



AG RESEARCH FACT SHEET

America's land-grant universities and other agricultural research facilities provide essential education, research and public outreach vital to rural America and U.S. food, fiber and renewable fuel production. These institutions play an important role in addressing many urgent challenges at the local, regional, national and global level.

Since the Morrill Acts of 1862, 1890 and subsequent legislation, there has been a longstanding and reaffirmed commitment from the federal government to support agricultural-related research and facilities. However, in the current era of tight budgets and declining investment, the need to maintain this funding remains imperative to meet the challenges of the future.

Over time, reductions in funding have led to twenty-first century cutting edge research being conducted in outdated facilities from the 1950s and 1960s. As a result, there is growing concern that research is being negatively impacted due to the age of facilities. A 2015 Association of Public and Land-grant Universities report identified \$8.4 billion in total deferred maintenance for agricultural research related building and infrastructure needs. The same APLU study found that the total cost of replacement for these buildings was \$29 billion.

With the US foreign competitors greatly increasing their investment in agricultural research and extension over the past decade, there is fear that the U.S. will not be able to remain competitive without increased investment. As of 2011, for every dollar the United States invested in public agricultural research and development, Brazil, India and China invested \$2.15. With a majority of U.S. producers relying on export markets, staying competitive is critical to the success of American agriculture and our rural economies.

There are many demands on funds available in a Farm Bill to support all aspects of agriculture and rural America. With 60 percent of facilities beyond their useful life there, a \$20 billion infrastructure investment in research facilities is needed for the U.S. to maintain its agricultural research capacity and compete globally. Studies have confirmed that U.S. public investment in agricultural research has paid off handsomely, with benefit-cost ratios of 20:1 or higher. With a one-for-one match between state and federal funding, the RebuildRural Coalition advocates for \$10 billion in additional federal infrastructure spending dedicated to agricultural research facilities at \$1 billion per year over the next ten years.



REBUILD RURAL COALITION

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