



June 17, 2005

The Honorable Robert Bennett  
Chairman, Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
188 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Coalition on Funding Agriculture Research Missions (CoFARM), a coalition of 23 professional scientific organizations with 130,000 members dedicated to advancing and sustaining a balanced investment in our nation's research portfolio, would like to thank you for your previous support of the National Research Initiative (NRI) in FY 2005. During consideration of the FY 2006 appropriations for the NRI, we request that you support \$250 million for this important program.

The NRI supports research on key problems of national and regional importance in biological, environmental, physical, and social sciences relevant to agriculture, food, and the environment on a competitive, peer-reviewed basis.

The following are examples of the types of critical research performed by the NRI:

- Research showing linkages between food and human diseases;
- Research showing new ways to combat insects, weeds, plant and animal disease in fields and ranches;
- Research that helps keep pathogens and other dangers out of our air, water, soil, plants, and animals;
- Research establishing new crops, improved livestock and economic opportunities;
- Research that creates new food and processing techniques, producing greater value and profitability.

Thank you for your support of this important program. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance to you or your staff.

Sincerely,

CoFARM

**Member Societies**

- o American Dairy Science Association o American Phytopathological Society
- o American Society for Horticultural Science o American Society for Microbiology o American Society for Nutritional Sciences
- o American Society of Agricultural Engineers o American Society of Agronomy o American Society of Animal Science
- o American Society of Plant Biologists o Botanical Society of America o Crop Science Society of America o Council on Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics
- o Council of Entomology Department Administrators o Federation of Animal Science Societies o Genetics Society of America
- o Institute of Food Technologists o Poultry Science Association o Society for Range Management o Society of Nematologists
- o Soil Science Society of America o Weed Science Society of America