



# USDA research is working for Florida



## Supporting innovation

In FY 2014, Florida received **\$8 million in new grants** from the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

Corn yield is known to be adversely affected by high temperatures. AFRI-funded researchers are working to identify the steps in corn kernel development that are most susceptible to heat as a way to develop more heat-tolerant corn varieties.

AFRI funding at the **University of Florida** is being used to develop, optimize and disseminate management practices to enable southern pine landowners to mitigate atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, more efficiently utilize fertilizer inputs and increase resilience in the face of changing climate.

## Supporting small business

From 2005-2014, Florida small businesses received more than **\$4.2 million in grants** through the Small Business Innovation Research program within USDA

In Gainesville, **Geo-Spider Inc.** is using an SBIR grant to develop a proto-type harvesting device that will increase harvesting efficiency and speed in high-density citrus groves.



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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**

## Economic Impact

## Florida Agriculture

47,600 farms

\$8.5 billion in commodities

\$3.6 billion in agricultural exports

176,562 jobs

