

# 2008 Farm Bill Research Title:

## Investing in Research to Advance Agriculture

---

- **Streamlines agricultural research by establishing a National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)**

- Maximizes efficiency and coordination throughout USDA's research agencies
- Reorganizes the USDA offices in charge of fundamental and applied research, extension and education programs
- Creates 6 Program Offices to formulate programs, develop planning and priorities, and coordinate and track activities related to agriculture research

Six Program Offices:

- Renewable Energy, Natural Resources & Environment
- Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health
- Plant Health and Production & Plant Products
- Animal Health and Production & Animal Products
- Agriculture Systems and Technology
- Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities

- **Reinvigorates national investment in agricultural research by creating NIFA**

- Improves visibility of competitive research grants
- Raises the profile of agricultural research, extension and education
- Establishes the new agency with a stature equal to other Federal grant-making agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health

- **Addresses the growing list of needs in agricultural research, extension and education for food and agricultural sciences**

- Creates a premier research program called the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)
  - Stimulates entrepreneurship, supports business development, expands access to capital, and builds entrepreneurial networks across Rural America
  - Provides competitive grants to colleges and universities, agricultural experiment stations, and other organizations conducting research in priority areas

- **Increases research for renewable fuels, feedstocks and energy efficiency**

- Creates the Energy Research Program to improve research on the production and sustainability of biofuels and their feedstocks
- Awards competitive grants for projects with a focus on:
  - supporting on-farm biomass crop research
  - disseminating results to enhance the production of energy crops
  - integrating biomass and bioenergy production
- Improves the energy efficiency of agricultural operations
  - Authorizes competitive grants for on-farm energy efficiency research and extension projects

### Farm Bill Research Facts:

- Agriculture research can lead to outcomes that boost farm productivity, prevent and address plant and animal disease, discover new technologies that expand the use of agricultural products, and benefit consumers as well as agricultural producers.

- Most research at USDA falls under one of four Agencies:

- Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is the in-house scientific research agency.

- The Economic Research Service (ERS) analyzes statistical indicators in all areas of agriculture to support public and private decision-making.

- The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) collects and analyzes a broad range of data and administers the U.S. Census of Agriculture.

- The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) channels money to states and U.S. territories to support higher education agriculture programs, state and regional research, and continuing agricultural education and public outreach.

- **Consolidates funding requests to better track the amount of federal investment in agricultural research**
  - Requires the President to submit to Congress a single line item reflecting the total amount requested for agriculture research programs
  
- **Increases opportunities for minority researchers**
  - Encourages prioritization of additional funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (the 1890 institutions), Native American Colleges and Universities (the 1994 institutions), and small land grant universities.
  - Expands access to funding, authority and eligibility for research and extension dollars for Hispanic Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities.
    - Creates an endowment fund, institutional capacity building program to promote agriculture and sciences, and competitive grant proposal for Hispanic Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities
    - Expands extension capabilities for Hispanic Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities
    - Amends existing authorities to ensure that Hispanic Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities are eligible for such programs as the International Ag Research and Extension Program
  
- **Prioritizes initiatives for research related to specialty crop and organic production**
  - Dedicates \$78 million for organic research priorities
  - Provides \$230 million for Specialty Crop Research Initiative
  
- **Provides funding for the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program with \$75 million for fiscal years 2009-2012**
  - The program provides training, education, outreach and technical assistance initiatives for beginning farmers and ranchers