

UC Davis Research Brief:

U.S. Department of Agriculture

UC Davis is a powerhouse for breakthroughs and impact. Our interdisciplinary research plays a vital role in building the region's economy. Our research contributes to our nation's global leadership in technology and innovation. Through collaboration between our top-ranked hospital and veterinary school, as well as our science and engineering discoveries, our research directly improves American lives.

The mission of the U.S. Department of Agriculture includes creating a safe, sustainable, competitive U.S. food system. UC Davis was awarded \$135 million in USDA funding in 2024.

UC Davis researchers have used USDA support to:

- Create strains of rice and wheat, staples that feed billions in the United States and beyond, with higher nutritional value and greater capacity to withstand drought and poor growing conditions
- Use [artificial intelligence](#) and optical imaging to quickly improve crop yield, quality, and disease resistance, and use robotics and other technology to reduce resource use and enhancing food safety
- Develop indoor, controlled-environment farming techniques to improve plant productivity and minimize exposure to pathogens
- Create a “glyclopedia” of nutritional fibers to enable the development of individually tailored supplements to reduce inflammation and lessen our reliance on antibiotics
- Make [forests more fire-safe](#) and healthy and resilient with thinning and prescribed fires
- Provide training and support to small farms to assist in meeting food safety standards
- Provide vital support in 2024 for 128 UC Davis graduate student and 58 post-doctoral researchers in Sacramento and Yolo counties, individuals who will carry today's discoveries forward

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UC Davis Drives Economic Growth

- Supports \$2 billion in California economic activity and nearly 10,000 jobs
- 1,290 active patents
- 119 startups launched in last decade
- \$15 million in annual licensing, royalties and fees

Preparing the Future Workforce

Federal funding also plays a critical role in strategic preparations for the next generation of leaders, innovators and scientists. Agencies partner with UC Davis to offer workforce and career training in:

- Software security
- Advanced cell and gene therapy manufacturing
- Neuroengineering
- Plant breeding

A Cost-Efficient Model

The longstanding federal-university partnership leverages UC Davis expertise and state-of-the-art resources to generate new technologies and well-paying jobs, proving to be the most productive research model in the world.

Key facts on Facilities and Administration (F&A) costs:

- Current F&A rates do not cover all university costs
- F&A costs are not incidental—they are critical to conducting research
- F&A costs are essential to ensure safety in clinical and animal research

For more on F&A myths and facts,

visit: <https://research.ucdavis.edu/3-things-to-know-about-indirect-costs-aka-fa/>