

# Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Coalition

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September 26, 2011

The Honorable Daniel Inouye  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
S-128 Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
S-146A Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Herb Kohl  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Agriculture Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
330 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Agriculture Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
260 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye, Chairman Kohl, Ranking Member Cochran and Ranking Member Blunt:

The AFRI Coalition, comprised of organizations representing research institutions, scientific societies, and other agricultural stakeholders, writes to thank you for your commitment to continued investment in 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 is grateful that the Senate Appropriations Committee has prioritized \$266 million for AFRI in fiscal year 2012 given the difficult economic environment and the many competing priorities with which you are faced. We understand that AFRI may still be subject to detrimental losses as the House-passed bill includes a harmful \$35.5 million cut. The Coalition is urging the House to recede to the Senate's funding level and we ask that you continue to support AFRI.

The Coalition exhorts lawmakers to make sustainable increases in funding for AFRI as the U.S. economy recovers. For every \$1 invested in publicly funded agricultural research, \$20 in economic activity is generated. 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.

Again, thank you for your stalwart support of AFRI. The Coalition recognizes that lawmakers have many difficult decisions to make, especially in this austere budget environment. 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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† 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>.