

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Section C

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE OF HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS AND SENATE FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEES

-----Agencies-----

Dept. of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks
Dept. of Environmental Quality
Dept. of Transportation

Dept. of Livestock
Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation
Dept. of Agriculture

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Rob Miller
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Agency Base Budget Comparison

The following table compares the base budget with the requested expenditures for the upcoming biennium by type of expenditure and source of funding.

Agency Base Budget Comparison					
Budget Item	Base Budget	Requested Budget		Biennium Change from Base	
	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	Amount	Percent
General Fund	4,109	4,109	4,109		0.0%
Proprietary Funds	58,200	58,200	58,200		0.0%
Total Funds	62,309	62,309	62,309		0.0%
Operating Expenses	62,309	62,309	62,309		0.0%
Total Expenditures	62,309	62,309	62,309		0.0%
Total Ongoing	62,309	62,309	62,309		0.0%
Total One-Time-Only					0.0%

LFD COMMENT	<p>General Fund as non-budgeted proprietary</p> <p>General fund listed in the table above as non-budgeted is in error. It is anticipated to be corrected in the Dec 15 budget submission.</p>
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Agency Highlights

<p>Department of Agriculture</p> <p>Major Budget Highlights</p>
<p>The executive proposes non change to the base budget.</p>

Executive Request

The following table shows the total executive request with the base budget and the statewide present law adjustments, present law adjustments, and new proposals by source of funding.

Department of Agriculture 2027 Biennium Base Budget and Requested Adjustments										
	FY 2026					FY 2027				
	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds	% of Budget Request	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds	% of Budget Request
Base Budget	4,109	0	0	62,309	100.0%	4,109	0	0	62,309	100.0%
Statewide PL										
Personal Services	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Fixed Costs	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Inflation Deflation	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Statewide PL	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Present Law (PL)	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
New Proposals	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Adjustments	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Requested Budget	4,109	0	0	62,309		4,109	0	0	62,309	

Funding

The following table shows proposed agency funding for all sources of authority.

Total Department of Agriculture Funding by Source of Authority 2027 Biennium Budget Request							
Funds	HB2 Ongoing	HB2 OTO	Non-Budgeted Proprietary	Statutory Appropriation	Total All Sources	% Total All Funds	
01100 General Fund	2,185,157	49,000	8,218	3,206,244	5,448,619	9.5%	
02040 Wheat & Barley Research & Mktg	9,388,109				9,388,109	16.4%	
02205 Pulse Crop Research&Marketing	58,258			6,122,406	6,180,664	10.8%	
02068 Noxious Weed Admin Account	4,783,432				4,783,432	8.4%	
02193 Pesticide Account	3,732,998	209,200			3,942,198	6.9%	
02453 Grain Services	3,579,898				3,579,898	6.3%	
Other State Special Revenue	15,927,713	692,700		552,174	17,172,587	30.0%	
State Special Revenue Total	37,470,408	901,900	-	6,674,580	45,046,888	78.7%	
03118 Agriculture ASD Federal	2,529,628	41,600			2,571,228	4.5%	
03225 Agriculture ADD Federal	591,486				591,486	1.0%	
03120 Agriculture CMD Federal	521,156				521,156	0.9%	
Federal Special Revenue Total	3,642,270	41,600	-	-	3,683,870	6.4%	
06052 Hail Insurance	1,276,505			1,640,000	2,916,505	5.1%	
06016 Beginning Farm Loans			116,400		116,400	0.2%	
Proprietary Fund Total	1,276,505	-	116,400	1,640,000	3,032,905	5.3%	
Total of All Funds	44,574,340	992,500	124,618	11,520,824	57,212,282		
Percent of All Sources of Authority	77.9%	1.7%	0.2%	20.1%			

Non-budgeted funds are for beginning farm loan programs. The Montana Beginning Farm/Ranch Loan Program is designed to assist beginning farmers and ranchers in acquiring agricultural property at lower interest rates.

Descriptions for all other funds can be found in the HB 2 budget analysis for the 2027 biennium.

Agency Actuals and Budget Comparison

The following table compares FY 2024 actual expenditures, FY 2024 and FY 2025 appropriations, and the expenditures requested for FY 2026 and FY 2027 by type of expenditure and source of funding.

Agency Actuals and Budget Comparison					
Budget Item	Actuals Fiscal 2024	Approp. Fiscal 2024	Approp. Fiscal 2025	Request Fiscal 2026	Request Fiscal 2027
Operating Expenses	0	61,285	62,309	62,309	62,309
Total Expenditures	\$0	\$61,285	\$62,309	\$62,309	\$62,309
General Fund	0	3,085	4,109	4,109	4,109
Proprietary Funds	0	58,200	58,200	58,200	58,200
Total Funds	\$0	\$61,285	\$62,309	\$62,309	\$62,309
Total Ongoing	\$0	\$61,285	\$62,309	\$62,309	\$62,309
Total OTO	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Agency Description

The Montana Department of Agriculture, established by the state constitution, promotes and supports agriculture through public-private partnerships, regulatory oversight, and various programs. It collects statistics, supports farmers' organizations, sets product standards, develops marketing systems, and enforces agricultural laws. The department is organized into three divisions: Agricultural Development, Agricultural Sciences, and Central Services.

FY 2024 Appropriations Compared to FY 2024 expenditures.

The FY 2024 expenditure was unexpended.

FY 2024 Appropriations Compared to FY 2025 Appropriations

Non-budgeted proprietary funds increase slightly between FY 2025 and FY 2024.

Fund 06016

Revenues

The fund receives interest earned on the fund balance.

Expenditures

There have been no expenditures from the fund previous 12 years. The table below summarizes the ending fund balance for FY 2014 through FY 2024.

06016 - Beginning Farm Loans											
Row Labels	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Beginning Fund Balance	\$2,421.41	\$2,424.80	\$2,427.93	\$2,438.08	\$2,457.73	\$2,492.02	\$2,514.36	\$2,547.74	\$2,551.53	\$2,554.70	\$2,607.94
Board of Investment Earnings	3.39	3.13	10.15	19.65	34.29	22.34	33.38	3.79	3.17	53.24	-
Expenditures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ending Fund Balance	\$2,424.80	\$2,427.93	\$2,438.08	\$2,457.73	\$2,492.02	\$2,514.36	\$2,547.74	\$2,551.53	\$2,554.70	\$2,607.94	\$2,607.94