FFAR Delivers for American Agriculture

The Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research (FFAR) is a proven, innovative public-private model for addressing the most pressing challenges facing rural America, farmers and consumers. With a matching rate of $1.40 from the private sector for every federal dollar invested in research, FFAR generates funding that more than doubles government investment, exceeding its mandate as a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars and yielding dozens of commercialized products.

Strengthening U.S. Competitiveness.

- FFAR's model invests critically needed funds into domestic public agriculture research. Global competitors like China, India and Brazil have significantly increased agriculture R&D spending while comparable U.S. investments have declined by 30% since 2002.
- FFAR-funded research supports and creates new markets for agricultural products, helping producers remain responsive to market conditions.

  FFAR-funded research develops sustainable supply chains for cover crops that create economic opportunities between seasons.

  FFAR and the United Soybean Board co-funded research to increase soybean protein content and quality to meet the global demand for high-protein soybeans.

  To help small farms navigate the expense of bringing products to market, researchers are exploring ways for refrigerated trucks to carry products from multiple farms in individualized containers, reducing cost per farm.
- FFAR strategically invests in the future of the agricultural scientific workforce through fellowships that prepare the next generation of scientists to address the challenges of today and tomorrow. These fellowships support early-career scientists and have addressed shortages in areas like veterinary medicine.

Improving Farmer Profitability & Rural Economies.

- FFAR funds research to lower input costs and improve profit margins. By co-funding research with commodity groups and involving producers, FFAR ensures research is actionable and adoptable.

  A University of Maryland grant identified the cause of a fungal disease severely impacting vineyards in the mid-Atlantic. The researchers worked with extension agents to bring the resulting tools to farmers, leading to widespread adoption and saving growers an estimated $7 million over four seasons.

  In response to rising fertilizer prices, FFAR launched the Efficient Fertilizer Consortium, a public-private partnership that funds research to help farmers use novel and current fertilizers more efficiently, improve soil fertility, decrease input costs, reduce nutrient losses and improve food security.

  Through an industry collaboration, researchers determined that antibiotics given to cattle to prevent bovine metaphylaxis are better used in tailored, targeted treatment plans. Using the antibiotic judiciously significantly reduces costs for beef production.

Protecting U.S. National Food Security

- FFAR funds research to prevent and combat unanticipated pests and pathogens. Unlike traditional funding models, FFAR can advance innovative, high-risk research in response to unplanned threats quickly, sometimes in just two to three months.

  To bolster H5N1 response, prevention and mitigation, FFAR funded a dozen grants addressing the disease in poultry and livestock. Additionally, FFAR and the Swine Health Information Center (SHIC) funded ten grants to ensure the U.S. pork industry is prepared to manage H5N1.

- FFAR has invested in resilient food systems and biosecurity research to protect U.S. national security since its inception.

- FFAR and SHIC funded 23 projects to strengthen biosecurity in the wean-to-harvest phase of swine production. The resulting strategies help producers improve swine health, reduce infection and transmission rates and save money.

- FFAR funding supports work on treating Fusarium wilt , a devastating fungal disease with historical potential as a bioweapon, which attacks several crops, including cotton, lettuce, corn and strawberries.

- In response to the emergence of New World Screwworm in North America, FFAR issued a call for research proposals on New World Screwworm assessment, prevention and treatment to complement USDA's focus on sterile fly facilities.

Contact FFAR

Please contact us with any questions.

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