



USDA research is working for Illinois



Supporting innovation

In FY 2015, Illinois received **\$5.8 million in new grants** from the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI).

The **University of Illinois** is using AFRI funding to study the processes and microorganisms that lead to soil contamination in order to develop treatments that would decrease or eliminate these contaminants in agroecosystems.

AFRI-funded researchers are working to increase yield in soybeans through a protein variant that can carry out photosynthesis at higher temperatures.

Supporting small business

From 2006-2015, Illinois small businesses received more than **\$3.2 million in grants** through the Small Business Innovation Research program within USDA

In Niles, **Fresh Picks** is using an SBIR grant to identify bottlenecks in the local food distribution system in order to develop new distribution strategies that will allow urban dwellers greater access to local produce at a lower cost.

Economic Impact



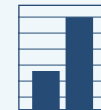
In 2014, agriculture and related industries added **\$985 billion** to the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP).



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**

Illinois Agriculture

74,500 farms

\$15 billion in commodities

\$8 billion in agricultural exports

148,445 jobs



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