



How is USDA Research Working for Virginia?

In FY 2012, Virginia received:

- **\$3.6 million** from the Agriculture Research Service (ARS)
- **\$6.9 million** from the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

Agriculture Research Investments in Virginia

Heat stress reduces milk yield in cows, resulting in significant financial losses. **Virginia Tech University** is trying to determine if heat stress causes changes in fat tissue metabolism, which then prevents milk production from occurring normally.

Switchgrass is a major potential source of biomass-based ethanol. Researchers are working to identify genes that carry rust disease resistance in switchgrass, in order to develop new approaches to prevent infection.

Agriculture Value in Virginia

- Virginia has **46,200 farms** that account for **\$3.6 billion in total commodities**, **\$1.1 billion in agricultural exports** and more than **96,000 jobs**
- U.S. public investments in agriculture research and development **produce benefit-cost ratios of 20:1 and higher**