



# USDA research is working for Alabama



## Supporting innovation

In FY 2014, Alabama received **\$1.3 million in new grants** from the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

Researchers at **Auburn University** have an AFRI grant to develop a new variety of forage crop that will help improve soil health on pastureland, while also providing better nutritional content for grazing livestock.

AFRI funding was used to test if biochar (charcoal) application to crop soil can reduce the survival of *E. coli* and *Salmonella* on leafy green crops.

## Supporting small business

From 2005-2014, Alabama small businesses received more than **\$1.7 million in grants** through the Small Business Innovation Research program within USDA.

In Tuscaloosa, **Renewable Alternatives LLC.** received an SBIR grant to use plant oils to make bio-based, fire-retardant materials that can be used in clothing and around hot objects.

## Economic Impact



In 2013, agriculture and related industries added **\$789 billion** to the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP)



Agriculture exports hit a record high of over **\$144 billion**, or 9% of total U.S. exports, in 2013



In 2014, 17.3 million full- and part-time jobs were related to agriculture – **about 9.3% of total U.S. employment.**



U.S. public investments in agriculture research and development produce **benefit-cost ratios of 20:1 and higher**

## Alabama Agriculture

43,400 farms

\$6.4 billion in commodities

\$1.5 billion in agricultural exports

89,079 jobs



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