



# USDA research is working for Montana



## Supporting innovation

In FY 2015, Montana received **\$1.3 million in new grants** from the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI).

Researchers at **Montana State University** have an AFRI grant to study how plants utilize starch in both leaves and seeds to increase plant productivity and select for improved plant yield.

AFRI funding is being used to study the connection between native forage plants, pollinators, and invasive weeds in order to develop best practices for rangeland weed management.

## Supporting small business

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

In Boozman, **Sustainable Bioproducts, LLC**. is using an SBIR grant to study an acido-philic fungus which can directly convert a wide variety of waste materials into valuable biofuels.

## Economic Impact



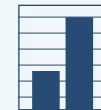
In 2014, agriculture and related industries added **\$985 billion** to the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP).



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**

## Montana Agriculture

27,800 farms

\$3.8 billion in commodities

\$1.2 billion in agricultural exports

59,163 jobs



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