



FASEB

Federation of American Societies
for Experimental Biology

Representing Over 130,000 Researchers

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Testimony of the
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Prepared for the
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration,
and Related Agencies
Representative Sanford Bishop Jr., Chair
Representative Jeff Fortenberry, Ranking Member

On
**FY 2021 Appropriations for the Department of Agriculture – Agriculture and Food
Research Initiative**

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) respectfully requests a minimum of \$700 million in fiscal year (FY) 2021 for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI).

Our agricultural system faces unprecedented challenges, including growing global food demand, food security, and sustainability. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds an interdisciplinary research portfolio that brings pioneering science to these complex problems. Key to these efforts is USDA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) grant program.

AFRI funds agricultural and food sciences research at colleges, universities, and other institutions nationwide. Established by the Farm Bill in 2008, AFRI funding has resulted in numerous advancements, including new wheat cultivars and novel ways to combat invasive species.¹

Additional resources are needed to advance the safety, quality, and nutritive value of food. Childhood obesity and community-based nutrition education programs funded by AFRI help families and communities make informed nutrition choices.²

Despite AFRI's progress – and the need for scientifically informed solutions – the program is appropriated at about 60 percent of its authorization, leaving hundreds of innovative proposals unfunded. AFRI should be funded at its full \$700 million authorization (\$275 million above FY 2020), which would support about 400 more critical research grants.

FASEB FY 2021 recommendation: at least \$700 million for AFRI

¹ [The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture](#)

² [National Institute of Food and Agriculture: Health \(Accessed January 2019\)](#)