - \$1,000
6.13	INDIANA State Financial Authority Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
6.14	IOWA Financial Authority Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
6.15	LOS ANGELES California Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Interest	\$201 - \$1,000
6.16	Lower Colorado River Authority Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Interest	\$201 - \$1,000
6.17	Maine Governmental Facilities Authority Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
6.18	MAINE State Turnpike Authority Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
6.19	MARYLAND State Department of Transportation Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
6.20	MASSACHUSETTS State Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
6.21	MIAMI-DADE County Water Utility Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
6.22	MICHIGAN Financial Authority Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
6.23	NEW JERSEY State Transportation Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
6.24	NEW YORK NY Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Interest	\$201 - \$1,000
6.25	NEW YORK NY Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Interest	\$201 - \$1,000
6.26	New York State Dormitory Authority Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
6.27	New York State Dormitory Authority Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Interest	\$1,001 - \$2,500
6.28	NORTH CAROLINA State Bond	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
6.29	North Texas Tollway Authority Bond	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
6.30	OREGON State Department of Administrative Services Bond1/31	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Interest	\$201 - \$1,000
6.31	Rhode Island State Health Systems Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
6.32	South Dakota Conservancy District Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
6.33	TEXAS Water Development Board Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
6.34	Virginia College Building Authority Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
6.35	WASHINGTON State Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
6.36	WASHINGTON State Bond	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
7	Brokerage Account #5	No			

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
7.1	Schwab US Dividend Equity ETF (SCHD)	Yes	\$250,001 - \$500,000		None (or less than \$201)
7.2	Vanguard Mid-Cap Index Fund ETF Shares (VO)	Yes	\$100,001 - \$250,000		\$1,001 - \$2,500
7.3	Vanguard International High Dividend Yield Index Fund ETF Shares (VYMI)	Yes	\$100,001 - \$250,000		\$5,001 - \$15,000
7.4	Schwab Target 2025 Fund (SWHRX)	Yes	\$250,001 - \$500,000		\$15,001 - \$50,000
7.5	U.S. Brokerage Account (Cash)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
8	Brokerage Account #6	No			
8.1	Microsoft Corp. (MSFT)	N/A	\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	Capital Gains Dividends	\$2,501 - \$5,000
8.2	Tesla, Inc. (TSLA)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Capital Gains Dividends	None (or less than \$201)
8.3	U.S. Brokerage Account (Cash)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
9	Residential Rental Property, Punta Gorda, FL	N/A	\$250,001 - \$500,000	Rent or Royalties	\$15,001 - \$50,000
10	U.S. bank account #2 (cash)	N/A	\$50,001 - \$100,000		None (or less than \$201)
11	U.S. Treasury I-Bonds	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Interest	\$1,001 - \$2,500
12	U.S. Treasury I-Bonds	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Interest	\$1,001 - \$2,500

7. Transactions

(N/A) - Not required for this type of report

8. Liabilities

None

9. Gifts and Travel Reimbursements

(N/A) - Not required for this type of report

Endnotes

PART	#	ENDNOTE
2.	13	Money paid pre-tax into this account during employment can be drawn out solely to cover medical premiums.

Summary of Contents

1. Filer's Positions Held Outside United States Government

Part 1 discloses positions that the filer held at any time during the reporting period (excluding positions with the United States Government). Positions are reportable even if the filer did not receive compensation.

This section does not include the following: (1) positions with religious, social, fraternal, or political organizations; (2) positions solely of an honorary nature; (3) positions held as part of the filer's official duties with the United States Government; (4) mere membership in an organization; and (5) passive investment interests as a limited partner or non-managing member of a limited liability company.

2. Filer's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

Part 2 discloses the following:

- Sources of earned and other non-investment income of the filer totaling more than \$200 during the reporting period (e.g., salary, fees, partnership share, honoraria, scholarships, and prizes)
- Assets related to the filer's business, employment, or other income-generating activities (1) that ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) from which more than \$200 in income was received during the reporting period (e.g., equity in business or partnership, stock options, retirement plans/accounts and their underlying holdings as appropriate, deferred compensation, and intellectual property, such as book deals and patents)

This section does not include assets or income from United States Government employment or assets that were acquired separately from the filer's business, employment, or other income-generating activities (e.g., assets purchased through a brokerage account). Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF).

3. Filer's Employment Agreements and Arrangements

Part 3 discloses agreements or arrangements that the filer had during the reporting period with an employer or former employer (except the United States Government), such as the following:

- Future employment
- Leave of absence
- Continuing payments from an employer, including severance and payments not yet received for previous work (excluding ordinary salary from a current employer)
- Continuing participation in an employee welfare, retirement, or other benefit plan, such as pensions or a deferred compensation plan
- Retention or disposition of employer-awarded equity, sharing in profits or carried interests (e.g., vested and unvested stock options, restricted stock, future share of a company's profits, etc.)

4. Filer's Sources of Compensation Exceeding \$5,000 in a Year

Part 4 discloses sources (except the United States Government) that paid more than \$5,000 in a calendar year for the filer's services during any year of the reporting period.

The filer discloses payments both from employers and from any clients to whom the filer personally provided services. The filer discloses a source even if the source made its payment to the filer's employer and not to the filer. The filer does not disclose a client's payment to the filer's employer if the filer did not provide the services for which the client is paying.

5. Spouse's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

Part 5 discloses the following:

- Sources of earned income (excluding honoraria) for the filer's spouse totaling more than \$1,000 during the reporting period (e.g., salary, consulting fees, and partnership share)
- Sources of honoraria for the filer's spouse greater than \$200 during the reporting period
- Assets related to the filer's spouse's employment, business activities, other income-generating activities (1) that ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) from which more than \$200 in income was received during the reporting period (e.g., equity in business or partnership, stock options, retirement plans/accounts and their underlying holdings as appropriate, deferred compensation, and intellectual property, such as book deals and patents)

This section does not include assets or income from United States Government employment or assets that were acquired separately from the filer's spouse's business employment, or other income-generating activities (e.g., assets purchased through a brokerage account). Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF). Amounts of income are not required for a spouse's earned income (excluding honoraria).

6. Other Assets and Income

Part 6 discloses each asset, not already reported, (1) that ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) from which more than \$200 in investment income was received during the reporting period. For purposes of the value and income thresholds, the filer aggregates the filer's interests with those of the filer's spouse and dependent children.

This section does not include the following types of assets: (1) a personal residence (unless it was rented out during the reporting period); (2) income or retirement benefits associated with United States Government employment (e.g., Thrift Savings Plan); and (3) cash accounts (e.g., checking, savings, money market accounts) at a single financial institution with a value of \$5,000 or less (unless more than \$200 in income was received). Additional exceptions apply. Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF).

7. Transactions

Part 7 discloses purchases, sales, or exchanges of real property or securities in excess of \$1,000 made on behalf of the filer, the filer's spouse or dependent child during the reporting period.

This section does not include transactions that concern the following: (1) a personal residence, unless rented out; (2) cash accounts (e.g., checking, savings, CDs, money market accounts) and money market mutual funds; (3) Treasury bills, bonds, and notes; and (4) holdings within a federal Thrift Savings Plan account. Additional exceptions apply.

8. Liabilities

Part 8 discloses liabilities over \$10,000 that the filer, the filer's spouse or dependent child owed at any time during the reporting period.

This section does not include the following types of liabilities: (1) mortgages on a personal residence, unless rented out (note: certain PAS nominees and appointees are required to report all mortgages); (2) loans secured by a personal motor vehicle, household furniture, or appliances, unless the loan exceeds the item's purchase price; and (3) revolving charge accounts, such as credit card balances, if the outstanding liability did not exceed \$10,000 at the end of the reporting period. Additional exceptions apply.

9. Gifts and Travel Reimbursements

This section discloses:

- Gifts totaling more than \$480 that the filer, the filer's spouse, and dependent children received from any one source during the reporting period.
- Travel reimbursements totaling more than \$480 that the filer, the filer's spouse, and dependent children received from any one source during the reporting period.

For purposes of this section, the filer need not aggregate any gift or travel reimbursement with a value of \$192 or less. Regardless of the value, this section does not include the following items: (1) anything received from relatives; (2) anything received from the United States Government or from the District of Columbia, state, or local governments; (3) bequests and other forms of inheritance; (4) gifts and travel reimbursements given to the filer's agency in connection with the filer's official travel; (5) gifts of hospitality (food, lodging, entertainment) at the donor's residence or personal premises; and (6) anything received by the filer's spouse or dependent children totally independent of their relationship to the filer. Additional exceptions apply.

Privacy Act Statement

5 U.S.C. § 13101 et seq., and 5 C.F.R. Part 2634 of the U. S. Office of Government Ethics regulations require the reporting of this information. Failure to provide the requested information may result in separation, disciplinary action, or civil action. The primary use of the information on this report is for review by Government officials to determine compliance with applicable Federal laws and regulations. This report may also be disclosed upon request to any requesting person in accordance with 5 U.S.C. §§ 13107 and § 13122(b)(1) or as otherwise authorized by law. You may inspect applications for public access of your own form upon request. Additional disclosures of the information on this report may be made: (1) to any requesting person, subject to the limitation contained in section 208(d)(1) of title 18, any determination granting an exemption pursuant to sections 208(b)(1) and 208(b)(3) of title 18; (2) to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency if the disclosing agency becomes aware of violations or potential violations of law or regulation; (3) to a source when necessary to obtain information relevant to a conflict of interest investigation or determination; (4) to the National Archives and Records Administration or the General Services Administration in records management inspections; (5) to the Office of Management and Budget during legislative coordination on private relief legislation; (6) when the disclosing agency determines that the records are arguably relevant to a proceeding before a court, grand jury, or administrative or adjudicative body, or in a proceeding before an administrative or adjudicative body when the adjudicator determines the records to be relevant to the proceeding; (7) to reviewing officials in a new office, department or agency when an employee transfers or is detailed from one covered position to another, a public financial disclosure report and any accompanying documents, including statements notifying an employee's supervising ethics office of the commencement of negotiations for future employment or compensation or of an agreement for future employment or compensation; (8) to a Member of Congress or a congressional office in response to an inquiry made on behalf of and at the request of an individual who is the subject of the record; (9) to contractors and other non-Government employees working on a contract, service or assignment for the Federal Government when necessary to accomplish a function related to this system of records; (10) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any written ethics agreement, including certifications of ethics agreement compliance, filed with OGE by an individual nominated by the President to a position requiring Senate confirmation; (11) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any certificate of divestiture issued by OGE; (12) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any waiver of the restrictions contained in Executive Order 13889 or any superseding executive order; (13) to appropriate agencies, entities and persons when there has been a suspected or confirmed breach of the system of records, the agency maintaining the records has determined that there is a risk of harm to individuals, the agency, the Federal Government, or national security, and the disclosure is reasonably necessary to assist in connection with the agency's efforts to respond to the suspected or confirmed breach or to prevent, minimize, or remedy such harm; and (14) to another Federal agency or Federal entity, when the agency maintaining the record determines that information from this system of records is reasonably necessary to assist the recipient agency or entity in responding to a suspected or confirmed breach or in preventing, minimizing, or remedying the risk of harm to individuals, the recipient agency or entity, the Federal Government, or national security. See also the OGE/GOVT-1 executive branch-wide Privacy Act system of records.

Public Burden Information

This collection of information is estimated to take an average of ten hours per response, including time for reviewing the instructions, gathering the data needed, and completing the form. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Program Counsel, U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) 250 E Street, S.W., Suite 750, Washington, DC 20024-3249.

Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act, as amended, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and no person is required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB (that control number 3209-0001, is displayed here and at the top of the first page of this OGE Form 278e).

May 19, 2025

The Honorable John Boozman, Chairman Committee on
Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar, Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boozman and Ranking Member Klobuchar:

The Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (the Act), as amended, provides that Presidential nominees for a position requiring the advice and consent of the Senate shall provide any necessary updates to their public financial disclosure report with respect to any outside earned income and honoraria received through the period ending no more than five days prior to the commencement of the Senate hearing of their nomination. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 13103(b)(1) and 5 C.F.R. § 2634.606(a).

Please be advised that I have informed the appropriate ethics officials that the information required by section 102(a)(1)(A) of the Act with respect to income and honoraria contained in OGE Form 278e (Executive Branch Public Financial Disclosure Report) executed by me on February 27, 2025, is current as of May 19, 2025. This date is within five days prior to the date of the hearing scheduled to consider my nomination.

Sincerely,

S.H. Hutchins

Scott Hutchins

cc: Stuart Bender, Designated Agency Ethics Official and Director, USDA Office of Ethics

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

MAY 21, 2025

U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Nomination Hearing
May 21, 2025
Questions for the Record
Mr. Dudley Hoskins

Senator Amy Klobuchar

1. **Responsiveness to Congress**

If you are confirmed, do you agree to:

- a. Promptly reply to any request for information from members of this Committee or any duly constituted committee of Congress and provide the requested information?

As appropriate, yes.

- b. Promptly respond to requests for data and technical assistance in informing or drafting legislation or implementation of the law?

As appropriate, yes.

- c. Notify the Chair and Ranking Member of this Committee in advance of any major changes made by you or within the Department of Agriculture during your tenure?

As appropriate, yes.

2. **Oversight**

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Inspectors General play a critical role in providing oversight of the executive branch, regardless of administration. Will you commit to responding promptly and thoroughly to GAO and the Inspector General on all oversight requests?

As appropriate, yes.

3. **Local Foods**

Until they were recently canceled, the Local Food Purchasing Assistance and Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreements were incredibly popular programs supported by producers, hunger organizations, and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.

If confirmed, will you commit to working with me and other Committee members on ways to reinstate these broadly supported programs?

If confirmed, I commit to implementing programs within the Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP) mission area consistent with the law, and I commit to providing timely and accurate technical assistance to your office and other members of the Committee to inform the drafting and implementation of your priorities.

Senator Mitch McConnell

1. The thoroughbred racing industry, valued at \$36 billion, represents a major segment of the broader \$177 billion equine industry and has a distinct global footprint. However, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) currently groups equine, cervid, and small ruminant health under a single budget line despite the significant differences in their trade patterns, health risks, and purposes. In practice, more APHIS resources are allocated to goats and sheep than to thoroughbred racehorses.

If you are confirmed as the USDA Under Secretary of Marketing and Regulatory Programs, will you commit to reassessing and separating the allocation of APHIS resources to better reflect the unique needs and international movement of horses involved in exhibitions, shows, competitions, and racing?

If confirmed, I commit to reviewing and working with your office on this issue.

Senator Deb Fischer

1. Innovative products, such as compostable bioplastics made in Nebraska from corn, are set to be banned in California due to a law that links the term “compostable” to an out-of-date definition in the National Organic Program. A pending petition has been at USDA for almost 2 years without action asking for this definition to be updated which would be beneficial to biomanufacturers.

Will you commit to looking into this pending petition to clarify the definition of “compostable” under the National Organic Program?

If confirmed, I commit to learning more about the pending petition before the National Organic Program and working with your office on possible solutions.

Senator Michael Bennet

1. As you know, small farms—especially in Colorado, where more than three-quarters of farms are under 500 acres—depend heavily on direct-to-consumer and local market channels. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA’s) local and regional food systems programs have provided vital support for these producers, helping them build resilient businesses amid high input costs, labor shortages, and market uncertainty. Terminating programs like the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement has left gaps that threaten their market access.

- a. Based on your past work at USDA and your familiarity with current Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) programs, which tools do you see as most effective in supporting small and mid-sized farms, strengthening local and regional food systems, and ensuring that fresh, nutritious, U.S.-grown food reaches households who need it the most?

My understanding is the Congressionally-created Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP) and underlying program authorities are intended to support the development, coordination, and expansion of direct producer-to-consumer marketing, local and regional food markets, and value-added products.

- b. Where do you see the greatest opportunity to improve or scale those efforts?

If confirmed, I commit to providing timely and accurate technical assistance to your office and other members of the Committee to inform the drafting and implementation of your priorities intended to improve or scale those efforts.

2. While the Regional Food System Partnerships (RFSP) program has spurred meaningful collaboration across food systems, the required cash match—unlike the (Local Food Promotion Program’s (LFPP) more flexible matching options—creates a barrier for smaller or rural applicants. Based on your knowledge of these programs and your experience in MRP, how can AMS improve the accessibility of RFSP, LFPP, and Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) grants, particularly for underserved or first-time applicants?

If confirmed, I commit to learning more about the accessibility barriers you referenced above and working with your office on possible solutions.

3. In Colorado, labor shortages continue to strain producers across the state, especially in labor-intensive sectors like fruit and vegetable production. The USDA’s Farm Labor Stabilization and Protection Pilot Program awarded \$50 million to help address these challenges and improve conditions for both workers and employers. As part of the program, recipients are required to detail how they are meeting their commitments when applying for H-2A workers—directly linking labor stabilization goals.

- a. How will you ensure producers who made these commitments with the expectation of USDA support are not left without the resources they were promised?

If confirmed, I commit to learning more about the specific issues you are referencing, and I commit to implementing programs within the MRP mission area consistent with the law.

- b. Will you commit to the continuation of this program?

If confirmed, I commit to following Secretary Rollins' leadership and implementing programs within the MRP mission area consistent with the law.

4. Organic producers in Colorado and across the country are playing by the rules—investing time and money to meet rigorous certification standards. But they can't compete on a fair playing field if fraudulent organic imports are slipping through the cracks. With the volume of organic imports continuing to grow, how will you strengthen monitoring and enforcement to protect the integrity of the USDA Organic Seal and ensure that both consumers and legitimate producers aren't getting shortchanged?

If confirmed, I commit to working with the National Organic Program (NOP) and the stakeholder community to better understand the vulnerabilities fraudulent importers are attempting to exploit, and I commit to implementing programs within the MRP mission area consistent with the law.

Senator Cory Booker

1. American agriculture is built upon family farms. These families need Marketing and Regulatory Programs at USDA to work for them.

If confirmed, how would you plan to address anticompetitive practices and unfair competition within national and regional monopolies to protect family farmers and ranchers?

If confirmed, I commit to implementing the Agricultural Marketing Service's Fair Trade Practices Program and underlying authorities consistent with the law. I am also aware Congress mandated the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice with significant jurisdiction over antitrust laws.

2. AMS programs procure over \$2 billion in agricultural products per year, making it an important market opportunity for farmers.

If confirmed, will you commit to improving the AMS procurement process to allow more small- and mid-sized farmers to participate?

If confirmed, I commit to implementing programs within the MRP mission area consistent with the law, and I will work to ensure MRP programs, including procurement processes, best serve farms and ranches of all sizes.

3. The mission statement for Wildlife Services states that their mission is to "provide Federal leadership and expertise to resolve wildlife conflicts to allow people and wildlife to coexist." Unfortunately, Wildlife Services is currently failing at their mission, and every year they oversee the unnecessary killing of millions of animals, often in cruel and inhumane ways. The science has become very clear that not only does non-lethal

management of wildlife cost less, but non-lethal management is also more effective than lethal management.

If confirmed, will you commit that under your leadership Wildlife Services will prioritize non-lethal management techniques?

If confirmed, I commit to implementing programs within the MRP mission area consistent with the law while ensuring the highest and best use of taxpayer funds.

4. The Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs has oversight of the Commodity Checkoff Programs, which were created with noble intention but in my opinion are now in need of serious reforms.

If confirmed, will you use your authority to create as much transparency and oversight as possible of the checkoff programs?

If confirmed, I commit to implementing programs within the MRP mission area consistent with the law, including the statutorily mandated oversight of Research and Promotion Programs.

Senator Raphael Warnock

1. In June 2024, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) awarded \$50 million to agricultural employers through the Farm Labor Stabilization and Protection Pilot Program (FLSP) to address issues related to farm labor instability and shortages.¹ However, there are reports that USDA has paused this FLSP funding.² If confirmed, you will oversee the Agricultural Marketing Service, which administers FLSP.

Will you commit to working with Secretary Rollins and the Farm Service Agency to unfreeze these funds and ensure farmers are reimbursed for expenses they incurred carrying out the terms of their FSLP contracts?

If confirmed, I commit to following Secretary Rollins' leadership and to implement programs within the MRP mission area consistent with the law.

2. From our state's famous peaches to our high-quality pecans and our sweet Vidalia onions, Georgia is home to a wide variety of specialty crop farmers. The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) administers the Specialty Crops Program, which helps produce growers market their products.³ In addition, AMS facilitates the work of the Fruit and

¹ *USDA Awards \$50 Million to Support Farmworkers and Agricultural Employers*, Farm Service Agency (Jun. 14, 2025), <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-events/news/06-14-2024/usda-awards-50-million-support-farmworkers-agricultural-employers>.

² Lauren Davis, *Heiskell Farm Misses Out on Key Reimbursements as USDA Program Faces Cuts*, 10 News (Apr. 28, 2025), <https://www.wbir.com/article/news/local/usda-program-federal-funding-cuts-impact-east-tn-farm/51-3e413f97-dab6-4b5d-b679-80206e26c171>.

³ *Specialty Crops Program*, Agricultural Marketing Service (2025), <https://www.ams.usda.gov/about-ams/programs-offices/specialty-crops-program>.

Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee, which provides recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture on issues affecting the domestic produce industry.⁴

- a. Based on your previous experience, how do you believe the Specialty Crops Program benefits specialty crop growers?

Congress, through direct consultation with specialty crop growers, has authorized and mandated numerous authorities and programs to facilitate and elevate the production, consumption, and promotion of U.S. specialty crops.

- b. How will you work to ensure the Specialty Crops Program has the necessary funding and resources needed to support our nation's specialty crop producers?

If confirmed, I commit to implementing MRP programs, including specialty crop programs, and the corresponding resources Congress may assign those programs consistent with the law.

- c. If confirmed, will you commit to seriously considering any recommendations of the Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee?

If confirmed, I commit to seriously considering all recommendations from all MRP duly enacted and chartered federal advisory committees, in collaboration with the agency and stakeholder community.

- d. How will you work with Secretary Rollins to implement the recommendations of the Advisory Committee?

If confirmed, I commit to implementing the recommendations the Secretary approves for MRP duly enacted and chartered federal advisory committees, in collaboration with the agency and the stakeholder community.

3. If confirmed, you will be responsible for overseeing the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), which as you share in your testimony, is one of the USDA's most critical agencies protecting the health of U.S. agriculture.⁵ APHIS has been at the forefront of addressing the avian influenza outbreak,⁶ a disease that poultry farmers in Georgia are deeply concerned about. However, earlier this year, reporting indicated

⁴ *Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee*, Agricultural Marketing Service (2025), <https://www.ams.usda.gov/about-ams/facas-advisory-councils/fviac>.

⁵ Dudley Hoskins, *Opening Statement of Dudley Hoskins, Nominee for Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Before the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry* (May 21, 2025), https://www.agriculture.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/e3fbc11e-0883-bad7-e081-5aed177b2d6c/Testimony_Hoskins_05.21.2025.pdf.

⁶ *H5N1 Influenza*, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (Mar. 20, 2025), <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/h5n1-hpai>.

that USDA mistakenly terminated several employees who were working to respond to the avian influenza outbreak.⁷

- a. If confirmed, how will you work to ensure that any future staffing changes at APHIS are carried out thoughtfully?

If confirmed, I will follow Secretary Rollins' leadership and direction to ensure APHIS has the adequate workforce to meet its mission to protect the health and value of U.S. agriculture and natural resources.

- b. Will you commit to working with Secretary Rollins to ensure that APHIS has the necessary staffing and resources needed to safeguard the U.S. agricultural industry against threats, including avian influenza?

Yes, if confirmed, I commit to following Secretary Rollins' leadership and direction to ensure APHIS has the adequate workforce to meet its mission to protect the health and value of U.S. agriculture and natural resources.

4. With more than 80% of veterinarians graduating with student loan debt averaging more than \$200,000, the number of rural veterinarians is dwindling.⁸ The Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) helps relieve the loan debt burden and retain veterinarians in shortage areas.⁹

If confirmed, will you commit to investing in the resources, like the VMLRP, that are necessary to help retain rural veterinarian workforce numbers and entice the next generation in the field?

If confirmed, I commit to implementing MRP programs and the corresponding resources Congress may assign those programs consistent with the law.

5. Newnan, Georgia is home to the National Detector Dog Training Center, which trains dogs to detect foreign pests and diseases that threaten the domestic agriculture industry.¹⁰ Despite its vital role, reporting has found that the USDA has reduced the centers' critical staff.¹¹

- a. Based on your previous experience, do you believe that the National Detector Dog Training Center plays a vital role in protecting our domestic agriculture industry?

⁷ Josh Funk, *Agriculture Department Tries to Rehire Fired Workers Tied to Bird Flu Response*, AP News (Feb. 19, 2025), <https://apnews.com/article/usda-firings-doge-bird-flu-trump-fdd6495cbe44c96d471ae8c6cf4dd0a8>.

⁸ *Addressing Rural Veterinary Gaps: A Must for Animal and Public Health*, American Veterinary Medical Association (2025), <https://www.avma.org/advocacy/addressing-rural-veterinary-shortages-must-animal-and-public-health>.

⁹ *The Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program*, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (2025), <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/veterinary-medicine-loan-repayment-program>.

¹⁰ *The National Detector Dog Training Center Training Agriculture's Best Friend*, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (Aug. 2019), <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/bro-detector-dog.pdf>.

¹¹ Andrea Hsu, *A Military Vet and a Scientist Were Securing America's Food System. Trump Fired Them*, National Public Radio (Feb. 20, 2025), <https://www.whqr.org/national/2025-02-20/a-military-vet-and-a-scientist-were-securing-americas-food-system-trump-fired-them>.

Yes.

- b. If confirmed, will you commit to ensuring that this center has the necessary resources and staffing needed to carry out its mission?

If confirmed, I commit to implementing MRP programs and the corresponding resources Congress may assign those programs consistent with the law.

6. Feral swine have been estimated to cause more than \$150 million in economic damage to Georgia.¹² To address this issue, the 2018 Farm Bill established the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program (FSCP), which APHIS and the Natural Resources Conservation Service jointly administer.¹³

Based on your previous experience, what do you believe are the benefits of FSCP?

As I am not yet confirmed, I cannot speak to the current administration of this program.

7. Since 1978, APHIS has led efforts to address various cotton industry pests, including the Boll weevil and the pink bollworm.¹⁴

If confirmed, will you commit to continuing investment in these efforts to help ensure our nation's cotton farmers are protected from harmful pests?

If confirmed, I commit to implementing MRP programs, including the Plant Protection and Quarantine program, and the corresponding resources Congress may assign those programs consistent with the law.

Senator John Fetterman

1. The Packers and Stockyards Act (PSA) is a crucial statute that promotes fairness and a competitive market—especially for small farms, which Secretary Rollins recently announced an agenda to promote.¹⁵ I'm encouraged that PSA is still a bipartisan issue, as you indicated in your answer to Senator Hoeven in today's hearing. Further, American Farm Bureau Federation has been supportive of the previous administration's PSA rulemaking.^{16,17}

¹² *Feral Swine*, Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (Dec. 21, 2022), <https://gaswcc.georgia.gov/document/document/feral-swine-post-12-21-2022/download#:~:text=The%20economic%20impact%20of%20damage,populations%20in%20Texas%20and%20Florida>.

¹³ *Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program*, Natural Resource Conservation Service (2025), <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feral-swine-eradication-and-control-pilot-program>.

¹⁴ *Cotton Pests*, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (Mar. 29, 2024), <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-pests-diseases/cotton-pests>.

¹⁵ <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/05/19/secretary-rollins-announces-farmers-first-small-family-farms-policy-agenda>

¹⁶ <https://www.fb.org/news-release/afbf-appreciates-packers-and-stockyards-act-updates>

¹⁷ <https://www.fb.org/news-release/farm-bureau-calls-for-transparency-in-poultry-industry>

- a. Do you currently have plans to repeal, rescind, or substantially alter any or all PSA rulemakings done under the previous administration?

As a nominee, I do not have any plans related to any past, current, or future rulemakings.

- b. Have you had any conversations with current administration officials about plans for PSA rulemakings, whether to repeal existing rules or publish new rules?

No.

- c. Do you agree that PSA is a crucial tool that USDA can use to promote fairness and competition?

I understand the Packers and Stockyards Act, as mandated by Congress, requires USDA-AMS to enforce fair trade practices in the livestock, meat, and poultry industries. I am also aware Congress mandated the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice with significant jurisdiction over antitrust laws.

- d. Will you push Secretary Rollins to consider including PSA rulemakings in her Small Family Farms Policy Agenda?

If confirmed, I commit to following Secretary Rollins' leadership and ensuring any corresponding implementing regulations within the MRP mission area are consistent with the law.

2. I appreciate your response during the hearing about AMS's role in local food promotion. I still disagree with the USDA's withholding of PA's third round of LFPA funding. As noted in detail in my letter¹⁸ to Secretary Rollins (attached in the record and below in a footnote), PA can easily spend the rest of its 2nd round of funding before the deadline, undermining USDA's argument that they have ample unspent money and do not need a third round of funding.

With this information in mind, will you commit to disbursing PA's third round of funding if confirmed?

If confirmed, I commit to following Secretary Rollins' leadership and implementing programs within the MRP mission area consistent with the law.

Senator Adam Schiff

1. Specialty crops not only contribute billions to the economy, but are also essential to healthy diets and nutrition security for all Americans. At the same time, USDA's own research shows that ~90 percent of Americans eat too few vegetables, and 80 percent do

¹⁸ https://www.fetterman.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/USDA_LFPA-TEFAP.pdf

not eat enough fruit. USDA has the power to ensure that nutrition programs address this underconsumption. Over the past several years, under both Democratic and Republican Administrations, USDA has made significant strides to better incorporate more fresh produce into its nutrition and purchasing programs. We should maintain and improve upon this progress.

- a. Will you commit to preserving and bolstering USDA's support of the nation's fresh produce industry through marketing and purchasing programs?

If confirmed, I commit to following Secretary Rollins' leadership and implementing programs within the MRP mission area along with the corresponding resources Congress may assign those programs, including the AMS specialty crops program, consistent with the law.

- b. While the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and schools themselves are critical in encouraging kids to eat more fruits and vegetables through practices like serving healthy fruits and vegetables before other items, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) also plays an important role. How can AMS and FNS work together to increase offerings and consumption of fresh, appetizing fruits and vegetables in schools, food banks, and other USDA program recipients?

If confirmed, I commit to following Secretary Rollins' leadership and working with my potential future colleagues in the AMS and FNS agencies to assess opportunities to improve offerings and consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables consistent with the law.

2. As the number one organic state, California accounts for over one-third of all organic sales in the nation, demonstrating a substantial capacity for domestic producers to meet growing demand for organic food. Yet, the U.S. continues to import billions of dollars of organic foods and ingredients annually. What strategies will you implement at USDA to foster organic market development to ensure farmers in the U.S. are feeding American families the organic food they demand?

If confirmed, I commit to working with the National Organic Program (NOP) and the stakeholder community to better understand the vulnerabilities fraudulent organic products or importers are attempting to exploit, and I commit to implementing programs within the MRP mission area consistent with the law.

3. The Animal Welfare Act (AWA) is a critical tool to ensuring that animal abusers are held accountable. Strengthening USDA and DOJ enforcement of the AWA has long been an area of bipartisan interest. Do you commit to continued inspection of AWA-regulated entities both routinely for compliance and in response to complaints, holding bad actors who violate the law accountable through meaningful enforcement?

If confirmed, I commit to implementing programs within the MRP mission area, including the APHIS Animal Care program, consistent with the law.

U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Nomination Hearing
May 21, 2025
Questions for the Record
Scott Hutchins

Senator Amy Klobuchar

1. Responsiveness to Congress

If you are confirmed, do you agree to:

- a. Promptly reply to any request for information from members of this Committee or any duly constituted committee of Congress and provide the requested information?

As appropriate, yes.

- b. Promptly respond to requests for data and technical assistance in informing or drafting legislation or implementation of the law?

As appropriate, yes.

- c. Notify the Chair and Ranking Member of this Committee in advance of any major changes made by you or within the Department of Agriculture during your tenure?

As appropriate, yes.

2. Oversight

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Inspectors General play a critical role in providing oversight of the executive branch, regardless of administration. Will you commit to responding promptly and thoroughly to GAO and the Inspector General on all oversight requests?

As appropriate, yes.

3. Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

Minnesota is home to ARS sites, including the Cereal Disease Lab and multiple research units in Morris, that do great work for our farmers. I strongly support these labs, and it is my goal to work with you, if confirmed, to strengthen their research efforts. With the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, the Administration has proposed closing Agricultural Research Service labs.

If confirmed, will you commit to consulting with and briefing the Committee prior to any proposals to close ARS facilities?

As appropriate, yes.

Senator Mitch McConnell

1. In the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020, I secured \$65.9 million to build a Forage-Animal Production Lab at the University of Kentucky. The lab was initially intended to focus on research for cattle and equine. USDA's Regional Office delayed work on this project for more than three years in an attempt to alter the research scope of the lab to include climate initiatives. Most recently, delays have occurred due to an unsuccessful bid process in July 2024. UK received reassurance nearly two months ago that another bid process would happen "soon," but USDA has been unable to confirm a specific timeline.

If you are confirmed as the USDA Under Secretary of Research, Education, and Economics, will you commit to ensuring a new bid process for the ARS Lab is made a priority, and that construction of this lab begins by the end of 2025?

I commit to working with you on this issue, if confirmed.

Senator Michael Bennet

1. Colorado's agriculture producers are regularly affected by severe drought, catastrophic wildfires, and shifting weather patterns. In 2024 alone, Colorado experienced six billion-dollar weather-related disasters. We need to ensure our farmers are prepared and protected, as those events are becoming increasingly common.

How will you prioritize research that helps Colorado producers adapt to these challenges?

As stated in my written testimony, I commit to actively working with agencies that will be under my leadership to create strategic initiatives and national priorities in line with the goals and objectives of the President, the Secretary, and Congress.

If confirmed, I look forward to frequent engagement with all producers throughout the development of these initiatives to ensure that USDA research helps find solutions to challenges faced by American farmers and ranchers.

2. Land-grant universities like Colorado State play a critical role in tackling both local and national agricultural challenges—from advancing drought resilience to developing high-elevation cropping systems. These institutions are essential partners in the USDA's research and extension work.

What is your plan to strengthen USDA's partnerships with land-grant universities, like CSU, to ensure we're meeting the producers' needs while driving innovation nationwide?

As stated in my written testimony, I commit to actively working with agencies that will be under my leadership to create strategic initiatives and national priorities in line with the goals and objectives of the President, the Secretary, and Congress.

If confirmed, I look forward to discussing ways to strengthen USDA's partnership with land-grant universities throughout the development of these initiatives to address the challenges facing farmers and ranchers.

3. During the first Trump administration, we saw a troubling exodus of USDA scientists—many from the Economic Research Service (ERS) and National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)—after the agencies were relocated and morale plummeted. Now, I am hearing from folks on the ground that more recent staffing decisions are causing reductions that are pulling them away from their core research work to do things like clean lab equipment or manage facility operations—because support positions haven't been refilled.

Given your previous leadership in this mission area, what do you think are the most urgent staffing or structural fixes we need to ensure USDA scientists can get back to doing science—instead of scrambling to keep their labs running?

If confirmed, I look forward to immediate briefings on all actions to date—personnel or otherwise—and will create an action plan based on those briefings to ensure our REE agencies are focused to accomplish their mission.

Senator Cory Booker

1. The MAHA Commission, which includes Secretary Rollins, recently released a consensus report which identified environmental chemicals as one of the major drivers behind the rise in childhood chronic illness. The report stated that a significant portion of environmental toxicology and epidemiology studies on environmental chemicals like pesticides are conducted by private corporations and that there are potential biases in industry-funded research on pesticides. In fact, at the press event, President Trump stated: "We will not allow our public health system to be captured by the very industries it's supposed to oversee."
 - a. If confirmed, you will be the Chief Scientist at the Department of Agriculture. Will you commit that as Chief Scientist, you will ensure that all research related to pesticides will be scientifically rigorous and free from industry influence?

I will commit to making certain the Department uses sound data and science in its research and adheres to the law.
 - b. How do you see USDA REE contributing to the MAHA Commission's research initiative recommendations, including on precision toxicology, as it relates to pesticides?

While the Secretary of Agriculture is a member of the MAHA Commission, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is the Federal Agency tasked with evaluating data from various sources to determine the potential for human health and ecological effects of a pesticide.

If confirmed, I will work Secretary Rollins to ensure she has the information and data needed to inform any decisions made with respect to the MAHA Commission and any subsequent reports.

2. NIFA administers GusNIP, which is a nutrition incentive program that improves access to fruits and vegetables for low-income Americans. Research has shown that those who participate in the program consume more fruits and vegetables than the average American. This is a great example of how we are making Americans healthy again. If confirmed, will you commit to working with Congress to continue this program and expand healthy food access?

If confirmed, I will follow the law.

3. During your previous time at USDA, you published a strategy document titled “USDA Scientific Blueprint – A Roadmap for USDA Science from 2020 to 2025.” This roadmap focused on five overarching “Program Themes” that would “allow organizational clarity, speed, and agility.” The themes were Sustainable Ag Intensification, Ag Climate Adaptation, Food and Nutrition Translation, Value-Added Innovations, and Ag Science Policy Leadership.

- a. If confirmed, do you plan to issue another strategy document for the next five years?

As stated in my written testimony, I commit to actively working with agencies that will be under my leadership to create strategic initiatives and national priorities in line with the goals and objectives of the President, the Secretary, and Congress. As such, I believe USDA should review previously published strategies and update them as necessary for current relevancy.

- b. Do you still believe that “Ag Climate Adaptation” should be a priority area of focus for USDA’s research agencies? Why or why not?

If confirmed, I look forward to conducting a comprehensive analysis of the current USDA research portfolio that will assist in making any updates necessary to the previously published strategies. As stated in my Senate testimony, research focused on helping farmers and ranchers with resiliency has long been a focus for federal agricultural research agencies.

- c. Regarding “Ag Science Policy Leadership,” the report noted an objective to “develop an effective and diverse U.S. agricultural workforce that contributes to safer, healthier, vibrant, sustainable, and innovative communities.”

- i. Do you believe it is important to have a diverse agriculture workforce? Why or why not?

I believe that it is important to have an agricultural workforce that is well-equipped with a diverse range of agricultural and science experiences to find solutions to the numerous challenges faced by American farmers and ranchers.

- ii. If confirmed, how will you support the development of a diverse agriculture workforce, particularly within positions that require a STEM degree?

If confirmed, I look forward to working with our land-grant system to ensure they are well equipped to train the next generation of agriculturalists and agricultural scientists and instill a broad agricultural education and perspective.

- d. Within the final theme, the document also outlines strategy to “identify and remove barriers to assist socially disadvantaged and limited resource producers, beginning farmers, women producers, and veterans, in joining the workforce for farming, natural resources, and related industries.”

- i. Do you believe it is important for USDA to identify and remove barriers for these populations previously described? Why or why not?

With the average age of farmers continuing to rise, it is important for USDA to identify and remove barriers for all producers regardless of what population they belong to.

- ii. Do you support targeted outreach and assistance to these populations in order to identify and remove these barriers?

I believe that every American served by USDA should be treated with dignity and respect.

- iii. If confirmed, what will you do to identify and remove barriers for socially disadvantaged and limited resource producers, beginning farmers, women, and veterans?

If confirmed, I will ensure that every American served by USDA is treated with dignity and respect.

Senator Raphael Warnock

1. If confirmed, you will lead USDA's efforts to advance scientific agricultural knowledge through research. Climate change is a pressing challenge with broad implications for the U.S. agriculture industry.

- a. Based on your previous experience, how do you believe climate change affects our nation's farmers and agricultural industry?

While the climate does change throughout the year, the cause and solutions are not widely understood or defined.

- b. What role do you believe farmers play in supporting conservation and mitigating climate change?

If confirmed, I look forward to working with the Farm Production and Conservation mission area to better understand their role in supporting farmers in conservation efforts and how the agencies under my leadership can best support those efforts.

- c. If confirmed, will you commit to investing in research and programs focused on climate adaptation and climate change to ensure our nation's producers have the best tools available to keep farming?

I support USDA research that helps find solutions to challenges faced by American farmers and ranchers.

2. Our nation's land-grant institutions, including my state's Fort Valley State University (FVSU) and the University of Georgia (UGA), are critical partners in advancing agricultural research and educating our nation's agricultural leaders and communities.

- a. Do you support formula funds for land-grant institutions?

As stated in my written testimony, the land-grant mission is timeless in not only research, but also in the research made relevant through education and extension. Both capacity funding programs and competitive grant programs have played an important role in carrying out this mission.

- b. Do you believe that our land-grant institutions can rely on competitive programs to reliably hire staff and support ongoing research and extension work?

If confirmed, I look forward to working with NIFA to conduct a comprehensive analysis of all land-grant university funding to identify what the proper balance between capacity funding programs and competitive grant programs should be.

- c. If confirmed, will you commit to working with me to support land-grant universities through strong funding, including funding for FVSU and UGA?

If confirmed, I commit to working with the Secretary, the Office of Management and Budget, and other interested parties to help craft the Department's budget for agencies in the Research, Education, and Economics mission area.

3. USDA has a long history of supporting 1890 historically Black colleges and universities, 1994 Tribal colleges and universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and other minority serving institutions.

- a. Do you believe that federal support for these institutions counts as diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)?

Certain programs are statutorily required to support minority-serving institutions, including programs that support 1890 land-grants, 1994 land-grants, Hispanic-serving institutions, and Alaska Native-Serving and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions. I will follow the law.

- b. If confirmed, will you commit to supporting 1890s, 1994 Tribal colleges and universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and other minority serving institutions?

If confirmed, I will follow the law.

4. If confirmed, you will oversee the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and the Agriculture Research Service (ARS). ARS supports research through its 15 National Programs and 95 research locations to find solutions to our nation's agricultural problems.¹ Georgia is home to several of ARS's research facilities, including ARS's National Peanut Laboratory,² National Poultry Research Center,³ and the Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory.⁴

- a. If confirmed, will you commit to investing in peanut research, including by ensuring that ARS's National Peanut Laboratory has the necessary staffing and resources to address pressing issues facing our nation's peanut farmers, including aflatoxin?

If confirmed, I commit to working with the Secretary, the Office of Management and Budget, and other interested parties to help craft the Department's budget for agencies in the Research, Education, and Economics mission area.

¹ *About ARS*, Agricultural Research Service (2025), <https://www.ars.usda.gov/about-ars/>.

² *National Peanut Research Laboratory: Dawson, GA*, Agricultural Research Service (2025), <https://www.ars.usda.gov/southeast-area/dawson-ga/national-peanut-research-laboratory/>.

³ *U.S. National Poultry Research Center: Athens, GA*, Agricultural Research Service (2025), <https://www.ars.usda.gov/southeast-area/athens-ga/us-national-poultry-research-center/>.

⁴ *U.S. National Poultry Research Center: Athens, GA*, Agricultural Research Service (2025), <https://www.ars.usda.gov/southeast-area/athens-ga/us-national-poultry-research-center/docs/seprl/>.

- b. If confirmed, will you commit to investing in poultry research, including by ensuring that ARS's National Poultry Research Center and the Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory have the necessary staffing and resources to address pressing issues facing our nation's poultry farmers, including avian influenza?

If confirmed, I commit to working with the Secretary, the Office of Management and Budget, and other interested parties to help craft the Department's budget for agencies in the Research, Education, and Economics mission area.

- c. Based on your previous experience, how do you believe staffing cuts and potential relocations or restructuring of USDA's research agencies, including NIFA offices, will affect USDA's ability to conduct and publish comprehensive and scientifically based research?

Because I am not at the Department, I do not know the details of proposals currently being considered by the Department. However, if confirmed, I commit to working with the Secretary, the Department, and partners to ensure agencies in the Research, Education, and Economics mission area are carrying out their congressional mandated activities.

- 5. NIFA is responsible for administering the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN). This network provides critical resources for farmers and rural communities regarding stress, mental health, and substance abuse.⁵

- a. If confirmed, will you support continued investments for FRSAN?

If confirmed, I commit to working with the Secretary, the Office of Management and Budget, and other interested parties to help craft the Department's budget for agencies in the Research, Education, and Economics mission area.

- b. Given ongoing uncertainty within the U.S. agriculture sector, do you believe additional resources are needed to support stress assistance for farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners?

I believe the Cooperative Extension System—which is part of our land-grant university system—is well equipped to connect farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners with needed resources, including resources to support stress assistance.

⁵ *Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN)*, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (2025), <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/farm-ranch-stress-assistance-network-frsan>.

6. NIFA has supported the use of precision technologies to improve land and resource management within our agricultural and forestry industries and boost producers' profit margins.⁶

- a. If confirmed, will you commit to continuing NIFA's investment in research and programs that promote the development and adoption of precision agriculture technologies?

If confirmed, I commit to working with NIFA to ensure their competitive grant programs are funding research that helps find solutions to challenges faced by American farmers and ranchers.

- b. Will you commit to working with me and my colleagues to lower the barriers of adopting precision agriculture technologies to help ensure that all of our nation's farmers can benefit from these technologies?

If confirmed, I commit to providing timely technical assistance to you and your colleagues, including on any legislation that seeks to lower the barriers to adopting precision agriculture technologies.

Senator John Fetterman

1. Dr. Hutchins, I hear from farmers in PA about how they are impacted by climate change. "Climate change" may be a partisan term down here in DC, but in PA, it's not a red or a blue issue. Farmers in red counties from Northampton to Crawford see with their own eyes how the climate is changing year-to-year. You've acknowledged before this Committee in 2018, "We are fully committed to supporting research that ensures U.S. producers will be able to adapt to a changing climate." This is included in the hearing record. On a similar topic, you spoke about the value of USDA's Climate Hubs and Long-term Agroecosystem Research (LTAR) Network.

- a. Will you reaffirm that if confirmed, NIFA and ARS will continue supporting climate science?

I will commit to making certain the Department uses sound data and science in its research and adheres to the law.

- b. Will you prevent political interference to help farmers adapt to a changing climate and be part of the solution to greenhouse gas emissions?

I will commit to making certain the Department uses sound data and science in its research and adheres to the law.

- c. Do you still support USDA's Climate Hubs and LTAR Network?

⁶ *Precision, Geospatial and Sensor Technologies Programs*, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (2025), <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/precision-geospatial-sensor-technologies-programs>.

I support USDA research that helps find solutions to challenges faced by American farmers and ranchers.

- d. If confirmed, will you support continued funding disbursements—as appropriated by Congress—and oppose efforts to close Climate Hubs or the LTAR Network?

I support USDA research that helps find solutions to challenges faced by American farmers and ranchers.

- 2. According to the Organic Farming Research Foundation, “ARS invests less than 1% and NIFA 2% of their budget into direct organic agriculture research.”

- a. Do you believe that investments in organic agriculture have the opportunity to benefit all farmers, including those who grow conventionally?

I believe there may be some opportunities for methods developed for organic agriculture to benefit all farmers. For example, I was the global product development manager for spinosad, a naturally derived insect management tool that is today one of the most widely used tools in both organic and conventional agriculture in the U.S. and globally.

- b. If confirmed, will you commit to supporting organic agriculture research?

If confirmed, I commit to working with the Secretary, the Office of Management and Budget, and other interested parties to help craft the Department’s budget for agencies in the Research, Education, and Economics mission area.

- c. If confirmed, will you commit to improving coordination of organic agriculture research and market data across REE’s various agencies?

The Office of the Chief Scientist was created in the 2008 Farm Bill to “be responsible for the coordination of the research, education, and extension activities of the Department.” If confirmed, I look forward to working with the Office of the Chief Scientist to coordinate all research—including organic research—across USDA.

- d. Do you believe USDA could improve collection of organic data, including organic dairy data? If so, what more can USDA do to improve data collection?

While NASS is responsible for collecting some organic data, other USDA agencies—such as AMS—are also involved in collecting these data. If confirmed, I look forward to coordinating with other mission areas to identify if there are ways that organic data collection can be improved.

3. The Hatch, McIntire-Stennis, Animal Health and Disease, and Smith-Lever formula grants are essential to the research and extension missions of our land-grant institutions. These programs ensure that institutions have the sustained capacity to respond rapidly to emergent and immediate threats to our food and agricultural systems—such as disease outbreaks, extreme weather shocks, and supply chain disruptions. Moreover, we can leverage these funds to increase our competitiveness for other grant programs and to support innovations leading to more profitable and globally competitive agricultural systems.

Given the critical role these formula grants play, how would you work to ensure their growth and long-term federal commitment to their funding?

If confirmed, I commit to working with the Secretary, the Office of Management and Budget, and other interested parties to help craft the Department's budget for agencies in the Research, Education, and Economics mission area.

4. The United States has long been a global leader in agricultural research and innovation, but our leadership is increasingly at risk as other nations—including adversaries like China—outpace us in modernizing their research infrastructure. Many of our land-grant institutions are conducting cutting-edge science in facilities that are decades out of date with estimates of deferred maintenance costs exceeding \$11 billion nationally. The Research Facilities Act offers a critical opportunity to begin to address this gap.

- a. If confirmed, will you support disbursing congressional appropriations for Research Facilities Act and oppose a political agenda that might withhold funds from certain states and their land grant universities?

The Research Facilities Act describes a process that should be used when reviewing proposals submitted for funding. If confirmed, I will follow the law.

- b. How would you prioritize facility investments to ensure that U.S. agricultural research remains globally competitive and capable of addressing 21st-century challenges?

The Research Facilities Act describes a process that should be used when reviewing proposals submitted for funding. If confirmed, I will follow the law.

5. Regarding then-Secretary Perdue's relocation of ERS and NIFA:

- a. What was your role in the previous relocation of ERS and NIFA from Washington, DC, to Kansas City?

The relocation of ERS and NIFA outside of the National Capital Region was announced in August 2018, several months before I started my service as the Deputy Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics in January 2019. As such, I was tasked with managing the relocation.

- b. Did you have concerns with the relocation at the time, including concerns over the loss of staff or disruptions to agency functions during the relocation?

Throughout this relocation, my priorities were supporting our staff—which included both those that chose to relocate as well as those who chose not to—and ensuring the continuity of mission for both ERS and NIFA.

- c. Do you support additional relocations or reorganizations within this mission area?

While I do not know the details of proposals currently being considered by the Department, I believe there are efficiencies to be found in any government agency and that American farmers and ranchers are better served by USDA when employees are closer to the customers they serve.

- d. As a result of this relocation effort, we saw employees within ERS and NIFA unionize. If confirmed, will you commit to working with all existing unions, including a good faith effort to comply with all existing collective bargaining agreements?

If confirmed, I will follow the law.

Senator Adam Schiff

1. The Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics has served to advise the USDA Secretary on the scope, timing, content, etc., of the periodic censuses and surveys of agriculture, other related surveys, and the types of information to obtain from respondents concerning agriculture. Given the announced termination, how will you ensure that the most rigorous and appropriate science informs the collection and dissemination of agricultural statistics and surveys?

It is my understanding via public sources that the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics was not an active Federal Advisory Committee at the time of termination, with the last meeting being held in November 2018.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with NASS to ensure the most rigorous and appropriate science is used in their data collection through other available opportunities, such as the biannual Data Users' Meeting and the requirement that all surveys be approved by OMB before data collection can begin.

2. The National Institute of Food and Agriculture's Competitive Grant programs remain under review. California constituents have raised paused funding on projects critical to viability of the ag industry. Do you commit to both continued funding and rollout of these programs in 2025?

If confirmed, I will follow the law.

3. One of USDA's most vital functions is its research. Without continued and innovative research, farmers cannot stay competitive and persist through harsh climates. This is especially true for specialty crop production, which California leads. USDA led- and supported- research is one of the biggest services USDA provides for that industry. How will you account for the vital nature of specialty crop research, and ensure USDA continues to support specialty crop farmers' livelihoods through better food safety, new technologies, and stronger resiliency?

If confirmed, I commit to frequent engagement with all producers—including specialty crop growers—to ensure that all USDA-funded agricultural research is meeting their needs.

Senator Elissa Slotkin

1. Farm Labor Survey

Labor cost increases within the H-2A program are posing a significant threat to the ability of many U.S. growers to continue to produce healthy, American-made food. Last fall then Secretary Vilsack pledged in a meeting with the agricultural employers to address concerns with the data collection method used by the Farm Labor Survey. The Survey results are used by the Department of Labor to establish a government-mandated wage for employers using the H-2A temporary foreign worker program. The potential for deficiencies in the data collection has potentially contributed to non-justifiable wage reporting that has greatly exacerbated increases to labor costs for H-2A users and made the program inaccessible to some growers. Will you follow up on that pledge by instructing NASS to consider:

- a. Reporting a "Field & Livestock Combined" annual average hourly base wage, as was done by USDA under the first Trump Administration; and
- b. Expanding the survey's sample size and refine the survey's design to increase clarity, brevity, and comprehension; and
- c. Determining any degree to which the inclusion of wages paid to H-2A workers affects the average hourly base wage, considering regions where H-2A workers and those in corresponding employment make up a larger or smaller percentage of the agricultural workforce and:
- d. Exploring the ability to make an empirical assessment based on the data collected as to whether the admission of H-2A workers either benefit and protect domestic worker jobs in agriculture or have an adverse effect.
- e. Collaborating with their colleagues at USDA and DOL to ensure that producers are appropriately educated and aware of the impact of their participation.

As you noted, NASS initiated and published a study in the first Trump Administration that evaluated the impact of collecting the base wage rate in the Farm Labor Survey and started publishing this base wage rate in November 2019.

If confirmed, I look forward to understanding why the collection of the base wage rate was ended in April 2021, identifying if there are ways to improve this data collection, and working with the Department of Labor to see if administrative changes can be made to better support producers using the H-2A program.

2. NASS

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is responsible for producing many critical reports, including the Census of Agriculture every five years. NASS has struggled with low participation rates in surveys.

If confirmed, what is your strategy to improve participation rates for NASS surveys to ensure accurate and timely reports from the agency?

If confirmed, I look forward to working with NASS to conduct a comprehensive analysis of all their surveys to identify ways to streamline and modernize data collection efforts in a way that will reduce survey fatigue among producers without compromising any of their critical reports.

3. Specialty Crops

The Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) was reauthorized by the 2018 Farm Bill. It is administered by NIFA and focuses on emerging challenges faced by specialty crop producers, such as improving production efficiency, crop characteristics, and technological innovations.

- a. What do you see as the most critical research issues facing specialty crop growers?

Access to a stable workforce and the lack of technologies that can automate and mechanize some labor-intensive tasks on the farm has long been one of the biggest challenges for our specialty crop growers.

- b. If confirmed, will you commit to frequent engagement with specialty crop growers, including small and mid-sized growers, to ensure SCRI and other research efforts are meeting their needs?

If confirmed, I commit to frequent engagement with all producers—including specialty crop growers—to ensure that all USDA-funded agricultural research is meeting their needs.

4. International Research

I remain concerned about the Administration's actions to rollback programs that support investment in international agriculture research, including the Feed the Future Innovation Labs, two of which were hosted at Michigan State University and forced to close down. While these are funded through USAID, their research directly benefits U.S. farmers, the domestic agriculture industry, and our land-grant universities.

- a. Do you support the cancelation of funds for the Feed the Future Innovation Labs?

During my previous experience at USDA, I did not interact with the Feed the Future Innovation Labs previously funded by USAID, and as such, I am not very familiar with the program. However, if confirmed, I look forward to working with the Department of State to better understand this program.

- b. If confirmed, will you commit to supporting ongoing investments in international agriculture research?

If confirmed, I commit to ensuring funds appropriated by Congress for agricultural research—whether conducted here or abroad—are going towards research that directly benefits American farmers and ranchers and helps them respond to the many challenges they face.

