



Work Session: Strategic Advocacy

- Budget and Legislative Committee
- BAC Advocacy Approach
- agInnovation FY25 Framework
- Strategic Advocacy Concepts
- Discussion

Budget and Legislative Committee

Charged with developing annual justifications for the federal budget process and legislative priorities, including the Farm Bill, in consultation with other sections of the APLU Board on Agricultural Assembly (BAA) and other stakeholders.

Aligned with two standing committees of the BAA Policy Board of Directors:

Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC)

Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP)

Chair: Anton Bekkerman, University of New Hampshire

Meet monthly with a modified format:

- BLC members only – focus on strategic discussions
- BLC members and Liaisons (FANR, LBA, Extension, CARET, BHS, NIFA)

BAC Advocacy Approach

BAC prepares annual Congressional budget recommendations and supporting materials to justify and message budget requests for USDA NIFA capacity and competitive programs as well as other major ESS-supported legislative initiatives

Chair: Michael Boehm, University of Nebraska

Strategic Framing & Tactical Advocacy

Expedited process to establish and refine appropriations advocacy

- Joint COPs: Initial appropriations priorities/justifications framework
- July – October: Refine messaging
- October: FY25 appropriations request established
- November: APLU annual meeting engage with Policy Board of Directors
- Nov. - February: Refine and focus on messaging to the hill

Fly-ins

- Better communicate and coordinate across sections
- 5-10-year shared vision
- Small groups to the hill
- Broaden advocacy beyond USDA (other agencies)

Defining the Context

Agricultural Experiment Stations

AESs receive capacity funding through federal and state appropriations. Capacity funding is leveraged with support from granting agencies, foundations, commodity groups, and private industry.

How are AESs funded?

AESs are comprised of university faculty, staff, graduate students and affiliated scientists who partner and collaborate with agricultural producers, agri-food sector, and consumers—all of whom are the beneficiaries of the scientific knowledge and innovations.

Who do AESs represent?

Where are AESs located?

By being located in every state and territory and leveraging the highly connected network of Land-grant universities, the nation-wide AES research system is the primary and largest contributor to advancing food, economic and environmental resiliency within every U.S. community while also elevating U.S. leadership in global agriculture.

AESs are research institutes that steward public federal and state investments toward scientifically proven and trusted solutions for ensuring food security and access, economic and environmental sustainability, and continual innovations in the agri-food sector.

What are AESs?

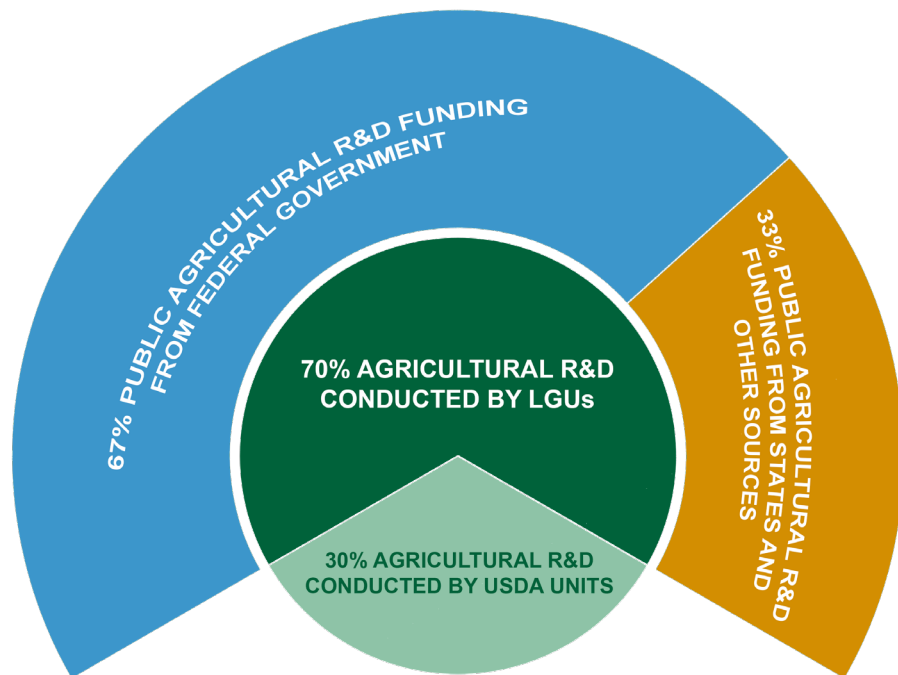
Why do AESs exist?

AESs push the frontiers of innovation and knowledge development to help U.S. food systems be more resilient, secure, forward-looking and accessible by every community—ensuring economic strength for food producers and economic stability for consumers.



agInnovation's Role

LYNCHPIN TO THE NATIONAL PUBLIC AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH



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

Food security ensures national security

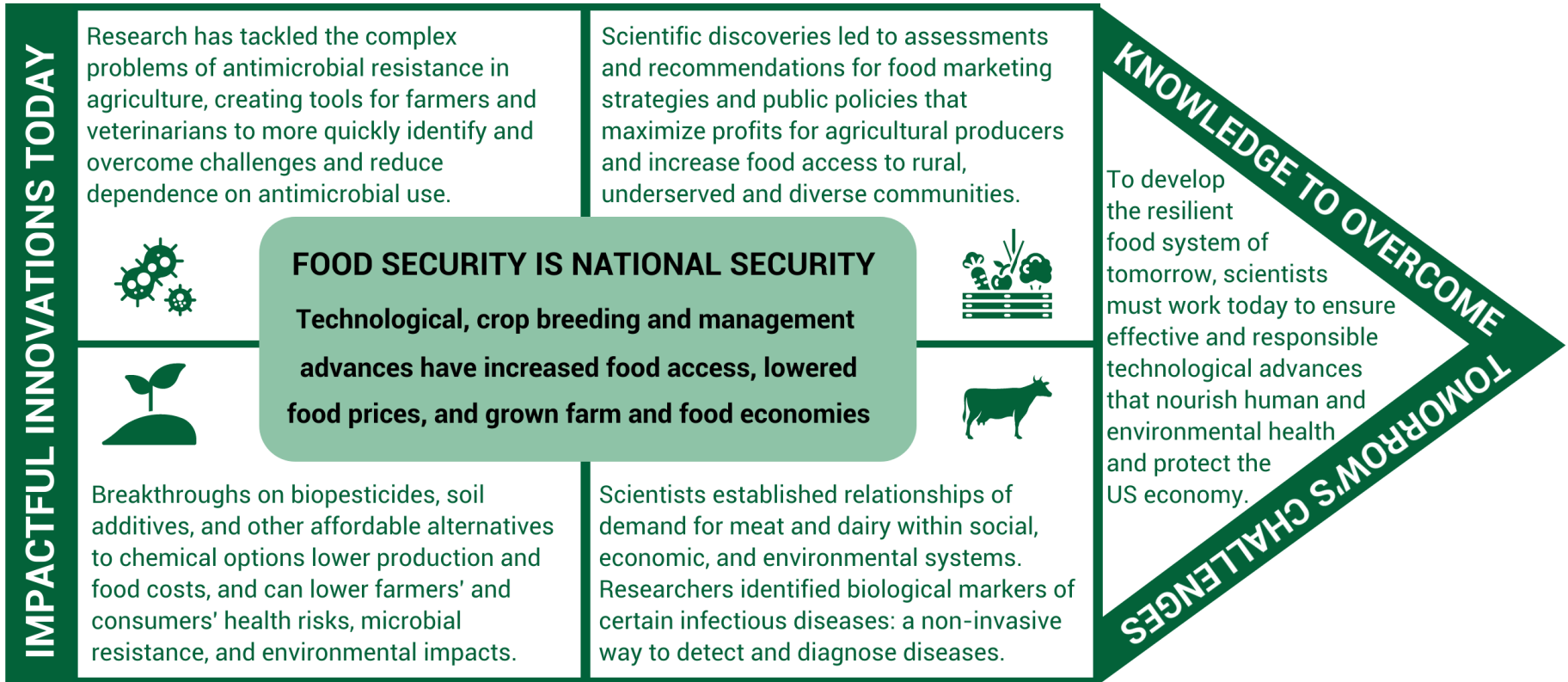
U.S. remains climate resilient

Agriculture leverages technological innovations

Food systems bolster nutrition, health, and economic prosperity

U.S. remains a global innovation leader

Impactful and Aspirational



An example of illustrating impacts of past investments and needs for future investments. Similar approaches would be used for other four areas of focus:

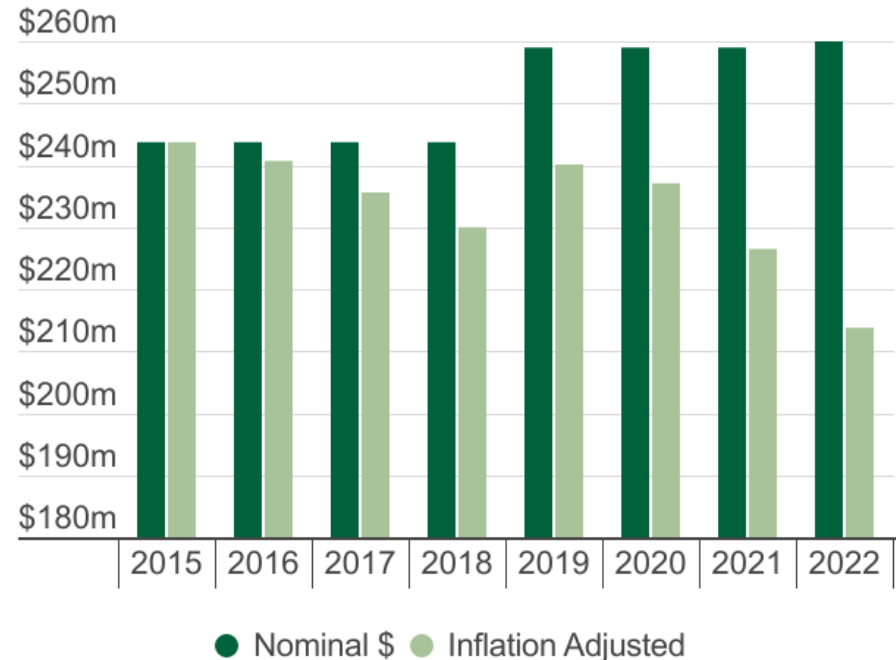
Climate resilience, Advanced Technology Agriculture, Nutrition and Health, Global Innovation.

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 FY25 will follow the above strategy but will be determined later based on most current policy and political environment.

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.

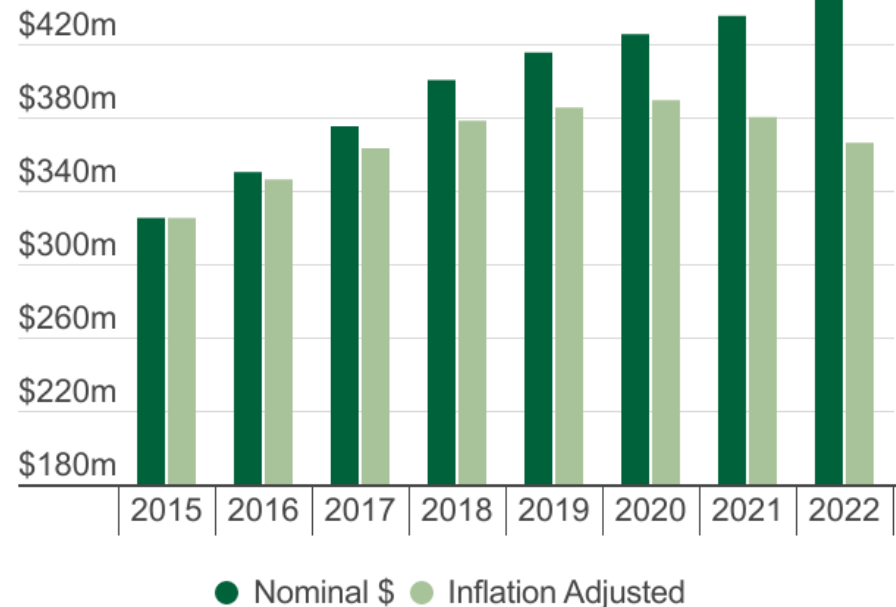
Rising food prices and greater uncertainty in food supply chains.

Program Description and History

Agriculture & Food Research Initiative (AFRI)



Funding History



Widely differing opinions:

\$500 m

FY2024 request:
APLU

\$550 m

FY2024 request:
President's budget

\$460 m

FY2024 request:
House

\$455 m

FY2024 request:
Senate

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

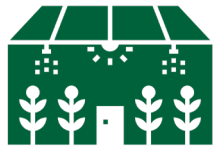


Strategic updating of agricultural research and education facilities ensures the **backbone of cutting-edge research and applied science** innovations that are critical to realizing 21st century R&D goals.

Funding History

\$2 m funding in 2023

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

Long-term goal:
\$500 m per year

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.

Strategic Advocacy Concepts

Discussion

