



Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

FEDERAL AUTHORIZATION: 7 U.S.C. 450i(b)

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$325 million

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUEST FOR FY 2013: \$325 million

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

ACCOUNT: National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Research and Education Activities

TYPE OF FUNDING REQUESTED: Programmatic

JUSTIFICATION:

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, or AFRI, provides peer-reviewed, competitively awarded grants for: (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.

AFRI combines basic and applied research, taking research and innovation through the developmental phase and into implementation by utilizing contemporary education and extension programs. AFRI grants support research, education, and extension and integrated initiatives addressing issues of national, regional and multistate importance to the safety, sustainability, and quality of American agriculture, including farm efficiency and profitability, ranching, renewable energy, forestry (both urban and agroforestry), aquaculture, rural communities and entrepreneurship, human nutrition, food safety, biotechnology, and conventional breeding.

DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND:

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative is NIFA's flagship competitive grants program. It 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 expanded knowledge about water quality to help protect the environment and safeguard our food systems.
- University educators with the funding to train new generations of food, agriculture, and natural resource scientists.

APPROPRIATIONS HISTORY:

AGENCY/ ACCOUNT	FISCAL YEAR	CONFERENCE	PUBLIC LAW
USDA	2012	\$264 million	PL 112-55
USDA	2011	\$264 million	PL 112-10
USDA	2010	\$262 million	PL 111-80
USDA	2009	\$201 million	PL 111-8

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MARCH 2012