



U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

FOR FY2022, THE U OF I SYSTEM REQUESTS AT LEAST A **\$100M INCREASE** FOR NIFA, INCLUDING **\$470 MILLION** FOR AFRI; WE ALSO REQUEST **\$50 MILLION** FOR AGARDA

AFRI

FY2022 PBR = TBD
FY2021 = \$435M
FY2020 = \$425M
FY2019 = \$415M
FY2018 = \$400M
FY2017 = \$375M
FY2016 = \$350M
FY2015 = \$325M

Appropriations Bill:

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Agency: National Institute of Food and Agriculture

USDA Allocations/Awards, FY 2021

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Account	Amount
Hatch Act (Research & Education Programs)	\$7.2M
Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) (Extension Activities)	\$10.2M
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) (Research & Education Programs)	\$11.2M
Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)	\$2.25M
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) (Extension + UIC)	\$16M

UIUC has an enduring and dynamic partnership with USDA. The **College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES)** at UIUC is home to the **Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station**, which supports research capacity and education infrastructure in Illinois. Hatch and other related formula funds support capacity for applied science to benefit Illinois in areas such as plant photosynthesis and genetics, soil and water conservation, animal performance, and human nutrition and health strategies. USDA's **Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)** supports competitive research programs that are essential to the research portfolio in ACES and in other units on the campus.

The **National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)** supports **University of Illinois Extension**, whose network of educators reaches all 102 counties of Illinois with evidence-based outreach and engagement programs in five broad areas: energy and environmental stewardship; food safety and security; economic development and workforce preparedness; family health, financial security, and wellness; and youth development. NIFA provides capacity support to U of I Extension through Smith-Lever 3(b) & (c).

More than \$7M in competitive USDA funding to the **College of Veterinary Medicine** advances agricultural animal health through basic and applied research into disease prevention and through training programs that help producers and veterinarians improve biosecurity and productivity on farms.



USDA-Supported Projects at Urbana-Champaign



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN AGRICULTURE | The **\$20M USDA-funded** Artificial Intelligence for Future Agricultural Resilience, Management, and Sustainability Institute serves as a nexus for multidisciplinary research teams that advance foundational AI and use these advances to address important challenges facing world agriculture. It puts strong emphasis on technologies that impact production practices, on developing a diverse technically skilled workforce in digital agriculture, and on supporting women and minority farmers. Research includes autonomous farming, efficiency for livestock operations, environmental resilience, soil health, and technology adoption.

FARMER MENTAL HEALTH | Agricultural producers in the North Central region experience anxiety, depression, substance use, and death by suicide at disproportionately higher rates than the general population. Through a **\$7.2M grant from USDA-NIFA**, Illinois researchers and Extension specialists have formed the North Central Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Center to create and expand stress management and mental health resources and services to agricultural producers and advocates and stakeholders who support agricultural producers.



HEALTHIER & LESS WASTEFUL SCHOOL LUNCHES | Supported by nearly \$1M in USDA-NIFA funds, Illinois researchers are working with schools across the country to encourage greater vegetable consumption and reduce food waste. The project uses "behavioral nudges" shown to positively influence personal choices around nutrition, and ensures schools can tailor these nudges to maximize effectiveness for their specific populations.

Questions? Contact:

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM

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ANIMAL HEALTH | UIUC's College of Veterinary Medicine has more than \$7M in competitive USDA funding to support animal health research. These projects are focused on vaccine development and understanding the pathogenesis and transmission of agricultural animal diseases. For instance:

- Supporting the beef, pork and poultry industries by developing vaccines to fight important viral diseases, developing new ways to detect and monitor for disease threats, and preparing producers and veterinarians to respond in case of a disease outbreak.
- Fighting global hunger with novel approaches to reduce the impact of key livestock parasites.
- Delivering high-quality online learning focused on animal-disease training and other needs of rural veterinary practitioners and students, so these professionals can partner with producers to ensure on-farm biosecurity and increase productivity and efficiency.



TRAINING LEADERS IN DISASTER RELIEF | A \$750,000 USDA-NIFA project develops courses and co-curricular learning experiences for students in project-based community service efforts. The project is the continuation of years-long efforts to help rebuild Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria, and creates a sustainable pipeline of educational opportunities for students to build skills in leadership, project management, problem solving, and global engagement.

BUILDING HEALTHIER SOILS THROUGH CORN BREEDING | Illinois researchers have discovered that through decades of breeding for aboveground traits, corn has lost its ability to interact with soil microbes in a way that promotes overall soil health and sustainability. With a \$749,987 USDA-NIFA grant, the team will mine the genomes of corn ancestors to try to build back healthy relationships with soil microbes in future corn breeding programs.

NEW FRYER TECHNOLOGY | With \$489,000 in USDA-NIFA support, Illinois food scientists will design and test a new microwave-assisted oil fryer that could result in healthier fried foods that retain the taste, texture, and aroma consumers prefer. The design will minimize the potential for cooking oil to enter microscopic pores in foods, which adds fat in conventionally fried products.

Impacts of the Illinois SNAP-Ed and EFNEP Investments

University of Illinois Extension and UIC leveraged \$15M of total investment in Illinois' 2020 **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)** to improve food access, promote healthy food choices, and help Illinois families save more money. Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Illinois SNAP-Ed worked in 96 counties and 412 cities across Illinois. SNAP-Ed partnered with 1,811 organizations to deliver nutrition education and support organizational changes that promoted health and improved food access for individuals and families having low-income. In response to the pandemic, SNAP-Ed quickly transitioned to virtual program delivery and helped communities acquire over \$550,000 in grant and donor funds to expand food access and health in priority areas. Additionally, SNAP-Ed worked with state partners to create and launch the new [Find Food IL Map](#) to help Illinois residents more easily identify local food resources.



Using the the \$2.2M **Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)** investment, University of Illinois Extension also quickly transitioned to virtual program delivery in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through virtual programs 94% percent of adults and 90% percent of youth made healthier food choices.