



# USDA research is working for Minnesota



## Supporting innovation

In FY 2015, Minnesota received **\$5 million in new grants** from the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI).

Researchers at the **University of Minnesota** have an AFRI grant to test the ability of ridge tillage with cover crop systems to maintain soil quality and buffer crop production against floods and droughts.

AFRI funding is being used to develop a domesticated variety of pennycress, an oil-seed crop that not only functions as a cover-crop between harvests, but also can be used as in biodiesel production.

## Supporting small business

From 2006-2015, Minnesota small businesses received more than **\$2.3 million in grants** through the Small Business Innovation Research program within USDA

High Tunnels are a type of field protected agriculture that provide producers with a more controlled system than open fields. **Scenic Valley Farm Inc.** in Rosemount, is using an SBIR grant to optimize High Tunnel power systems to be more efficient and cost-effective.

## Economic Impact



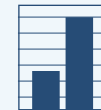
In 2014, agriculture and related industries added **\$985 billion** to the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP).



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**

## Minnesota Agriculture

74,000 farms

\$16 billion in commodities

\$6.3 billion in agricultural exports

157,051 jobs



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