



FFAR

Bold science for big challenges



FFAR Benefits American Farmers

Public agriculture research investments drive economic growth, bolster farmer's profits and ensure U.S. competitiveness. Yet, U.S. public investment has slowed while global competitors, including China, increase public agriculture research spending.

- According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Economic Research Service, China invests more than \$10 billion a year in public agriculture research, while the U.S. is spending \$5.2 billion a year—30% less in real terms than the U.S. invested 20 years ago.
- U.S. farmers struggle to make a living. In a good year, the American Farm Bureau Federation found that farmers take home \$0.08 for every dollar spent producing food. Higher operating costs linked to fertilizer and inputs costs further reduce farmers' profitability.
- Simultaneously, consumers have difficulty accessing affordable nutritious food, which contributes to malnutrition and obesity and decreases economic productivity. One in six U.S. homes experience food insecurity.

Concerns about U.S. competitiveness, profitability and food access are not new. The 2014 Farm Bill created the [Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research](#) (FFAR) to address these troubling trends. FFAR builds public-private partnerships to fund bold food and agriculture research. Congress, with strong bipartisan support, provided FFAR \$200 million in mandatory funding and required that the Foundation match every federal dollar with at least \$1 from a non-federal source. The 2018 Farm Bill allocated an additional \$185 million to FFAR.

FFAR is exceeding expectations, delivering a powerful return on taxpayer investment.

- FFAR's partnerships with over 550 companies and organizations leverage an average of \$1.40 from non-federal partners for every federal dollar spent on research.
- The Foundation has made more than 360 grants to date, awarding \$715 million.
- To improve financial self-sufficiency and reduce reliance on taxpayer funding, FFAR invests federal funding up front and uses the interest to cover operational costs.
- There is tremendous need for the public-private partnerships that FFAR builds. In 2023, FFAR programmed \$62 million in federal funding, which enabled the Foundation to leverage and attract an additional \$86 million from non-federal partners to invest \$148 million in food and agriculture research.

FFAR brings diverse stakeholders to the table.

- The Foundation's research with the private sector ensures solutions will be commercialized and deployed to farmers.
- FFAR leverages checkoff dollars, addressing farmers' most urgent priorities.
- Well over half of FFAR's grants support production agriculture research. Nearly all of FFAR's research is aimed at increasing farmer profitability.
- USDA reviews all FFAR grants to ensure complementarity.

360+

GRANTS THAT IMPROVE
FARMER LIVELIHOODS

\$1:1.40

AVERAGE RATIO OF FFAR TO
MATCHING FUNDS

\$715M

FUNDING TOWARD
AGRICULTURE RESEARCH

550+

FUNDING PARTNERS
MAKING A BIGGER IMPACT



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The Foundation is exploring opportunities to work with other U.S. government research agencies, such as the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, the National Institute of Health, the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Agency for International Development, to improve agriculture outcomes, ensure food security and bolster nutrition and health.

- Globally, malnutrition is responsible for almost half of all deaths of children under the age of five, further evidence that proper nutrition is critical in the first 1,000 days.
- FFAR's research investments strengthen food systems and help farmers produce nutritious, affordable foods for consumers.
- FFAR's unique rapid response capacity aims to reduce the spread of the most economically devastating agricultural

pests and diseases that threaten the nations' food supply and farmers' livelihoods.

Overall, food and agriculture industry leaders partner with FFAR on pioneering research because the Foundation amplifies their individual investment.

- FFAR's [2019 Strategic Plan](#) found that over [80% of stakeholders](#) believe that Congressional funding is a critical component of FFAR's model and contributes significantly to FFAR's credibility and ability to make an impact in food and agriculture.
- Ultimately, FFAR more than doubles taxpayers' investment in agriculture research, which supports the nation's food supply and national security interests concerning foreign competitors and ensures U.S. farmers' economic viability.

Rapid Outcomes from Agricultural Research (ROAR)

FFAR provides rapid response funding that is unique to the Foundation and complements other federal funding sources. The [Rapid Outcomes from Agricultural Research](#) (ROAR) program provides urgent funding to manage unanticipated pest and pathogen needs until traditional, longer-term funding is available. Sample ROAR grants include:

- FFAR awarded a grant to USDA and Kansas State University to develop safe and rapidly deployable [vaccines for African Swine Fever Virus](#) (ASFV), a highly contagious, fatal swine disease.
- A grant at Colorado State University is addressing [bacterial leaf streak](#), which is causing yield losses for Western corn belt growers.
- In response to H5N2 HPAI, a strain of [avian influenza](#) or "bird flu," a FFAR grant is developing a nationwide tool to improve poultry disease prevention and preparedness.

Contact FFAR

Please contact us with any questions.

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