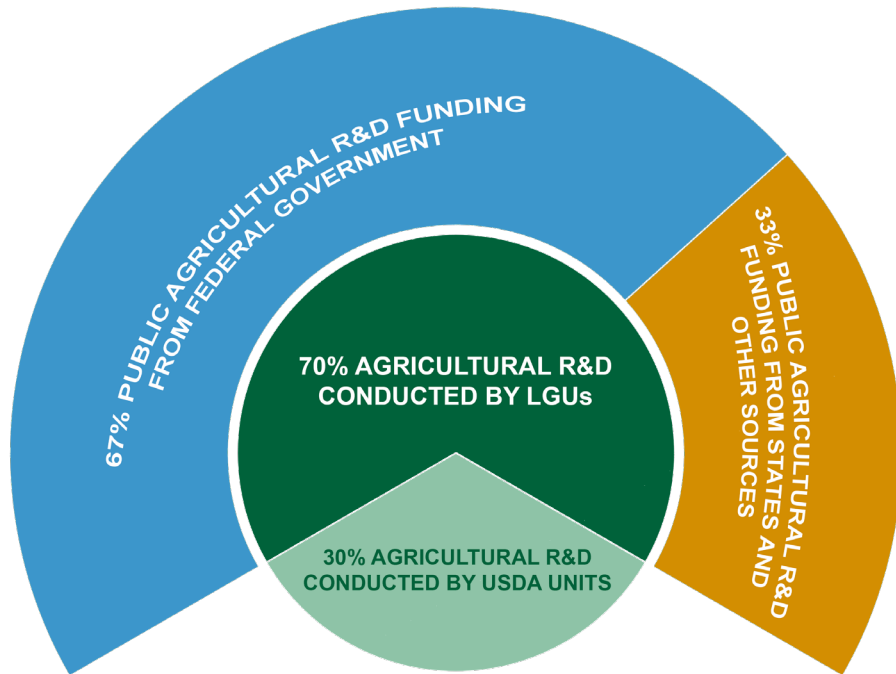


## LYNCHPIN TO THE NATIONAL PUBLIC AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH



## CAPACITY, COMPETITIVE, AND INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING ENABLES AGINNOVATION TO ASSURE THAT...

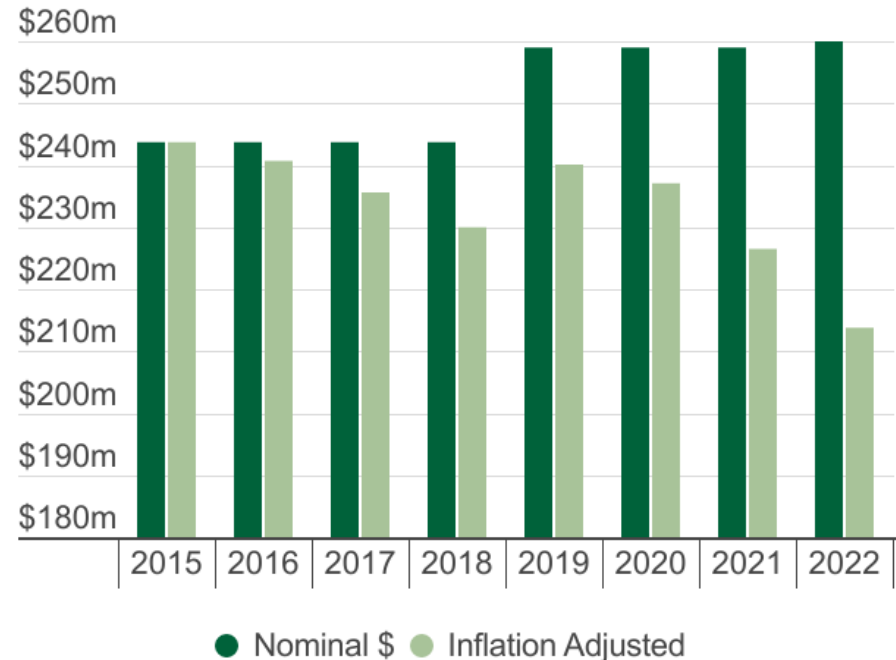
- Food security ensures national security
- U.S. remains climate resilient
- Agriculture leverages technological innovations
- Food systems bolster nutrition, health, and economic prosperity
- U.S. remains a global innovation leader

# Program Description and History

## Hatch Act

Over 140 years of strategic federal investment funding to conduct **bold, long-term, location-specific research** at State Agricultural Experiment Stations in the 50 States, D.C., and Insular Areas in agricultural, food, forestry, natural, and human resources research.

## Funding History



Since 2004, funding declines led to:

Scientist FTEs



-21%

Research projects



-20%

Annual hours of ag research

12.37 million

-32%

# Hatch Funding Justification

## Local Solutions



## National Impacts

Foundational to local and regional research needs.

Sparks discoveries that lead to pioneering competitively funded research (AFRI).

Match investments by China, India, Brazil, and EU.

Jobs and workforce growth in rural and urban communities.

Secure food production and supply chains, preventing rapid food price increases and shortages.

## Long-term goal

Supercharge ag R&D to stay ahead of food system risks  
Keep pace with ag R&D investments by China and others



**14% annual increase**

Ensure current levels of national food and economic security  
Continue falling behind in global competitiveness



**(2% + inflation) annual increase**

Continued deterioration in food and economic security  
Inadequate responsiveness to major food system disruptions



**Flat or below-inflation increase**

Specific funding goal for FY26 will follow the above strategy but will be determined based on most current policy and political environment.

**\$300,000,000**

Current Request



# Elevator Pitch

## What is it?

Capacity funds are the bedrock for innovation that secures long-term U.S. food supplies, environmental sustainability, and economic growth.

## What are the impacts?

Funds support people and programs that develop solutions to food and environment risks relevant today and 50 years in the future.

## Consequences of status quo

Ongoing deterioration of a base research component in U.S. economy.

Outsourcing of research to other countries and privatizing knowledge.

Developing fewer scientists and smaller workforce to assist domestic agricultural and food sectors.

Losing global competitive advantage.

Rising food prices and greater uncertainty in food supply chains.

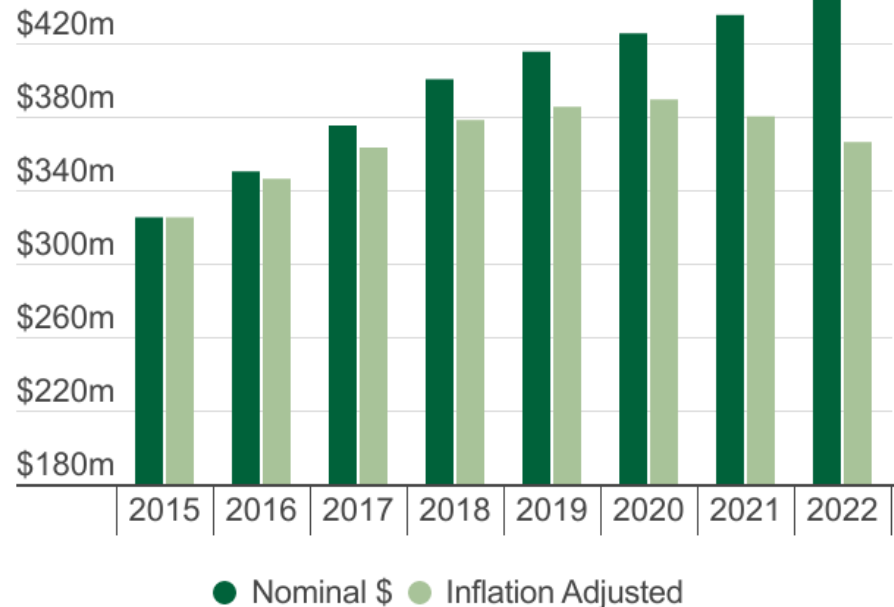
# Program Description and History

## Agriculture & Food Research Initiative (AFRI)



As the nation's leading competitive grants program in agricultural, food and natural resource sciences, the program funds pioneering research to address the biggest agricultural and environmental challenges.

## Funding History



Not a lot of gain:

**\$455 m**

FY2023

**\$445 m**

FY2024

**\$475 m**

FY2025  
NIFA Budget  
request

**\$500 m**

FY2025/**FY2026**  
agInnovation  
requests



# AFRI Funding Justification

## Stewarding Ideas



## Into Impactful Innovations

Leverages capacity funding into revolutionary, practical innovations.

Incentivizes interdisciplinary and interinstitutional collaborations for higher research ROI.

Competitive, targeted RFAs enable timely science-based responses to changing national priorities.

**Long-term goal: Reach \$700 m**

Reach \$700 m in...	Annual increase needed...
25 years (status quo)	\$10 m per year
15 years	3% per year
9 years	5% per year
5 years	9% per year
3 years	15% per year

Recommendation is for a five-year strategy (Farm Bill cycle) to reach authorized levels.

However, specific request will be determined later based on most current policy and political environment.

# Elevator Pitch

## What is it?

Competitive funds address large, national food supply and environmental challenges through integrated research, teaching, and extension programs.

## What are the impacts?

Funds leverage capacity-supported research, human and physical infrastructure and 1862, 1890, and 1994 LGU partnerships to lead ag, food, and natural resources innovations.

## Consequences of status quo

Ongoing deterioration of a research capabilities to ensure food security and benefit U.S. economy.

Outsourcing of research to other countries and privatizing knowledge.

Developing fewer scientists and smaller workforce to assist domestic agricultural and food sectors.

Loss of global competitive advantage to countries that have prioritized increased public ag R&D funding.

# Program Description and History

## Research Infrastructure



Strategic updating of agricultural research and education facilities ensures the **backbone of cutting-edge research and applied science** innovations that are critical to realizing 21st century R&D goals.

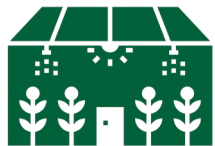
## Funding History

\$2 m funding in FY2023

\$1 m funding in FY2024

\$2 m FY2025 NIFA request

## Examples of agricultural research infrastructure:



High-efficiency  
research greenhouses



High-technology  
research dairies



Modern lab spaces at  
off-campus facilities



# RFA Funding Justification

Elevating Science



Through Investment

**FY 2026 Request**

**\$500,000,000**

Place U.S. ag, food, and natural resources research on a new trajectory, ensuring global leadership.

Update public research infrastructure to raise Hatch and AFRI ROI.

Reflect the needs of current businesses, increase research relevance, and grow learning outcomes for current and future workforces.

Concurrently elevate research, teaching, and extension missions.

# Elevator Pitch

## What is it?

Critical funds to modernize a severely aging agricultural research infrastructure at public universities, nearly 70% of which is at or past the end of its operational life.

## What are the impacts?

Funds will strategically unify human and capital infrastructure investment, empowering U.S. scientists to solve the most pressing agricultural, economic, and environmental challenges.

## Consequences of status quo

Inability to meet economic and environmental challenges of the 21st century.

Reduced capacity to attract and train the nearly 60,000 graduates who can support U.S.'s advanced agricultural sector.

Lower ROI and more missed opportunities to leverage capacity and competitive research funding.

Loss of global competitive advantage to countries that have prioritized increased public ag R&D funding.