



USDA research is working for Vermont



Supporting innovation

In FY 2015, Vermont received **\$3.5 million in new grants** from the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI).

Researchers at the **University of Vermont** are using AFRI funding to study how the symbiotic relationship between mycorrhizal fungi and blueberry crops impacts the development of floral nectar, pollen and consequent fruit yield.

AFRI funding is being used to determine how different land management practices impact greenhouse gas emissions on two of the most prevalent agroecosystems in the northeast: corn silage and grasslands.

Supporting small business

From 2006-2015, Vermont small businesses received more than **\$100,000 in grants** through the Small Business Innovation Research program within USDA

In Waterbury, **S.T.S. Inc.** is using an SBIR grant to improve evaluation techniques of brazed cutting tools and sawblades used for cutting wood fibers as a way to improve the reliability of these high-cost tools.

Economic Impact



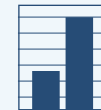
In 2014, agriculture and related industries added **\$985 billion** to the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP).



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**

Vermont Agriculture

7,300 farms

\$821 million in commodities

\$196 million in agricultural exports

18,843 jobs



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