DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (NIFA)

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE (AFRI)
APLU FY2014 Request: $383.4 million
(FY2014 PBR = $383.4M; FY2013 = $277M; FY2012 = $264.5M)

APLU supports a request of $383.4 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, USDA’s flagship competitive grants program.

- AFRI provides peer-reviewed grants to support: (1) high priority fundamental and mission-linked research of importance in the biological, environmental, physical, and social sciences relevant to agriculture, food, the environment, and rural communities; and (2) competitively awarded research, extension, and education grants addressing key issues of national and regional importance to agriculture, forestry, and related topics.

- AFRI benefits the nation in numerous ways, providing:
  - America’s farmers and foresters with the genomic data and biotechnology tools to expand food and fiber production, processing, and international trade.
  - U.S. healthcare professionals with insight into the relationships 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 ($236.3 million) for agriculture experiment stations
- Evans-Allen ($50.9 million) for agricultural research
- McIntire-Stennis ($32.9 million) for cooperative forestry research
- Smith-Lever Funds 3(h) and 3(c) ($294 million) for cooperative extension
- Extension Services at 1890 Institutions ($42.6 million)
- 1994 Institutions Extension and 1994 Institutions Research ($6.1 million)

Additional APLU FY2014 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/.