

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on behalf of the AFRI Coalition. The Coalition supports full authorized funding of the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, also known as “AFRI” which competitively funds basic, applied, and transdisciplinary research, pre-and post-doctoral fellowships, sabbaticals, and USDA extension activities. USDA extension disseminates knowledge about agronomic techniques, climate projections, and economic information to farmers, ranchers, rural entrepreneurs, and consumers.

AFRI research offers solutions that protect the natural resource base and environment, enhance human nutrition and health, improve our fundamental understanding of plants and animals, and foster vibrant rural communities. Work performed under AFRI also helps to guarantee the safety and security of our food supply and ensure the health of our ecosystems. Past investments in AFRI have been instrumental in supporting the discovery of anti-inflammatory agents in broccoli and the development of new cropping systems more resilient to climate induced biological stresses. Information from these grants is essential to our food systems. AFRI accomplishments like mapping the apple, bovine, and soybean genomes will eventually be used to enhance agricultural production at a lower cost to the environment. We argue that continued, long-term, investments in basic, integrated, and transdisciplinary research, education, and extension performed by AFRI will ensure that our nation has a world-class food supply and abundant natural resources available for future generations to enjoy.

We ask that you consider AFRI as one of the primary investments supporting scientific innovation and education.

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  
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