

# Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Coalition

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September 26, 2011

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-307 Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Kingston  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Agriculture Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2372 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Farr  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Agriculture Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1126 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers, Chairman Kingston, Ranking Member Dicks and Ranking Member Farr:

The AFRI Coalition, comprised of organizations representing research institutions, scientific societies, and other agricultural stakeholders, writes to urge the House to recede to the Senate Appropriations Committee-passed funding level of \$265.9 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) in fiscal year 2012. AFRI is the nation's premier competitive agricultural research grants program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

The Coalition recognizes that lawmakers face many difficult decisions and competing priorities in this austere budget environment. At the same time, we believe that continued investments in agricultural research will help spur the U.S. economy.

The Coalition exhorts lawmakers to make sustainable increases in funding for AFRI as the U.S. economy recovers. Investments in agricultural research funded through AFRI bolster work performed by USDA's Agricultural Research Service, land grant universities and colleges, other academic institutions, and the private sector, thus magnifying the impact. For every \$1 invested in publicly funded agricultural research, \$20 in economic activity is generated.

As the Congress examines fiscal year 2012 spending priorities, we look forward to working with you in support of AFRI. If you would like to learn more about AFRI or specific funding in each state, please contact us at [sciencepolicy@sciencesocieties.org](mailto:sciencepolicy@sciencesocieties.org).

Sincerely,  
American Dairy Science Association  
American Society for Horticultural Science  
American Society for Microbiology  
American Society for Nutrition  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Society of Animal Science  
American Phytopathological Society  
American Veterinary Medical Association  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

Biotechnology Industry Organization  
Crop Science Society of America  
Federation of Animal Science Societies  
Institute of Food Technologists  
National Association of Plant Breeders  
National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research  
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition  
Poultry Science Association  
Soil Science Society of America

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i The Economic Returns to U.S. Public Agricultural Research, Alston, Julian M.; Andersen, Matthew A.; James, Jennifer S.; Pardey, Philip G., University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics, July 2011, <http://purl.umn.edu/95522>.