

The following organizations write to oppose the Chaffetz and Broun amendments to the agricultural appropriations bill cutting the budgets for the USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) and the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). We also oppose the existing levels in the agricultural appropriations bill that represent a 4.5% cut for NASS and a 15% cut for ERS below the FY11 levels.

These agencies provide critical information about the state of agriculture in the United States and therefore help this vital part of our economy. Farmers, producers, businesses, and others rely on ERS and NASS data to make decisions to be productive and competitive. Cuts to the ERS and NASS budgets put the agricultural community at a disadvantage in this global market. Such cuts would jeopardize American agriculture's ability to remain competitive and set back innovation and the development of new knowledge needed to ensure food safety and security, and protection of the environment.

Specifically, ERS provides economic and other social science information and analysis on agriculture, food, the environment, and rural development. ERS produces such information and analyses to inform policy and program decisions made across the spectrum of USDA missions, and supplies them in outlets that are also accessible to USDA stakeholders and the general public.

NASS provides timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. NASS statistics provide the information necessary to keep agricultural markets stable and efficient and to help maintain a consistency for all users of agricultural statistics.

American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations
Association of Public Data Users
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council for Community and Economic Research
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics
Council on Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
Southern Agricultural Economics Association