



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

www.nifa.usda.gov  
@USDA\_NIFA

# NIFA FACTSHEET

## BACKGROUND

**T**HE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (NIFA) addresses many challenges facing the nation through exemplary agricultural science. NIFA works with the best and brightest scientists at universities and colleges throughout the United States and around the world to find innovative solutions to issues related to agriculture, food, the environment, and communities. With a timely, integrated approach and collaboration with other federal science agencies, NIFA also serves as a vital contributor to federal science policy decision-making.

## INTEGRATED APPROACH TO SCIENCE

**AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AT NIFA** integrates research, education, and extension to ensure that groundbreaking research discoveries go beyond the laboratory and make their way into the classroom and to communities where people can put the knowledge into practice and improve their lives.

**RESEARCH** provides answers to complex issues facing our nation and the world.

**EDUCATION** strengthens schools and universities to train the next generation of scientists, educators, producers, and citizens.

**EXTENSION** takes knowledge gained through research and education to the people who need it most.

## PRIORITY SCIENCE AREAS

### FOOD SECURITY AND HUNGER

NIFA supports science to boost domestic agricultural production, improve capacity to meet the growing global food demand, and foster innovation in fighting hunger and food insecurity in vulnerable populations.

### CLIMATE CHANGE

NIFA-funded projects help producers adapt to changing weather patterns and sustain economic vitality while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing carbon sequestration in agricultural and forest production systems.

### SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

NIFA contributes to the President's goal of energy independence with a portfolio of grant programs to develop optimum biomass, forests, and crops for bioenergy production; and produce value-added, bio-based industrial products.

### CHILDHOOD OBESITY

NIFA-supported programs ensure that nutritious foods are affordable and available and that individuals and families are able to make informed, science-based decisions about their health and well-being.

### FOOD SAFETY

NIFA food safety programs work to provide a safer food supply and reduce the incidence of food-borne illness by addressing the causes of microbial contamination and anti-microbial resistance, educating consumer and food safety professionals, and developing enhanced food processing technologies.

## LEADERSHIP

Chavonda Jacobs-Young, *Acting Director*

## EMPLOYEES

Approximately 320

## STRUCTURE

### INSTITUTE OF FOOD PRODUCTION AND SUSTAINABILITY

- *Enhancing food security through productive and sustainable agricultural systems*

### INSTITUTE OF BIOENERGY, CLIMATE, AND ENVIRONMENT

- *Ensuring energy independence through clean, biobased energy systems*
- *Ensuring sustainable and adaptive agro-ecosystems in response to variable climates*

### INSTITUTE OF FOOD SAFETY AND NUTRITION

- *Ensuring a safe food supply*
- *Improving citizens' health through nutrition*
- *Reducing childhood obesity*
- *Improving food quality*

### INSTITUTE OF YOUTH, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY

- *Enabling vibrant and resilient communities*
- *Preparing the next generation of scientists*
- *Enhancing science capacity in minority-serving institutions*
- *Enhancing youth and family development*

### CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

- *Enhancing the global awareness of American students, faculty, and staff*
- *Sharing benefits of international science through research and extension*

## BUDGET

Total FY11.....	\$1,357,678,000
<i>Research and Education</i> .....	698,740,000
<i>Extension</i> .....	479,132,000
<i>Integrated</i> .....	36,926,000
<i>Mandatory</i> .....	142,880,000

## PARTNER LAND-GRANT INSTITUTIONS

Total .....	109
1862 Land-Grant Universities .....	57
1890 Land-Grant Universities .....	18
1994 Land-Grant Universities .....	34