APLU supports $1.596 billion for NIFA in FY2020. This represents a $125 million increase from FY2019 funding levels.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE (AFRI)
APLU FY2020 Request: $445 million
(FY2020 PBR = $500M; FY2019 = $415M; FY2018 = $400M)

APLU supports an appropriation of $445 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.

APLU appreciates the FY2020 PBR of $500 million for AFRI, however we cannot support that this added increase in the budget request is clearly to the detriment of the other critical research, education and extension programs that we support which are important to scientists, farmers, consumers and businesses across the country.
APLU FY2020 AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES (con’t)

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 ($292 million) for agriculture experiment stations
- Smith-Lever Funds 3(b) and 3(c) ($359 million) for cooperative extension
- Evans-Allen ($67 million) for agricultural research
- McIntire-Stennis ($41 million) for cooperative forestry research
- 1890 Institutions Extension Services ($57 million)

Additional APLU FY2020 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