

Congressman Cuellar's FY 19 Agriculture Language

1. Cotton pests:

\$11,520,000 for the APHIS Joint Cotton Pests Account.

2. Citrus Health Response Program:

\$61,000,000 for the Citrus Health Response Program under APHIS.

3. Fruit fly exclusion and detection:

\$66,640,000 for fruit fly exclusion and detection

4. HLB MAC Group:

\$3,000,000 for the Huanglongbing Multi-Agency Coordination Group

5. HLB emergency response:

“Huanglongbing Emergency Response. – The Committee maintains the increased funding levels for HLB emergency response within the Specialty Crop Pests line item. The Committee encourages APHIS to allocate sufficient resources in order to continue vital management, control, and associated activities to address citrus greening. The disease, for which there is no cure, has caused a reduction in citrus production by over 60 percent since 2007 in Florida alone. All citrus producing counties in Texas are under quarantine, and California has found the Asian Citrus Psyllid, the vector of the disease, in some backyard trees but not in the commercial groves to date. The spread of this disease has called the future of the domestic citrus industry into question, costing thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in lost revenue. In addition, the agency is encouraged to support priorities and strategies identified by the HLB MAC group to benefit the citrus industry. The agency should appropriately allocate resources based on critical need and maximum effect to the citrus industry. The Committee provides \$3,000,000 for citrus health to support priorities and strategies identified by the HLB MAC group. The MAC is focused on short-term solutions to help the citrus industry, and the cooperative nature of federal, state, and industry representatives in this group is expected to result in the development of tools and techniques to address this devastating disease. The MAC has been an effective resource in helping growers explore new possible solutions. The agency should appropriately allocate resources based on critical need and maximum impact to the citrus industry. These citrus health activities directly protect citrus production on approximately 765,000 acres in the United States worth more than \$3,439,000,000 for the 2016-2017 growing season.”

6. Citrus greening disease research:

“Citrus Greening Disease Research.— The Committee commends ARS’ research efforts on citrus greening disease and encourages the agency to continue working to develop methods to reduce transmission and enhance immunity in citrus trees and to work with industry, universities, growers, and other partners to develop effective control mechanisms. The Committee also encourages ARS to coordinate its efforts with the Huanglongbing Multi-Agency Coordination (HLB MAC) group.”

7. Citrus Health Response Program;

“Citrus Health Response Program (CHRP).—CHRP is a national program for the pest and disease exclusion and eradication activities including those associated with HLB and its vector the Asian Citrus Psyllid. The survival of the citrus industry in the U.S. is dependent on this funding, which supports efforts in citrus-producing states to research, survey, and combat both the pest and the disease. In addition to the funds provided in this account, the Committee encourages APHIS to utilize the funds available in the Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Programs account to the greatest extent possible in an attempt to sustain the economic viability of the citrus industry.”

8. Citrus disease research program:

“Citrus Disease Research Program.— The 2014 farm bill established the Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program, which is intended to discover and develop tools for early detection, control, and eradication of diseases and pests that threaten domestic citrus production and processing, and provided \$25,000,000 per year in mandatory funding for the program through the Specialty Crop Research Initiative. The Committee believes research projects funded under this authority should be prioritized based on the critical threat of citrus greening and encourages National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), to the maximum extent practicable, to follow the recommendations of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Advisory Board’s citrus disease subcommittee and to collaborate with the HLB MAC group.”