



USDA research is working for Alabama



Supporting innovation

In FY 2015, Alabama received **\$2.9 million in new grants** from the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

Researchers at **Auburn University** have an AFRI grant to develop a new variety of forage crop that will help improve soil health on pastureland, while also providing better nutritional content for grazing livestock.

AFRI funding was used to test if biochar (charcoal) application to crop soil can reduce the survival of *E. coli* and *Salmonella* on leafy green crops.

Supporting small business

From 2006-2015, Alabama small businesses received more than **\$1.7 million in grants** through the Small Business Innovation Research program within USDA.

In Tuscaloosa, **Renewable Alternatives LLC.** received an SBIR grant to use plant oils to make bio-based, fire-retardant materials that can be used in clothing and around hot objects.

Economic Impact



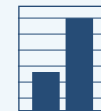
In 2014, agriculture and related industries added **\$985 billion** to the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP)



Agriculture exports hit a record high of over **\$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**

Alabama Agriculture

43,400 farms

\$5.6 billion in commodities

\$1.2 billion in agricultural exports

90,015 jobs



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