

March 25, 2024

The Honorable Andy Harris  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Agriculture  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2334 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Agriculture  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
303 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sanford Bishop  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Agriculture  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2407 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Hoeven  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Agriculture  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
338 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harris, Chairman Heinrich, Ranking Member Bishop, and Ranking Member Hoeven:

The undersigned members of the Friends of the Agricultural Research Service (FARS) Coalition write to thank you for your continued support of the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in FY 2024. As your committees consider Appropriations for the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for Fiscal Year 2025, we request \$1.95 billion in total funding for ARS. A robust federal investment in ARS research provides the foundation for a strong, resilient domestic agricultural and food supply chain.

As USDA's chief intramural research agency, ARS supports food and agricultural research at more than 90 research locations across the country. ARS has a strong track record of delivering cutting-edge scientific tools, and innovative solutions for American farmers, producers, consumers, and communities. ARS research is organized into 15 National Programs that span the full spectrum of our food and agricultural system including crops, animals, natural resources, and nutrition and food safety. The coordination of research through the National Programs allows teams across multiple ARS locations to develop comprehensive solutions to address agricultural challenges. ARS researchers also collaborate extensively with state colleges and universities, where more than one-third of ARS locations are co-located. These partnerships are strengthened through ARS extramural support of research at these institutions.

Support food and agricultural research at ARS is an investment in the nation's food security, economic prosperity, environmental resilience, and overall well-being. ARS research ensures that the food and agriculture sector can adapt, innovate, and thrive in the face of evolving challenges and threats. Research supported by ARS is working to address such issues as preventing wildfires through better forecasting tools, identifying risk factors for plant and animal pests and diseases, protecting pollinator health, developing produce varieties with a longer shelf life, and improving the composition of infant formula just to name a few.

ARS is uniquely positioned to support critical long-term agricultural research across a variety of ecosystems and agricultural settings, including the USDA Climate Hubs and the Long Term Agro-Ecosystem Research (LTAR) sites. ARS also develops and maintains numerous, agriculturally significant, long-term datasets. It is home to the National Agricultural Library, the world's largest publication and data collection devoted to agriculture, and the Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN) which provides data on national collections of animal, microbial, and plant genetic resources important for food and agricultural production.

Investing in ARS will not only benefit our producers, but the knowledge and tools generated through ARS research also contribute to job creation, economic growth, and the long-term health of our rural communities. Discoveries resulting from ARS research have a ripple effect throughout the entire agricultural supply chain, positively impacting every American who relies on a stable and affordable food supply.

As you work on agriculture appropriations for fiscal year 2025, we urge you to provide no less than \$1.95 billion for ARS. By doing so, you will be supporting the growth and resilience of our food and agricultural sector, fostering innovation, and supporting the future of American producers and consumers alike. The FARS Coalition stands ready to work with you as the process moves forward and answer any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

Agricultural & Applied Economics Association  
American Association of Mycobacterial Diseases  
American Association of Mycobacterial Diseases  
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges  
American Institute of Biological Sciences  
American Malting Barley Association  
American Phytopathological Society  
American Pulse Association  
American Seed Trade Association  
American Society for Nutrition  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Society of Animal Science  
American Society of Plant Biologists  
American Soybean Association  
Aquatic Plant Management Society  
Carbon180  
Cereals & Grains Association  
Clean Air Task Force  
Colorado State University  
Corn Refiners Association  
Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST)  
Crop Science Society of America

CropLife America  
Earthjustice  
Ecological Society of America  
Ecosystem Services Market Consortium (ESMC)  
Eion  
Entomological Society of America  
Farm Journal Foundation  
FASS-SPC  
International Fresh Produce Association  
Meat Institute  
Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals – Multistate Initiative  
National Association of Plant Breeders  
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Barley Improvement Committee  
National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research  
National Sunflower Association  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
North Central Weed Science Society  
Northeastern Weed Science Society  
Oregon State University  
Pet Food Institute  
Plant Based Products Council  
Soil Science Society of America  
Southern Weed Science Society  
Spark Climate Solutions  
Supporters of Agricultural Research (SoAR) Foundation  
The Breakthrough Institute  
The Good Food Institute  
The Nature Conservancy  
US Dairy Forage Research Center Stakeholder Committee  
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council  
Washington State University  
Weed Science Society of America  
Western Society of Weed Science

cc:

The Honorable Patty Murray  
The Honorable Susan Collins  
The Honorable Kay Granger  
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro