

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
ANALYSIS OF BA-7 REQUEST
Approved By JLCB**

DEPARTMENT: Other Requirements

AGENDA NO.: 3

AGENCY: Agriculture & Forestry - Pass Through Funds

ANALYST: Patrice Thomas

<u>Means of Financing</u>		<u>Expenditures by Program</u>		<u>T. O.</u>
State General Fund:	\$0	Agriculture & Forestry Funds	\$2,057,849	0
Interagency Transfers:	\$0			
Self-Generated Revenue:	\$0			
Statutory Dedications:	\$0			
Federal Funds:	\$2,057,849			
Total	<u>\$2,057,849</u>	Total	<u>\$2,057,849</u>	<u>0</u>

I. SUMMARY/COMMENTS

The purpose of this BA-7 request is to increase federal budget authority associated with two federal grant programs in Other Requirements - Agriculture & Forestry Pass Through Funds. The first grant is pass-through funding to regional food banks and the second is a new grant for the eradication and control of feral swine. The expenditures associated with this BA-7 request are budgeted in the Other Charges category.

The first grant is the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) in the amount of \$1.6 M. TEFAP is a federal program that helps supplement the diets of low-income Americans, including elderly people, by providing them with emergency food assistance at no cost. These funds will flow to food banks throughout the state for costs associated with the administration as well as the storage and distribution of food commodities. The LA Department of Agriculture and Forestry administers this program for the state of LA. The amount allocated to the state is calculated by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Food & Nutrition Service Program using a formula based on state unemployment and poverty levels. LA passes 100% of TEFAP funds received to five state-wide food banks. The TEFAP program is currently funded at \$1.6 M. Approval of this BA-7 request will increase the budget to \$3.2 M for FY 20.

The second grant program is the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program (FSCP) in the amount of \$457,849. FSCP is implemented jointly by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Animal and Plant Health and Inspection Service (APHIS). The FSCP was established by the federal 2018 Farm Bill to respond to the threat posed by feral swine to agriculture, native ecosystems, and human and animal health. According to the LA Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Louisiana's feral swine population of approximately 700,000 causes nearly \$60 M in agricultural damages.

The Louisiana FSCP Pilot Program will consist of three pilot control areas that total approximately six million acres of public and private land in the following parishes:

- Pilot Area #1 - Red River, Natchitoches, Winn, Grant, and Rapides Parishes
- Pilot Area #2 - Madison, Tensas, and Concordia Parishes
- Pilot Area #3 - Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes

Total funding for the LA FSCP pilot program is \$1.5 M for three years with a 25% match of \$500,000 provided by eight Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD). Authorized use of grant funds include hiring technicians to assist with feral swine trapping including purchasing the necessary traps, bait, trail cameras, drones, and ATV/UTV vehicles and trailers. To the extent that technicians are hired, SWCDs will need to secure ongoing funding when the grant is no longer available or terminate the positions.

II. IMPACT ON FUTURE FISCAL YEARS

The Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot (FSCP) program is a \$1.5 M grant for three years. The grant is anticipated to budget as follows: FY 21 - \$487,880, FY 22 - \$443,642, and FY 23 - \$110,629.

III. LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE RECOMMENDATION

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of this BA-7 request.