



An association of 62 leading public and private research universities

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE (AFRI)

AAU SUPPORTS \$450 MILLION FOR AFRI IN FY16

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is the premier competitive grants program for agricultural research in the United States. AFRI takes research and innovation beyond the development phase and into implementation through its competitively funded education and extension programs. **AAU urges Congress to fund AFRI at \$450 million. This level of funding would bring AFRI closer to its authorized funding level of \$700 million a year.**

Established in the 2008 Farm Bill and authorized at \$700 million, AFRI is a competitive grants program that supports basic and applied research in the agricultural sciences and provides training funds to recruit and retain the next generation of agricultural innovators. AFRI is administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and funds research in the following areas:

- plant health and production and plant products;
- animal health and production and animal products;
- food safety, nutrition, and health;
- renewable energy, natural resources, and environment;
- agriculture systems and technology; and
- agriculture economics and rural communities.

A 2007 report from USDA's Economic Research Service found that agricultural research provides a return on investment to the U.S. economy of \$20 or more for every dollar invested.

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/handle/95522>

AFRI supports the highest quality science to address some of our nation's most pressing challenges: demands for cutting-edge biofuels; the need for a safe, sustainable, and nutritious food supply; global food security; and better understanding of climate-related impacts on agriculture. AFRI is the only competitive federal research program that addresses the unique needs of rural communities, including ways to revitalize rural economies. More than 50 percent of the AFRI budget supports fundamental or basic research, providing the scientific understanding that underpins advances in agricultural and other life sciences.

EXAMPLES OF ONGOING AFRI PROJECTS

- Using nanotechnology to prevent the microorganisms responsible for foodborne illnesses from attaching to food processing equipment and food surfaces.
- Developing molecular approaches to prevent, control, and eradicate avian and swine influenza in poultry and livestock as part of a strategy to mitigate the risk of a pandemic flu outbreak.
- Using genome sequencing capabilities to probe the genome of bacterial pathogens that cause a wide range of severe and debilitating infections in livestock across the US and throughout the world.
- Creating biofuels and industrial chemicals from perennial grasses that can be grown on marginal lands.
- Testing multi-state, extension interventions to address childhood obesity in low-income, rural populations.

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Boston University ★ Brandeis University ★ Brown University ★ California Institute of Technology ★ Carnegie Mellon University ★ Case Western Reserve University ★ Columbia University ★ Cornell University ★ Duke University ★ Emory University ★ Georgia Institute of Technology ★ Harvard University ★ Indiana University ★ Iowa State University ★ The Johns Hopkins University ★ Massachusetts Institute of Technology ★ McGill University ★ Michigan State University ★ New York University ★ Northwestern University ★ The Ohio State University ★ The Pennsylvania State University ★ Princeton University ★ Purdue University ★ Rice University ★ Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey ★ Stanford University ★ Stony Brook University – State University of New York ★ Texas A&M University ★ Tulane University ★ The University of Arizona ★ University at Buffalo, The State University of New York ★ University of California, Berkeley ★ University of California, Davis ★ University of California, Irvine ★ University of California, Los Angeles ★ University of California, San Diego ★ University of California, Santa Barbara ★ The University of Chicago ★ University of Colorado, Boulder ★ University of Florida ★ University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign ★ The University of Iowa ★ The University of Kansas ★ University of Maryland, College Park ★ University of Michigan ★ University of Minnesota, Twin Cities ★ University of Missouri-Columbia ★ The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill ★ University of Oregon ★ University of Pennsylvania ★ University of Pittsburgh ★ University of Rochester ★ University of Southern California ★ The University of Texas at Austin ★ University of Toronto ★ University of Virginia ★ University of Washington ★ The University of Wisconsin-Madison ★ Vanderbilt University ★ Washington University in St. Louis ★ Yale University