

# APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

## NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

# Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

*Stable and enhanced funding needed to produce more bioenergy, fight the national obesity epidemic, assure a well-educated agricultural workforce, and strengthen global food security.*

**T**he President's FY 2012 Budget requests \$324.655 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.**

AFRI benefits the nation in numerous ways, providing:

- 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 with expanded knowledge about soil and water quality.
- University educators with the funding to train new generations of food, agriculture, and natural resource scientists.

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 FY2009 and only 22% in FY2008. Some key priorities needing immediate attention through stable and 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. 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.

**NUTRITION AND HEALTH.** As the U.S. 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 communities — 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.

**GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY.** Greater research, extension, and education funding is urgently needed to fight

plant and animal diseases that threaten public health and agricultural output and to address pressing issues in food production to improve national and global food security while helping America promote sustainable agriculture and agricultural exports.



### **A·P·L·U PRIORITY REQUEST FOR F Y 2012**

Agriculture & Food Research Initiative....\$324.655 M

**To provide critical competitive research, education, and extension funding to address pressing national issues, AFRI funding must be increased in FY 2012 to \$324.655 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.



ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC AND LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES (MAY 2011)

A·P·L·U represents 220 U.S. universities and has members in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories.

# Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

|                                   |   |                |                |                |                |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Appropriations Bill</b>        | Agriculture   |                |                |                |                |
| <b>Agency</b>                     | National Institute of Food and Agriculture  |                |                |                |                |
| <b>Account</b>                    | Research and Education Activities   |                |                |                |                |
| <b>Program Name</b>               | Agriculture and Food Research Initiative  |                |                |                |                |
| <b>Requested Amount</b>           | <b>\$324,655,000</b>  |                |                |                |                |
| <b>Authorization</b>              | 7 U.S.C. 450i(b), (National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977).   |                |                |                |                |
| <b>Description</b>                | <p>This program provides peer-reviewed, competitively-awarded grants to support:</p> <p>(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>  |                |                |                |                |
| <b>Benefits/Impacts</b>           | <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"> <li>■ America's farmers and foresters with the genomic data and biotechnology tools to expand food and fiber production, processing, and international trade.</li> <li>■ U.S. healthcare professionals with insight into the relationships between diet and health.</li> <li>■ Extension specialists and their clients expanded knowledge about water quality to help protect the environment and safeguard our food systems.</li> <li>■ University educators with the funding to train new generations of food, agriculture, and natural resource scientists.</li> </ul> <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> |                |                |                |                |
| <b>Funding History</b>            |   |                |                |                |                |
| <b>FY 2012 President's Budget</b> | <b>FY 2011</b>  | <b>FY 2010</b> | <b>FY 2009</b> | <b>FY 2008</b> | <b>FY 2007</b> |
| \$324,655,000                     | \$264,470,000   | \$262,482,000  | \$201,504,000  | \$ 190,883,000 | \$ 190,229,000 |
| <b>Misc. Information</b>          |   |                |                |                |                |
| <b>Matching Funds</b>             | There is no matching requirement.   |                |                |                |                |
| <b>Final Recipients</b>           | 1862, 1890, and 1994 land-grant institutions; other universities; government agencies; and a wide variety of other eligible recipients.   |                |                |                |                |
| <b>Note for Senate Offices</b>    | Funding is not being requested for this program through another appropriations bill.  |                |                |                |                |
| <b>Additional Information</b>     | <a href="http://www.land-grant.org">www.land-grant.org</a>  |                |                |                |                |

