



CERES Farm Bill briefing

Support farm bill research programs to address ag-biosecurity challenges

SITUATION

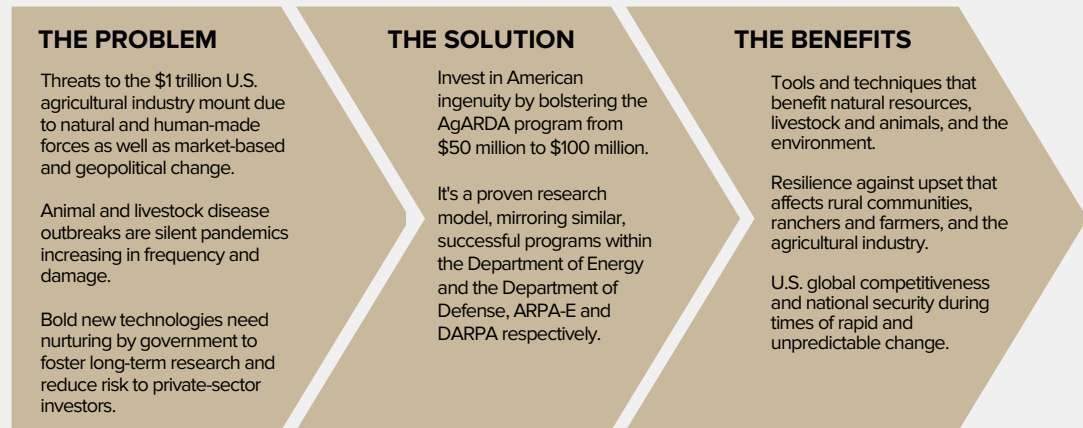
Supporting a resilient domestic agricultural system means finding innovative solutions to emerging threats, from supply chain disruptions to extreme weather to pandemics. New tools are needed to protect the nation's economy, rural communities, and the livelihoods of farmers and ranchers. Consider the recent outbreak of H5N1 avian flu which affected nearly 60 million poultry birds in nearly every state and disrupted food supplies across America. Land-grant universities are uniquely positioned to support and respond to the specific agricultural issues facing the states, localities, tribes, and territories in which they reside. The Farm Bill is an opportunity to support USDA extension, education, and research programs that will foster solutions to address known and emerging agricultural challenges.

PROPOSAL

The Agriculture Advanced Research & Development Authority (AgARDA) is a new USDA research program that will invest in cutting-edge science and technology to make agriculture more resilient against disruption. Modeled after similar advanced research programs like DARPA and ARPA-E, AgARDA was created to address some of agriculture's most pressing challenges – addressing plant and animal pests and diseases, improving crop productivity, and fabricating new food production technologies. AgARDA is a novel, innovative tool in the USDA research portfolio that can be utilized to respond to the numerous and complex challenges facing the food and agriculture enterprise.

STATUS

The bipartisan, bicameral Advancing Cutting Edge (ACE) Agriculture Act introduced by Sens. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) and Roger Marshall (R-Kan.), and Reps. Jimmy Panetta (D-Calif.) and Randy Feenstra (R-Iowa) seeks to double funding authorization for AgARDA to \$100 million.



CERES is a coalition of six land-grant universities dedicated to protecting the agricultural industry against global health threats and to providing innovation for increased food security. Emerging transboundary diseases threaten U.S. agriculture, the food system, and the millions of Americans that rely on it for their health and livelihoods. Despite efforts by government, industry and universities, improving biosecurity protocols to safeguard crops and animals and increasing efficiency in outbreak response, gaps remain. CERES engages urban and rural communities to adopt better infection control practices and innovation, rapid detection of high-consequence threats, and agile stockpiling and production to thwart regional and national outbreaks.

CERES institutions bring unique expertise, capabilities, facilities and resources, to keep our agriculture and food system protected from threats. As land-grant universities the practice of bringing research and solutions to communities is engrained in each institutional mission.

The six CERES institutions are: Colorado State University; University of California-Davis; Iowa State University; Kansas State University; Texas A&M University; and University of Nebraska and its medical center.

Key Resources

USDA Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority ([AgARDA](#)),

[Op-ed in The Hill](#) by CSU Chancellor Tony Frank and former U.S. Sen. Tom Daschle.

U.S. Sens. Michael Bennet and Roger Marshall [ACE press release](#).

["Boots on the Ground: Land-grant Universities in the Fight Against Threats to Food and Agriculture"](#) report.

["Defense of Animal Agriculture"](#) report by the Bipartisan Commission on Biodefense.

Coalition for Epi Response Engagement and Science ([CERES](#))

Meg Suter, assistant vice president for research, Colorado State University ([Meghan.suter@colostate.edu](mailto: Meghan.suter@colostate.edu))

