



USDA research is working for Montana

Supporting innovation

In FY 2014, Montana received **\$2.5 million in new grants** from the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

Researchers at **Montana State University** have an AFRI grant to study how plants utilize starch in both leaves and seeds to increase plant productivity and select for improved plant yield.

AFRI funding is being used to study the connection between native forage plants, pollinators, and invasive weeds in order to develop best practices for rangeland weed management.

Supporting small business

From 2005-2014, Montana small businesses received more than **\$4.9 million in grants** through the Small Business Innovation Research program within USDA

In Bozeman, Sustainable **Bioproducts, LLC**, is using an SBIR grant to study an extremophile fungus which can directly convert a wide variety of waste materials into valuable biofuels.



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Science Policy Office | 502 C St NE, Washington, DC 20002
202.408.5558 | sciencepolicy@sciencsocieties.org



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

Montana Agriculture

27,800 farms

\$4.6 billion in commodities

\$1.5 billion in agricultural exports

58,246 jobs

