



USDA research is working for North Carolina



Supporting innovation

In FY 2014, North Carolina received **\$11 million in new grants** from the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

AFRI-funded researchers at the **University of North Carolina** are studying how the topography of forest landscapes impacts water and nutrient movement in forest soils.

At **North Carolina State University**, AFRI funding is being used to identify the genes that regulate rice blast fungus infection in order to identify novel strategies to block the infection process and thus prevent disease.

Supporting small business

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

In Cary, **Benson Hill Biosystems Inc.** has an SBIR grant to develop a line of heat-tolerance maize that will result in improved yield following high-temperature stress.

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**

North Carolina Agriculture

49,500 farms

\$13 billion in commodities

\$4.2 billion in agricultural exports

124,304 jobs



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