



RESEARCH

ADVANCING AGRICULTURE RESEARCH.

Strengthening our investment in agricultural research, education and extension must be a priority in the next Farm Bill, despite ongoing budgetary pressures. Given the many challenges we face, research investments must be strategic and customer facing to solve on-the-ground problems facing agriculture.

Agriculture research provides tremendous consumer benefits by helping farmers and ranchers produce food more sustainably – keeping food costs low for our most vulnerable populations.

INCREASE IN PUBLIC FUNDING

NASDA supports significantly increasing investment in publicly funded food and agricultural research, education and extension. Support of both intramural research conducted through USDA-ARS and extramural programs funded through NIFA is needed at levels no less than those authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and NASDA encourages an increase of funding in these areas.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE (AFRI)

NASDA supports protecting investments in the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) and funding the program at no less than 2014 levels. AFRI's competitive research grants are a key tool to addressing on-the-ground research needs and leveraging state and private sector research and extension efforts.

FOUNDATION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE RESEARCH

NASDA supports maintaining investment in the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, as well as securing mandatory funding sufficient to establish budgetary baseline for other competitive research, education and extension programs in the food and agricultural sciences.

Ag research has been outpaced over the last thirty years.

288%
Increase in funding to the National Institutes of Health

149%
Increase in funding to the National Science Foundation (NSF).

40%
Increase in funding to USDA's Research, Extension, and Economics mission area, only 44% of the total budget of the NSF.

Over for more details.



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MORE ON RESEARCH

LAND GRANT UNIVERSITIES

NASDA strongly supports the mission of our nations' land grant university system to address local, state and national priorities concerning food and agricultural sciences. NASDA urges Congress to reauthorize and enhance formula funds provided by the USDA which support capacity and infrastructure for research, education and extension programs related to food and agricultural sciences.

NASDA calls on Congress to protect our nation's land grant system by limiting efforts to divide existing land grant universities.

Efforts to divide existing land grant universities under the guise of local control of extension programming would establish separate, distinct administrative units with the effect of duplicating administrative costs and burdens while significantly disrupting the ability to provide programming on high priority local, state and national issues.

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RESEARCH

NASDA is concerned with the deteriorating state of our research infrastructure. The current excess of deferred maintenance at our nation's agricultural colleges and universities is hindering research advancement. Regardless of the availability of Farm Bill funding to begin paying down this backlog, priority must be given to resolving the policies concerning how such funding would be prioritized and expended if and when it becomes available.

THE FARM BILL IMPACTS EVERYONE.

Agricultural producers, the rural economy, and communities of every size rely upon a forward looking, and fully funded Farm Bill. NASDA calls for enhanced investment in American agriculture that provides producers the tools they need to succeed. The Farm Bill is also vital to providing consumers access to the safest, highest quality and affordable food supply, which is essential for our nation's economy and security.

OUR FARM BILL PRIORITIES

- Conservation
- Trade Promotion
- Specialty Crops
- Invasive Species
- Animal Diseases
- Research
- Food Safety



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