



# USDA research is working for Washington



## Supporting innovation

In FY 2015, Washington received **\$2.6 million in new grants** from the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI).

**Washington State University** is using AFRI to try to increase seed size in wheat and oil-seed crops as a way to increase yield, reduce water use and prevent seed loss by wind.

Weedy and invasive species spread by means of seeds, persisting for years in the soil as dormant seeds. AFRI funded researchers are studying how these seeds resist decay in order to develop a technology that uses seed decay as a way to manage weedy and invasive species.

## Supporting small business

From 2006-2015, Washington small businesses received more than **\$7 million in grants** through the Small Business Innovation Research program within USDA

Many biomass feedstocks must be dried before use in biofuel production, but the capital cost for dryers is high. In Auburn, **Forest Concepts, LLC** is developing a new, low-cost drying system for woody biomass thereby reducing biofuel operating and production costs.

## Economic Impact



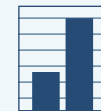
In 2014, agriculture and related industries added **\$985 billion** to the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP).



Agriculture exports hit a record high of **\$150 billion**, or 9% of total U.S. exports, in 2014.



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**

## Washington Agriculture

36,700 farms

\$10 billion in commodities

\$3.8 billion in agricultural exports

144,760 jobs



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