

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Coalition
900 2nd St. NE Suite 205
Washington, D.C. 20002
sciencepolicy@agronomy.org

November 17, 2010

Adrienne Erbach Lucas
Chief, Agriculture Branch
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President

Dear Ms. Lucas,

As the White House Office of Management and Budget finalizes the President's fiscal year 2012 budget request, the AFRI Coalition urges you to request funding for the United States Department of Agriculture's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) at the highest possible level.

The AFRI Coalition, a group of scientific societies and science advocacy organizations with diverse research interests, believes robust funding of AFRI demonstrates a strong commitment to America's farmers, consumers, researchers, and food and rural entrepreneurs, bringing them the tools necessary to maintain the country's productivity and access to new, more efficient technologies. AFRI is unique because of its wide scope; work performed under AFRI helps to protect the natural resource base and environment, enhance human nutrition and promote health, improve our fundamental understanding of plants and animals, and foster vibrant rural communities. By leveraging the AFRI paradigm of transdisciplinary research, AFRI-funded scientists can address broad science questions, resulting in greater advances for our nation in agricultural research than ever before realized. This type of approach can encourage our individual disciplines and sciences to work together on solving problems ranging from climate concerns to food safety and nutrition.

Though the AFRI Coalition recognizes the funding challenges you face during this period of constrained budgets, we strongly encourage you to request funding for AFRI at the highest possible level to support America's agriculture and food research community. Continued investments in basic, integrated, and multidisciplinary research through AFRI will help ensure that our nation will maintain a world-class food supply for many years to come.

Sincerely,

American Dairy Science Association
American Phytopathological Society
American Society for Horticultural Science
American Society for Microbiology
American Society for Nutrition
American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers

CC: Noah Engelberg, Program Examiner, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Agriculture Branch, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President

American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Animal Science
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Veterinary Medical Association
Aquatic Plant Management Society
Biotechnology Industry Organization
Council on Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics
Crop Science Society of America
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Federation of Animal Science Societies
Institute of Food Technologists
Iowa State University
Michael Fields Agricultural Institute
National Association of Plant Breeders
National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
North Central Weed Science Society
Northeastern Weed Science Society
Poultry Science Association
Society of Nematologists
Soil Science Society of America
Southern Weed Science Society
The Rodale Institute
Union of Concerned Scientists
Weed Science Society of America
Western Society of Weed Science