



# USDA research is working for Arkansas

## Supporting innovation

In FY 2014, Arkansas received **\$1.6 million in new grants** from the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

Whole-grain rice products have antioxidant and anti-inflammation activity that can promote improved colon health. AFRI funding is being used to study the molecular components of rice fiber in order to develop a rice line with increased antioxidant properties.

AFRI-funded researchers at **Arkansas State University** are studying how peanut plants regulate stilbenoids, an important compound that protects the crop against pathogens and also provides beneficial health properties to humans.

## Supporting small business

From 2005-2014, Arkansas small businesses received more than **\$4 million in grants** through the Small Business Innovation Research program within USDA.

In Fayetteville, **Sea Star International, LLC**, received an SBIR grant to optimize processing method to extract high value phytochemicals from forestry tree bark, thereby adding value to existing paper mill waste.

## Economic Impact



In 2013, agriculture and related industries added **\$789 billion** to the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP)



Agriculture exports hit a record high of over **\$144 billion**, or 9% of total U.S. exports, in 2013



In 2014, 17.3 million full- and part-time jobs were related to agriculture – **about 9.3% of total U.S. employment**.



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

## Arkansas Agriculture

44,000 farms

\$10 billion in commodities

\$3.7 billion in agricultural exports

100,384 jobs



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