



REBUILD RURAL

#RebuildRural



AG RESEARCH

By investing in research facilities at colleges of agriculture, federal funds have the potential to impact nearly every American. With strategic investments, the United States can transform our agricultural research capacity, grow America's biobased economies, secure our domestic food supply for the long term, manage a dynamically changing climate, prepare a modern workforce and advance U.S. global competitiveness.

Every dollar spent on research results in a \$10 to \$20 boost to the national economy. Together, over the next five years, we can accomplish these goals with a federal investment of \$11.5 billion dedicated to college of agriculture research facilities. And that funding would create 200,000 new jobs. It's time to Rebuild Rural.

America's land-grant universities, colleges and schools of agriculture power education, research and outreach vital to rural communities and the food, fiber and renewable fuel they produce. However, year-over-year, America falls behind on investing in agricultural research. From 2003 to 2013, U.S. public agricultural research and development spending declined nearly 20 percent.

Adjusted for inflation, the decline steepens significantly. At the same time, our agricultural competitors vastly outspend us. In 2016 alone, China outspent the U.S. on food and ag research by \$3 billion.

This dedicated funding would reverse the rapid deterioration of agricultural research infrastructure. A 2015 Gordian study identified approximately \$8.4 billion in infrastructure and deferred maintenance needs across more than 90 institutions. When Gordian updated the study in 2021, it found the cost of deferred maintenance upgrades had risen to \$11.5 billion, with a replacement value of \$38 billion. Nearly 70 percent of buildings are at the end of their useful life.

America's breadth and depth of ag research protects our competitive advantage. Without additional funding, we will fail our farmers and ranchers and the security of the American food supply. Our research facilities from the 1950s and '60s simply do not yield 21st-century results. It's time to modernize, find new opportunities and continue America's leadership in feeding our country and the world.

REBUILD RURAL COALITION

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