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# Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is the flagship competitive grant program for agricultural research. AFRI awards research, education, and extension grants to ensure food safety and security, address water shortages, mitigate the impacts of climate variability, and stimulate growth in rural economies.

AFRI Funding, FY12-20



Funding in millions

Established in 2008, AFRI is a competitive grant program that supports high quality science to address some of our nation's most pressing challenges. The USDA's Economic Research Service determined that every dollar of federal funds invested in agricultural research yields \$20 of economic impact. Researchers working at universities across the country are tackling tough problems and developing innovative solutions. Recent successes include:

- Developing better methods to clean produce to eliminate dangerous pathogens like Listeria, Salmonella, and E.Coli;

**AAU urges Congress to provide *at least* \$480 million to fund the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative in FY21**

- Developing new crop varieties for changing climates to address nutrition demands and support the prosperity of American growers;
- Leveraging nanotechnology to detect microscopic contaminants in food, water, and soil;
- Discovering innovative ways to reduce runoff, keeping water clean by strategically planting strips of native prairie plants within corn and soybean fields; and
- Developing flavonoid-enriched foods and diets to prevent and treat diabetes.

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