



# FY17: Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) in the U.S. Department of Agriculture 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 supports \$700 million for AFRI in FY17.** This funding level would meet the program's authorization level of \$700 million.

AFRI is the only competitive federal research program that addresses the unique needs of rural communities, including ways to revitalize rural economies.

A 2007 Report from the 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.**

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

**AFRI supports the highest quality science to address some of our nation's most pressing challenges, including:**

- Demand for cutting-edge biofuels;
- The need for a safe, sustainable, and nutritious food supply;
- Better understanding of climate-related effects on agriculture; and
- Global food security.

## FY17 RECOMMENDATION:

**AAU urges Congress to provide \$700 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative**

Established in the 2008, 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 of plant products;
- Animal health and production of animal products;
- Food safety, nutrition and health;
- Renewable energy, natural resources and environment;
- Agriculture systems and technology; and
- Agriculture economics and rural communities.

