



USDA research is working for Virginia

Supporting innovation

In FY 2014, Virginia received **\$6 million in new grants** from the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

Virginia Tech University received an AFRI grant to study the genes that control trunk strength in poplar trees as a way to develop a poplar variety with increased wood strength.

Oomycetes are fungal-like bacteria that results in root and stem rot in soybeans. AFRI-funded researchers are working to develop a better diagnostic test for rot to help prevent infection.

Supporting small business

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

In Reston, **Micronic Technologies** received an SBIR grant to develop a rapid evaporation technology that can remove nitrate contaminants from water without chemicals, filters or membranes.

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**

Virginia Agriculture

36,700 farms

\$10 billion in commodities

\$3.8 billion in agricultural exports

146,942 jobs



agronomy.org | crops.org | soils.org



Science Policy Office | 502 C St NE, Washington, DC 20002
202.408.5558 | sciencepolicy@sciencesocieties.org