



## 2012 Farm Bill

# RESEARCH TITLE ISSUE BRIEF

The 2008 Farm Bill reorganized USDA research by creating the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), a new agency, to coordinate all of USDA's research activities. All authorities under the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service were transferred to NIFA.

In 2011, Congress adopted a ban on earmarks (also known as "congressionally directed spending"), legislative provisions that allocate a specified amount of money for a specific project, program or organization. This ban has unfortunately resulted in the elimination of funds for many agricultural research projects and facilities, which have historically depended largely on support from earmarks requested by rural members of Congress.

### **National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)**

This new institute is established in order to better administer research funding and programs previously under USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CS-REES). Included under NIFA are programs related to capacity and infrastructure, competitive practices, cooperative State research, cooperative extension and education.

### **Research, Education, and Extension Office**

The Research, Education, and Extension office will be run by a new Under Secretary, who also is USDA's Chief Scientist. The Under Secretary will be responsible for prioritizing and coordinating all USDA research programs.

### **National Agriculture Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board (NAREEEAB)**

The board, which was reduced in the 2008 Farm Bill from thirty one to twenty five members, will advise the Secretary on agricultural research.

### **Agriculture Research Facility Funding**

This funding will be awarded through competitive grants to agricultural research facilities to be used for the purchasing of special research equipment.

### **Agriculture and Food Research Initiative**

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative replaces the National Research Initiative and provides competitive research grants to agricultural research facilities.

### **Initiatives for Competitive Grants in High-Priority Areas**

In order to more efficiently use research funding, several high-priority research topics will be designated under this initiative.

### **Pollinator Research**

New authorization has been granted to focus specifically on pollinators and colony collapse disorder.

### **Land-Grant Universities (1862 and 1890 Institutions)**

These land-grant universities will provide formula funding to research initiatives. Funding will be specifically directed towards minority-serving land grant universities and other colleges of agriculture performing research.



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## **International Agricultural Research, Extension and Education**

The International Agricultural Research, Extension and Education is a new Borlaug fellowship program for students and scientists in developing countries will be established.

## **Specialty Crop Research Initiative**

Under the Specialty Crop Research Initiative competitive grants will be awarded that are specifically designated for specialty crop research. This program has no baseline funding past Fiscal Year 2012.

## **Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative**

Mandatory funding will be designated for research and extension relating to organic agriculture. This initiative has no baseline funding past FY 2012.

## **Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network**

Competitive grants will be provided for the development of stress assistance programs for farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers.

## **Farm Business Management Competitive Research and Extension Grant Program**

Funding will be designated for programs that teach farm business management and financial skills under the Farm Business Management Competitive Research and Extension Grant Program.

## **Agriculture and Rural Transportation Research and Education**

Under this program, funding is designated to address agricultural transportation issues including, but not limited to, exporting agricultural products and the transportation of biofuels.

## **Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program**

This program designates funding for targeted training and technical assistance provided to beginning farmers and ranchers. This program has no baseline funding past FY 2012.

## **New Era Rural Technology Program**

Funding will be designated for rural community colleges with programs that promote developments in renewable energy.

## **Sun Grant Research Initiative**

Grants will be authorized to five regional Sun Grant Centers and one sub-center to develop and implement biobased technologies.

## **Biotechnology Risk Assessment Research**

Under this program, funding will be designated for the research, education and extension of activities which promote biosecurity planning and response efforts.