

48. AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

We support:

1. The meaningful involvement of food and agriculture stakeholders in priority setting, funding, and accountability for federal and state food and agricultural research, extension, and education programs.
2. Determining the need and financing necessary to provide appropriate incentives for building and maintaining a critical mass of well-trained scientists in the public sector to support and ensure that the U.S. remains the leader in global agricultural production.
3. A national council with an emphasis on food and agricultural research.
4. Research funding efforts for the Illinois Council for Food and Agricultural Research (C- FAR).
5. Redesigning the system of research farms and other pilot scale research facilities to assure that new information and technologies generated in public and/or private efforts around the world are rapidly selected for and adapted to Illinois conditions.
6. Awarding some federal special grants on a competitive basis that address high-priority objectives identified by stakeholders and requiring large-scale, well-coordinated efforts by federal and state institutions and agencies working in cooperation with food and agriculture organizations and firms.
7. Annual increases in the federal investment in public food and agriculture research, extension, and education programs to adjust for inflation in costs.
8. Federal investment in research that provides a mix of formula, competitive, and special grants.
9. Continued federal funding for Cooperative State Research, Extension and Education Service (CSREES) programs to support but be limited to the broad scope of research, extension, and education programs that reflect activities in the U.S. food and agriculture sector. Research, extension, and education programs should be tailored to the unique situations of regions, states, and locales. We support the use of both federal and state funds to support basic, developmental, and adaptive research and technology transfer.
10. Allocation of funds based upon scholarship and quality of science in determining who should receive funds to carry out federal, state, and local research, extension, and education programs.
11. A major personnel building effort in Illinois to restore and improve its public institutional capacity for food and agriculture research, extension, and education.
12. A major capital program in Illinois to provide modern facilities and equipment for its food and agriculture research, extension, and teaching programs.
13. The integration of research, extension, and education programs to ensure an effective and efficient transfer of knowledge and technology to farmers.
14. Funding for the Plant Genome Research Project.
15. Reauthorization of the competitive research facilities program for land grant universities.
16. Maintaining viable, competitive regional agriculture research centers.
17. Securing foreign investment in U.S. agriculture research where foreign countries stand to benefit from the outcomes derived from such research.
18. Programs to educate consumers about the necessity of research and its integral position in the creation of a long-term, competitive, desirable agricultural growth industry.
19. Land grant colleges keeping research facilities in the public sector.
20. An increase of research dollars in the public and private sector dedicated to the development of new domestic uses of agricultural products and commodities.
21. Production research on efficient nutrient uptake, water quality and usage, and improved pest and disease resistance for crops and livestock.
22. An increased role for the Illinois Nutrient Research and Education Council (NREC) in reaching the 25% phosphorus reduction goal stated in the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) nutrient reduction strategy. We advocate facilitating this activity by restructuring the NREC research committee to include a representative from the southern region of the Illinois Wheat Association and a farmer producer from the southern region appointed by Illinois Farm Bureau. This enables input from parties familiar with conditions and opportunities in the priority phosphorus watersheds.