At Texas A&M AgriLife Research, scientists, laboratory space and specialized instruments and equipment are essential to our mission, especially at our statewide Research and Extension Centers. If base funding is not restored, we will continue our work as Texas’s only public higher education agency with a statewide mandate to carry out research in the agricultural, environmental, and life sciences — knowing that our research has a basic impact on security and health. Yet our capacity would be narrowed, and progress would be slowed. The loss of funding would result in the loss of 33 research scientists and staff, the inability to provide specialized instrumentation and equipment, and possible closing of research locations. This could impact some of our most critical research areas, such as genomics, biotechnology, and the ability to respond to insect-transmitted pathogens like West Nile and Zika viruses. It would also result in an estimated loss of $4 million per year in externally funded research if contracts and grants are not received and intellectual property is not created.

Texas A&M AgriLife Research needs basic, ongoing funding support in much the same way as the Texas A&M University System's academic and health-related institutions. The ability to obtain external funding and to attract and retain scientists is critical to successful research. AgriLife Research requests restoration of the 4% reduction for

- Maintaining research facilities statewide
- Better leveraging external funding
- Enhancing the state's scientific workforce through development of graduate students, especially from Texas
- Allowing recruitment and retention of top scientists from around the United States and throughout the world

The approximately 550 scientists employed by Texas A&M AgriLife Research generate about $1.50 of external funding for every $1 invested by the state. They conduct research in such areas as

- Biotechnology
- Vector-borne diseases
- Water conservation
- Environmental protection
- Critical advancements in genetics and genomics

**Requested Amount (Biennial)**

$3,866,005

**Objective**

Retain the 4% in base funding that is proposed for reduction in FY 2018–19 so that we may continue to develop new young scientists, increase external funding, enhance programs for all Texans, and attract and retain top-quality scientists through investments in facility upgrades.
Because the varied landscapes and climates at our 13 regional research centers are comparable to conditions throughout the world, our research can be applied to many other nations. One of our strategic goals is to create adaptive agricultural systems to meet the demands of a growing population. This includes addressing increasing threats from insect-vectored diseases affecting humans, livestock, and crops. Investing in AgriLife Research will speed the development of advanced technologies to improve agricultural production, human and animal health, and food safety, using fewer natural resources and with a smaller environmental footprint.

AgriLife Research is world renowned as a cutting-edge and life-changing public research agency. Investment in research priorities, training new graduate students, and attracting and retaining excellent local scientists will allow us to better address societal and public needs and be more involved in new research opportunities that can enhance regional and state economic development. We respectfully request that the 85th Texas Legislature restore the 4% reduction in our base funding for FY 2018–19 so that we may continue to work diligently toward our goals.

For more information, contact:
Dr. Craig L. Nessler, Director, (979) 845-8486 | cnessler@tamu.edu
600 John Kimbrough Blvd., Suite 512, 2142 TAMU, College Station TX 77843-2142
AgriLifeResearch.tamu.edu

What is Texas A&M AgriLife?
It's a family of agencies that brings world-class research, education and service to Texans as a part of the Texas A&M University System.