



## ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC AND LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES

Founded in 1887, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) is an association of more than 238 public research universities, land-grant institutions, and state public university systems.

APLU member campuses annually enroll 4.8 million undergraduate and 1.3 million graduate students, award 1.2 million degrees, and conduct \$41.4 billion in university-based research. Collectively, they demonstrate the power and the good of public universities.

As the nation's oldest higher education association, APLU is dedicated to excellence in learning, discovery and engagement. For more information, visit [www.aplu.org](http://www.aplu.org)

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# FY2016 Appropriations Priorities

## AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

*APLU believes that the FY16 Agriculture Appropriations bill must have reasonable increases in key accounts, as described below. These investments enable our member institutions to partner with agricultural producers in ensuring a safe, secure and plentiful supply for food and energy, as well as clean and sustainable air, water and other natural resources. The growth supported by these partnerships and innovation will help the nation address its fiscal challenges.*

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

### NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (NIFA)

#### AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE (AFRI)

##### APLU FY2016 Request: \$450M

(FY2016 PBR = \$450M; FY2015 = \$325M; FY2014 = \$316.4M)

APLU supports a request of \$450 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, USDA's flagship competitive grants program.

- AFRI funds competitive grants supporting research, education and extension activities to address key issues of national, regional, and multi-state importance in sustaining all components of agriculture, including farm efficiency and profitability, ranching, renewable energy, forestry, aquaculture, human nutrition, food safety and biotechnology. AFRI benefits the nation in numerous ways, providing:
  - America's farmers and foresters with genomic data and biotechnology tools to expand food and fiber production, processing, and international trade.
  - Healthcare professionals with insight into the links between diet and health.
  - Extension specialists and their clients expanded knowledge about water quality to help protect the environment and safeguard our food systems.
  - University educators with the funding to train new generations of food, agriculture, and natural resource scientists.

#### CAPACITY FUNDS:

##### FORMULA & BLOCK GRANT FUNDING PROGRAMS OF NIFA

APLU also urges strong support for several NIFA funding lines that underwrite the basic research and extension capacity at America's land-grant universities and related institutions. Most of these programs have state-matching requirements and are essential to sustain the national food, agriculture, and natural resources research and extension capabilities that benefit both rural and urban areas.

- Hatch Act (\$256 million) for agriculture experiment stations
- Smith-Lever Funds 3(b) and 3(c) (\$304 million) for cooperative extension
- Evans-Allen (\$60.5 million) for agricultural research
- McIntire-Stennis (\$35.5 million) for cooperative forestry research
- 1890 Institutions Extension Services (\$49.4 million)
- 1994 Institutions Extension and Research (\$9.2 million)

*Additional APLU FY205 Agriculture Appropriations bill priorities and detailed justifications, as determined by the Association's Commission on Food, Environment and Renewable Resources Board on Agriculture Assembly, are available at <http://www.land-grant.org/>.*