

APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

Enhanced funding needed to produce more bioenergy, understand the agricultural implications of climate change, strengthen global food security, fight obesity and diabetes, and assure a well-educated agricultural workforce.

The President's Budget for FY 2011 requests \$428.845 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), the flagship competitive grants program within the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (A·P·L·U) strongly supports the President's requested funding level.

While AFRI has received modest increases in recent years, USDA reports that of the meritorious proposals it received and peer-reviewed, just 20% could be funded in FY 2009 and only 22% in FY 2008.

Some key priorities needing immediate attention through greatly enhanced AFRI funding include:

BIOENERGY. The United States has adopted policies promoting the production of renewable fuels (such as ethanol and biodiesel) and other bioproducts to improve national energy security and reduce CO₂ emissions. As the use of bioproducts increases, there is a pressing need for additional funding to assess the effects on water use, soil fertility, and related environmental conditions. Additional economic analyses are also needed to better understand how food, feed, and fuel prices are interrelated.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE. A warmer planet will affect farms, ranches, and forests in many ways (water availability, pest damage, severe weather variability, etc.). To respond to changed climatic conditions, research funding must be greatly expanded and graduates of land-grant universities must receive enhanced and updated academic and practical training so that they obtain the requisite skills to help society cope with global climate change.

GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY. Greater research, extension, and education funding is urgently needed to help at-risk countries develop

appropriate agriculture systems. Targeted research will also have many benefits within the United States to fight plant and animal diseases that threaten public health and agricultural production.

NUTRITION AND HEALTH. As the United States struggles with the twin epidemics of obesity and diabetes, expanded research is critically needed to help understand the community and behavioral attributes of human nutrition. Such research will lead directly to more scientifically informed nutrition education and guidance programs delivered through the Cooperative Extension System. And, additional research is needed to improve the nutritional value and availability of crops, fruits and vegetables, and other foodstuffs.

AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE.

There is an urgent need to educate and support more young men and women — especially from diverse backgrounds and ethnic communi-

ties — to conduct agricultural research and outreach, to serve the nation as farmers, foresters, ranchers, and bioenergy producers, and to lead public and private sector organizations in the 21st Century.



A·P·L·U PRIORITY REQUEST FOR FY 2011

Agriculture & Food Research Initiative....\$428.845 M

To provide critical competitive research, education, and extension funding to address pressing national issues, AFRI funding must be increased in FY 2011 to \$428.845 million as suggested in the President's Budget Request.

For additional information, see page two or email Hunt Shipman (hshipman@cgagroup.com) or Jim Richards (jrichards@cgagroup.com). Phone: 202.448.9500.

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

Appropriations Bill	Agriculture				
Agency	National Institute of Food and Agriculture				
Account	Research and Education Activities				
Program Name	Agriculture and Food Research Initiative				
Requested Amount	\$428,845,000				
Authorization	7 U.S.C. 450i(b), (National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977).				
Description	<p>This program provides peer-reviewed, competitively-awarded grants to support: (1) high priority fundamental and mission-linked research of importance in the biological, environmental, physical, and social sciences relevant to agriculture, food, the environment, and rural communities; and (2) competitively awarded research, extension, and education grants addressing key issues of national and regional importance to agriculture, forestry, and related topics.</p>				
Benefits/Impacts	<p>The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative is NIFA's flagship competitive grants program. It benefits the nation in numerous ways, providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ America's farmers and foresters with the genomic data and biotechnology tools to expand food and fiber production, processing, and international trade. ■ U.S. healthcare professionals with insight into the relationships between diet and health. ■ Extension specialists and their clients expanded knowledge about water quality to help protect the environment and safeguard our food systems. ■ University educators with the funding to train new generations of food, agriculture, and natural resource scientists. <p>USDA reports that of the meritorious AFRI proposals it received and peer-reviewed just 20% could be funded in FY 2009 and only 22% in FY 2008.</p>				
Funding History					
FY 2011 President's Budget	FY 2010	FY 2009	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2006
\$428,845,000	\$262,482,000	\$201,504,000	\$ 190,883,000	\$ 190,229,000	\$ 181,170,000
Misc. Information					
Matching Funds	There is no matching requirement.				
Final Recipients	1862, 1890, and 1994 land-grant institutions; other universities; government agencies; and a wide variety of other eligible recipients.				
Note for Senate Offices	Funding is not being requested for this program through another appropriations bill.				
Additional Information	www.land-grant.org/kb.htm				

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities represents 218 U.S. universities and has members in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories.