

# Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Coalition

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February 27, 2012

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

The AFRI Coalition and undersigned agricultural stakeholders are writing to support the President's FY 2013 budget proposal of \$325 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI).

Authorized at \$700 million annually and housed within the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), AFRI is the premier competitive grants program for fundamental and applied research, extension and education in support of our nation's food and agricultural systems. AFRI supports research in critical issue areas including: food safety and security; agricultural economics and rural communities; plant and animal health, production and products; nutrition; agricultural systems and technology; and energy, natural resources and the environment.

The AFRI Coalition recognizes that in the current fiscal environment, difficult decisions must be made. We urge you to consider the return on investment that scientific research generates. Specifically, for every federal dollar spent on publicly funded agricultural research, \$20 *or more* is generated in the U.S. economy.<sup>[i]</sup>

As you consider the fiscal year 2013 agriculture appropriations priorities, we strongly urge you to fund AFRI at \$325 million. Thank you for your support of agricultural research.

Sincerely,

American Association of Avian Pathologists  
American Dairy Science Association  
American Feed Industry Association  
American Horse Council  
American Meat Institute  
American Phytopathological Society  
American Society for Horticultural Science  
American Society for Microbiology  
American Society for Nutrition  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Society of Animal Science  
American Veterinary Medical Association  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Biotechnology Industry Organization  
California Climate and Agriculture Network

CASA del LLano, INC  
Crop Science Society of America  
CropLife America  
Dakota Rural Action  
Ecological Farming Association  
Entomological Society of America  
Experiment Committee on Organization and Policy  
Federation of Animal Science Societies  
Food System Economic Partnership  
Future Harvest CASA  
Illinois Stewardship Alliance  
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy  
Institute of Food Technologists  
Iowa State University  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Johne's Disease Integrated Program  
Kansas Rural Center  
Michael Fields Agricultural Institute  
Michigan Food and Farming Systems  
Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service  
National Association of Plant Breeders  
National Center for Appropriate Technology  
National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research  
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition  
Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides  
PCC Farmland Trust  
Poultry Science Association  
Practical Farmers of Iowa  
Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA  
Soil Science Society of America  
Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
Weed Science Society of America  
West Virginia University  
Western Sustainable Agriculture Working Group

cc:

Members of the House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Members of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

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<sup>[1]</sup> <sup>[1]</sup> The Economic Returns to U.S. Public Agricultural Research, Alston, Julian M.; Andersen, Matthew A.; James, Jennifer S.; Pardey, Philip G., University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics, July 2011, <http://purl.umn.edu/95522>.