How is USDA Research Working for Texas?

In FY 2011, Texas received:
- **$74 million** from the Agriculture Research Service (ARS)\(^1\)
- **$22 million** from USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)\(^3\)

**Agriculture Research Investments in Texas**

- Texas has **19 ARS research units** including:\(^2\)
  - Grassland, Soil and Water Research Laboratory
  - Southern Plains Agricultural Research Center: Food and Feed Safety Research
- **Texas A&M University** has 11 grants worth over **$3.5 million**\(^3\) (grant descriptions\(^3\))

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**Baylor College of Medicine** receives AFRI funding to study nutrient uptake in cereal crops to identify genes that would cause increased micronutrients involved in rain development in rice grains. Researchers at **Texas A&M University** are developing a new technique that will monitor and analyze daily precipitation levels in order to provide better drought prediction and response.

**Small Business Benefits in Texas**

- Texas small businesses received **$660,000** through the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs within USDA NIFA\(^1\) (grant description\(^4\))

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**AZYP, LLC.**, an Arlington-based biotech business, received a **$130,000 grant** to develop a new purification technique that will produce safer and more effective pesticides and synthetic fertilizers.

**Agriculture Value in Texas**

- Texas has **245,000 farms**\(^5\) that account for **$22.7 billion in total commodities**, **$7.5 billion in agricultural exports**\(^5\) and nearly **520,000 jobs**\(^6\)
- U.S. public investments in agriculture research and development produce **benefit-cost ratios of 20:1 and higher**\(^7\)

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\(^2\) USDA Agricultural Research Service website (http://www.ars.usda.gov/pandp/locations.htm?mt=places&slicetype=search)

\(^3\) USDA AFRI funded projects by state (http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/afri/afri_reports.html)

\(^4\) Budget data obtained from the SBIR/STTR website (http://www.sbir.gov/past-awards)


\(^6\) US DOC Bureau of Economic Analysis, NAICS 2011 data, combines farm, farm proprietors and agriculture and forestry support employment data. (http://www.bea.gov/itable/itable.cfm?reqid=70&step=1&isuri=1&acrdn=4)