CULTIVATING SCIENCE
Growing the landscape of competitive food and agricultural research

2018 ANNUAL REPORT
The SoAR Foundation is a leading organization advocating for increased funding for public agricultural research. Together with its 27 partners, SoAR has positioned USDA’s Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) for growth in a period of budget cuts.

The final FY 2019 budget increased funding for AFRI to $415 million, its highest level since its creation in 2008. The FY 2020 president’s budget includes $500 million for AFRI funding, and SoAR will continue to work with committee leadership, its members, and all of Congress to support increases to this flagship competitive grants program.

Thank you to our board of directors, science advisory committee, donors, partners, consultants and staff for their dedication, enthusiasm, and support.

Together, we will continue to champion food and agricultural research that supports a safe, affordable, and sustainable food supply for our nation and the world.

**Developing Global Priorities for Plant Research**

SoAR released a report entitled “Developing Global Priorities for Plant Research” in October 2018. The report presents a concise set of plant-focused research recommendations to inform the decision-making of agricultural research funders. It is the result of a series of interviews and an in-person meeting with twelve leading plant scientists from Europe, China, and the United States.

### FedByScience Universities

- Colorado State University
- Cornell University
- Fort Valley State University
- Iowa State University
- Kansas State University
- Michigan State University
- New Mexico State University
- North Carolina State University
- Penn State University
- Purdue University
- Texas A&M University
- University of California, Davis
- University of Florida
- University of Georgia
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- University of Tennessee
- University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Virginia Tech
- Washington University in St. Louis

### AFRI Funding for FY 2009 - 2020

![Chart showing AFRI funding from FY 2009 to 2020](chart.png)

**U.S. Fiscal Year**

- 2009
- 2012
- 2015
- 2018
- 2020

**Enacted AFRI budget**

**Proposed in president’s budget**

**Dollars in Millions**

- $100
- $200
- $300
- $400
- $500

Download a copy of the report at: www.supportagresearch.org
Science Breakthroughs
SoAR catalyzed the development of a major new agricultural research agenda for the U.S. from the National Academies, entitled “Science Breakthroughs to Advance Food and Agricultural Research by 2030.”

Released in July 2018, the report identifies innovative, emerging scientific advances for making the U.S. food and agricultural system more efficient, resilient, and sustainable.

The report explores the availability of new scientific developments across all research disciplines that could accelerate progress in food and agriculture, presenting five breakthroughs for prioritization (right).

This project was made possible with funding from the SoAR Foundation, the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, National Science Foundation, US Department of Energy, and 23 other foundations, scientific societies, commodity groups, and universities.

2018 Ag Research Congressional Exhibition
SoAR and its partners organized the 2018 Agricultural Research Congressional Exhibition & Reception to promote the value and importance of food, agricultural and natural resources research, extension, and education to Congress and the administration.

The event was sponsored by the Congressional Agriculture Research Caucus and showcased 36 exhibits. Seven members of Congress, over 20 universities, four USDA Research, Education, and Economics agencies, and 200 people participated.

FINANCES
Since its formation in December 2014, the SoAR Foundation has raised approximately $7,250,000 in resources and has spent approximately $5,524,000. In 2018, SoAR spent approximately $1,124,000. At the end of year, it had assets of $1,054,000 plus pledges of $540,000. Major funders in 2018 include Dr. William Danforth, St. Louis Community Foundation, Betty and Gordon Moore Foundation, New Venture Fund, as well as individuals, family foundations, 20 universities and 27 partners.
SoAR’s finances were audited by Burdette, Smith & Bish, LLC. The full report is available at www.supportagresearch.org.
About SoAR

The Supporters of Agricultural Research (SoAR) Foundation leads a non-partisan coalition that educates stakeholders about the importance of agricultural research to feed America and the world and advocates for full funding of USDA’s Agriculture Food and Research Initiative (AFRI). Increased federal investments encourage top scientists to focus on agricultural challenges, which improves public health, creates jobs, strengthens our national security, and enhances U.S. economic competitiveness. Learn more at www.supportagresearch.org.

Board of Directors

John McDonnell, Chair
Retired Chairman of the Board, McDonnell Douglas Corporation

Dr. William Danforth, Founder
Chancellor Emeritus, Washington University in St. Louis

Rose Barbuto
Partner, Riverside Strategic Solutions

Dr. Roger Beachy
Professor, Department of Biology, Washington University in St. Louis

Dr. Ellen Bergfeld
Chief Executive Officer, American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, Soil Science Society of America

Dr. Vicki Chandler
Chief Academic Officer and Dean of Faculty, Minerva Schools, Keck Graduate Institute

Neil Dierks
Chief Executive Officer, National Pork Producers Council

Zippy Duvall
President, American Farm Bureau Federation

Dr. Robert Easter
President Emeritus, University of Illinois

Dr. Ronnie Green
Chancellor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Dr. Alan Lesher
Chief Executive Officer Emeritus, American Association for the Advancement of Science

Chris Novak
President and Chief Executive Officer, CropLife America

Erik Olson
Senior Strategic Director for Health and Food, Natural Resources Defense Council

Dr. Phillip Sharp
Institute Professor, Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Carol Tucker-Foreman
Distinguished Fellow, Food Policy Institute, Consumer Federation of America

Richard Wilkins
Farmer and Past President, American Soybean Association

Thomas Grumbly
President, SoAR Foundation

Science Advisory Council

Dr. Vicki Chandler, Chair
Chief Academic Officer and Dean of Faculty, Minerva Schools at KGI

Dr. Arthur Bienenstock
Professor Emeritus of Photon Science, Stanford University

Dr. Robert Cousins
Director of the Center for Nutritional Sciences, University of Florida

Dr. Elliot Meyerowitz
George W. Beadle Professor of Biology, California Institute of Technology

Dr. Charles Rice
University Distinguished Professor of Soil Microbiology, Kansas State University

Dr. Barbara Schaal
Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences, Washington University in St. Louis

Dr. Patrick Stover
Vice Chancellor and Dean for Agriculture and Life Sciences, Texas A&M University

- Agricultural & Applied Economics Association
- American Association for the Advancement of Science
- American Farm Bureau Federation
- American Feed Industry Association
- American Society for Horticultural Science
- American Society for Microbiology
- American Society for Nutrition
- American Society of Agronomy
- American Society of Plant Biologists
- American Soybean Association
- American Veterinary Medical Association
- Association of American Universities
- Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
- Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
- Center for Foodborne Illness

Partners

Research & Prevention
- Center for Strategic and International Studies / Global Food Security Project
- Consumer Federation of America
- Crop Science Society of America
- Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
- Global Harvest Initiative
- National Association for the Advancement of Animal Science
- National Cattlemen’s Beef Association
- National Coalition for Agricultural Research
- National Corn Growers Association
- National Pork Producers Council
- Charles Valentine Riley Memorial Foundation
- Soil Science Society of America