



USDA research is working for Washington

Supporting innovation

In FY 2014, Washington received **\$23 million in new grants** from the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

Washington State University is using AFRI funding to try to increase seed size in wheat and oilseed crops as a way to increase yield, reduce water use and prevent seed loss by wind.

Weedy and invasive species spread by means of dormant seeds that can remain viable for years. AFRI funded researchers are studying how these seeds resist decay in order to develop a technology that uses seed decay as a way to manage weedy and invasive species.

Supporting small business

From 2005-2014, Washington small businesses received more than **\$7.5 million in grants** through the Small Business Innovation Research program within USDA

Many biomass feedstocks must be dried before use in biofuel production, but the capital cost for dryers is high. In Auburn, **Forest Concepts, LLC** is developing a new, low-cost drying system for woody biomass thereby reducing biofuel operating and production costs.



agronomy.org | crops.org | soils.org



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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**

Washington Agriculture

36,700 farms

\$10 billion in commodities

\$3.8 billion in agricultural exports

146,942 jobs

