

1890 Capacity Building Grants 2008-2013

1890 Land Grants...By Numbers

There are 18 Federally Recognized Historically Black Colleges and Universities—known as the “1890 land-grants.” These schools are: Delaware State University, University of Maryland–Eastern Shore, Virginia State University, North Carolina A&T State University, South Carolina State University, Fort Valley State University, Florida A&M University, Tuskegee University, Alabama A&M University, Tennessee State University, Kentucky State University, Alcorn State University, Southern University and A&M College, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Lincoln University, Langston University, and Prairie View A&M University.

In 2008, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture’s (NIFA) 1890 Capacity Building Grants Program awarded \$11.3 million to these 18 schools to conduct 44 research and teaching projects. NIFA asked them what taxpayers got for their money—here’s their answer.

Total 1890 student body is 97,500 — NIFA funding helps 10,684 of them

What does that mean.....?

It means that out of every 10 students, one is in an agriculture-related major benefitting from USDA. That’s impressive when you consider that less than 2 percent of enrolled college students in the United States are agriculture majors, according to a Georgetown University study.



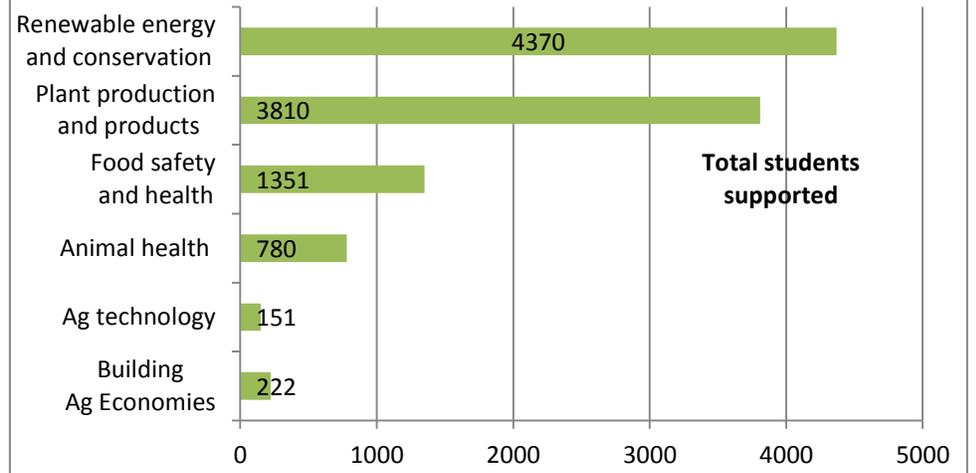
What kind of help..?

What about those 10,684 students? If we got 100 of them in a room it’s a good bet that about 10 of them would have benefitted from new classes to take, new degree options to pursue, lab upgrades, computers, digital learning centers, or recruitment and retention activities. That extra student? Count him or her as one of the 631 students who received hands-on learning from internships, assistantships, or scholarships to make attending school possible—in addition to the benefits all the others enjoyed.



Why does it matter..?

Agriculture is not just farming. It affects the safety of the food we eat, how we address the obesity epidemic, and whether our plants can sustain the growing human population. It's estimated that 1-in-12 jobs will be agriculture-related in the future. The students in 1890 institutions are taking the lead in ag-related areas everyone should care about.



What else..?

The 1890s Capacity program also advances the cultural diversity of the food and agricultural scientific and professional workforce by attracting and educating more students from underrepresented groups. Specifically, 16 of the 30 projects that ended in 2013 implemented recruitment, retention, or scholarship programs. Since 2008, recruitment and retention efforts have resulted in:

- 189 underrepresented students were supported through scholarships or direct student support
- 159 underrepresented students were retained through mentoring or tutoring activities
- As of 2013, 129 students graduated as a result of recruitment/retention programs
- 56 underrepresented students enrolled in food and agricultural science degree programs as a result of recruitment efforts
- 97 students are now employed in the food and agricultural sciences following graduation as a result of recruitment/retention/scholarship programs.