



# USDA Research is working for Alabama



## Supporting innovation

In FY 2013, Alabama received **\$2.1 million in grants** from the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

Researchers at **Auburn University** are working to optimize the process through which biomass feedstocks (primarily woody biomass) are converted to bioenergy.

AFRI funding was used to show that biochar application to soil can reduce the survival of *E. coli* and *Salmonella* on leafy greens.

## Supporting small business

From 2004-2013, Alabama small businesses received more than **\$1.7 million in grants** through the Small Business Innovation Research program within USDA.

In Tuscaloosa, **Renewable Alternatives LLC.** received an SBIR grant to use plant oils to make bio-based, fire-retardant materials that can be used in clothing and around hot objects.

## Economic Impact



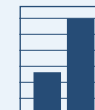
In 2011, agriculture and related industries added \$743 billion to the national GDP



Agriculture exports hit a record high of over \$140 billion in 2013



1 in 12 American jobs are associated with agriculture



U.S. public investments in agriculture research and development produce benefit-cost ratios of 20:1 and higher

## Alabama Agriculture

43,223 farms

\$5.3 billion in commodities

\$1.6 billion in agricultural exports

94,792 jobs



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Science Policy Office | 900 2nd St., NE, Suite 205 Washington, DC 20002 202.408.5558 sciencepolicy@sciencesocieties.org