



NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

April 3, 2017

Re: Urge Submit Member Request to Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, to Support Food and Agricultural Research, Extension and Education-Deadline April 5

On behalf of the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NC-FAR), we urge you to submit a Member Request to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture in support of increased federal investments in food and agricultural research, extension and education in USDA's REE mission in fiscal year 2018 (FY18) through intramural and extramural programs, as follows:

- Agricultural Research Service (ARS), *at least* \$1,286,000,000
- Economic Research Service (ERS), *at least* \$91,300,000
- National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), *at least* \$176,600,000
- National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), *at least* \$1,300,000,000
 - Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), *at least* \$418,129,000
 - McIntyre-Stennis (Research and Extension Programs), *at least* \$40,572,000
 - 1890 Extension (Extension Activities), *at least* \$54,500,000
 - Evans-Allen (Research and Education Programs), *at least* \$4,732,000
 - Hatch Act (Research and Education Programs), *at least* \$291,138,000
 - Smith-Lever (Extension Activities), *at least* \$358,396,000

The NIFA funding request includes a \$200 million increase, proportionately allocated across the 6 programs listed. National C-FAR urges level funding at a minimum in other NIFA programs.

Research is a means to important ends, not an end in itself—providing critical scientific advancements and tools that empower agriculture do its job for the ultimate benefit of sustainable farm and ranch businesses, consumers, rural communities, the nation's economy, and the world. Investment in food and agricultural science is not only good business, it's good for business. Public and private investments in U.S. agricultural research and practical application of results have paid huge dividends to the United States and the world. Yet federal funding for food and agricultural science has been essentially *flat for over 20 years* despite much greater demonstrated needs. Our nation's competitiveness in global markets is at risk, as investments in food and agricultural science by our global competitors have been growing rapidly.

The deadline for Member requests to the House Agriculture Subcommittee is **April 5**.

National C-FAR is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, consensus-based and *customer*-led coalition that brings food, agriculture, nutrition, conservation and natural resource organizations together with the food and agricultural research and extension community, serving as a forum and unified voice in support of sustaining and increasing public investment at the national level in food and agricultural research, extension and education. A list of members is available at http://www.ncfar.org/NCFAR_Member-Sponsor_List.pdf?v8.

Sincerely,

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