



USDA research is working for Maryland



Supporting innovation

In FY 2015, Maryland received **\$4.6 million in new grants** from the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI).

Researchers at the **University of Maryland** have an AFRI grant to determine how viruses interact with host stone fruit crops as a way to prevent or manage disease infection.

AFRI funding is being used to study how different soil management and cropping methods impact pathogen survival in soil and transmission onto crops as a way to combat food-borne illness.

Supporting small business

From 2006-2015, Maryland small businesses received almost **\$5 million in grants** through the Small Business Innovation Research program within USDA

Bacterial wilt is a disease that infects pepper, tobacco, tomato and potato crops, resulting in devastating crop losses. **Pathensors Inc.** in Baltimore, is using an SBIR grant to develop a diagnostic biosensor system that can detect bacterial infection earlier and more effectively.

Economic Impact



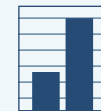
In 2014, agriculture and related industries added **\$985 billion** to the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP).



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**

Maryland Agriculture

12,300 farms

\$2.2 billion in commodities

\$650 million in agricultural exports

31,506 jobs



agronomy.org | crops.org | soils.org



Science Policy Office | 502 C St NE, Washington, DC 20002
202.408.5558 | sciencepolicy@sciencesocieties.org