



USDA research is working for Virginia



Supporting innovation

In FY 2015, Virginia received **\$6 million in new grants** from the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI).

Virginia Tech University received an AFRI grant to study the genes that control trunk strength in poplar trees as a way to develop a poplar variety with increased wood strength.

Oomycetes are fungal-like bacteria that results in root and stem rot in soybeans. AFRI-funded researchers are working to develop a better diagnostic test for rot to help prevent infection.

Supporting small business

From 2006-2015, Virginia small businesses received more than **\$4 million in grants** through the Small Business Innovation Research program within USDA

In Reston, **Micronic Technologies** received an SBIR grant to develop a rapid evaporation technology that can remove nitrate contaminants from water without chemicals, filters or membranes.

Economic Impact



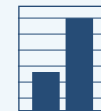
In 2014, agriculture and related industries added **\$985 billion** to the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP).



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**

Virginia Agriculture

45,900 farms

\$3.8 billion in commodities

\$1 billion in agricultural exports

99,516 jobs



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