



# USDA research is working for Florida



## Supporting innovation

In FY 2015, Florida received **\$7.3 million in new grants** from the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI).

Corn yield is known to be adversely affected by high temperatures. AFRI-funded researchers are working to identify the steps in corn kernel development that are most susceptible to heat as a way to develop more heat-tolerant corn varieties.

AFRI funding at the **University of Florida** is being used to develop, optimize and disseminate management practices to enable southern pine landowners to mitigate atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, more efficiently utilize fertilizer inputs and increase resilience in the face of changing climate.

## Supporting small business

From 2006-2015, Florida small businesses received more than **\$3.3 million in grants** through the Small Business Innovation Research program within USDA

In Gainesville, **Geo-Spider Inc.** is using an SBIR grant to develop a proto-type harvesting device that will increase harvesting efficiency and speed in high-density citrus groves.

## Economic Impact



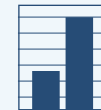
In 2014, agriculture and related industries added **\$985 billion** to the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP).



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**

## Florida Agriculture

47,600 farms

\$8.4 billion in commodities

\$3.5 billion in agricultural exports

169,518 jobs



[agronomy.org](http://agronomy.org) | [crops.org](http://crops.org) | [soils.org](http://soils.org)



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