

Agriculture & Food Research Initiative

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) was established by Congress in the 2008 Farm Bill to be the nation’s flagship competitive grants program. Funds are awarded to support research, education, and Extension in six Farm Bill categories: Plant health and production and plant products; Animal health and production and animal products; Food safety, nutrition, and health; Bioenergy, natural resources, and environment; Agriculture systems and technology; and Agriculture economics and rural communities.



Nutrition and Health

As the U.S. struggles with the twin epidemics of obesity and diabetes, expanded research is critical to help understand the community and behavioral attributes of human nutrition.



Water

Many important challenges exist for managing and protecting our water resources that must be addressed by our Land-grant universities.



Bioenergy

As the use of bioproducts increases, there is a pressing need for additional funding to assess the effects on water use, soil fertility, and related environmental conditions.



Global Food Security

Greater funding is needed to fight plant and animal diseases and other pests that threaten public health and agricultural output and to address pressing issues in food production to improve national and global food security.



Agricultural Leadership

There is an urgent need to educate and support more young men and women—especially from diverse backgrounds and ethnic communities—to conduct agricultural research, to serve the nation as farmers, foresters, ranchers, and bioenergy producers, and to lead public and private sector organizations.

Through AFRI, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture seeks to ensure our Nation’s food security by addressing the challenges that U.S. agriculture faces, promoting America’s global competitive edge in agricultural exports, and supporting the country’s investments in agricultural research, education, and extension. A major food systems challenge is the need to more than double food production for a burgeoning population, projected to exceed nine billion in just the next three decades.

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities continues to seek enhanced funding for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative; we support AFRI funding at \$700,000,000 in FY 2017.

APLU PRIORITY REQUEST FOR FY 2017	
Agriculture & Food Research Initiative.....	\$700,000,000

Want to know more?

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Agriculture & Food Research Initiative

Appropriations Bill

Agriculture

Agency

National Institute of Food & Agriculture

Account

Research and Education Activities

Program

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

Requested Amount

\$700,000,000

Program Description

Provides competitively-awarded grants for: (1) high priority research in the biological, environmental, physical, and social sciences relevant to agriculture, food, the environment, and rural communities; and (2) competitively awarded research, Extension, and education grants addressing key issues of national and regional importance to agriculture, forestry, and related topics.

Authorization

7 U.S.C. 450i(b), (National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teach Policy Act of 1977)

Eligible / Final Recipients

1862, 1890, and 1994 land-grant institutions; other universities; government agencies; and many other eligible recipients.

Matching Funds

There is no matching requirement.

President's FY 2017 Request

\$700,000,000

Five-Year Funding History

FY 2016	\$350,000,000
FY 2015	\$325,000,000
FY 2014	\$316,409,000
FY 2013	\$276,423,000
FY 2012	\$264,470,000

APLU requests that Congress fund the Food and Agriculture Research Initiative at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture at \$700,000,000.

Benefits

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative benefits the nation in numerous ways, providing:

- America's farmers and foresters with genomic data and biotechnology tools to expand food and fiber production, processing, and international trade.
- U.S. healthcare professionals with insight into the relationships between diet and health.
- Extension educators and learners with expanded knowledge about soil and water quality to help protect the environment and safeguard our food systems.
- University educators with the funding to train new generations of food, agriculture, and natural resource scientists.

AFRI funds high priority research, education, and Extension competitive grants that address key problems of national, regional, and multi-state importance in sustaining all components of agriculture, including farm efficiency and profitability, ranching, renewable energy, forestry, aquaculture, rural communities and entrepreneurship, human nutrition, environmental stewardship, food safety, biotechnology, and conventional breeding.

AFRI advances fundamental sciences as well as translational research and development in support of agricultural and natural resource communities and leverages opportunities to build on these discoveries in the future. The program also supports education and, together with capacity funds, Cooperative Extension education that delivers science-based knowledge to people, allowing them to make informed, practical decisions.

Since 2010, the number of applications to the AFRI program has more than doubled; however, the number of proposals funded increased by only 15%. The average award amount was unchanged. In 2014 there were more than 1,100 highly meritorious proposals that were not awarded due to limited funds, indicating an urgent need for program increases.

Want to learn more?

Visit www.landgrantimpacts.org for examples specific to your Congressional district.