



ASA, CSSA, SSSA
Science Policy Office

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

ADVOCACY

Research Funding

The Science Policy Office advocates for federal funding for food, agriculture, and natural resources research programs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Science Foundation, and Department of Energy Office of Science. ASA, CSSA, and SSSA submitted funding requests for the following programs:

	Societies' Request	House*	Senate*
Agriculture Research Service	\$1,721 million	\$1,764 million	\$1,720 million
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	\$600 million	\$450 million	\$445 million
Hatch Act Formula Funds	\$280 million	\$265 million	\$275 million
Smith-Lever Extension Funds	\$340 million	\$320 million	\$330 million
Equipment Grants Program	\$5 million	\$5 million	\$3 million
Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority	\$50 million	\$2 million	\$0
National Science Foundation	\$10,200 million	\$9,634 million	—
Department of Energy-Office of Science	\$7,700 million	\$7,320 million	\$7,490 million
Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy	\$500 million	\$600 million	\$500 million

* proposed amounts at the time of publishing



Virtual Congressional Visits Day

An annual high-impact advocacy event where ASA, CSSA, and SSSA members and CCAs meet with Congress to advocate for research funding priorities. Participants made three requests:

- ✔ *Fund the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative at \$600 million*
- ✔ *Fund the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority at \$50 million*
- ✔ *Fund the competitive equipments grants program at \$5 million*

CONGRESSIONAL VISITS DAY BY THE NUMBERS

114	131	128	196
Participants	Virtual Congressional Meetings	Dear Colleague Letter Signatures	Funding Requests

Congressional Briefings

The Congressional Soils Caucus is a bipartisan caucus for members of the U.S. House of Representatives interested in soil science. The Science Policy Office works with the Soils Caucus to organize an annual briefing series highlighting the work of our members.

SOILS & GRAZING

Animals can make soil healthier, but management is key

SOILS & NATURAL DISASTERS

Soils filter rainfall for fresh water supplies, but what changes after natural disasters?

SOILS & BIOCHAR

Biochar can sequester carbon in soil, so why aren't farmers using it?

The Science Policy Office also worked with partner organizations to organize congressional briefings on the Agriculture Research Service, AgARDA, breakthroughs in photosynthesis, and climate change .

7 VIRTUAL BRIEFINGS WITH MORE THAN 350 ATTENDEES

Congressional Science Fellowship



The ASA, CSSA, SSSA Congressional Science Fellowship is a one-year, paid Fellowship for a Society member to work for a Member of Congress in Washington, D.C.

The 2020-2021 Congressional Science Fellow, Kate Ivancic, served on the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry.

SEED Ambassador Program

The Scientists Engaging and Educating Decision-makers (SEED) Ambassador program is a year-long advocacy leadership program. The 2020 SEED Ambassador class had 13 members from across the U.S. at different career stages, from academia, industry, government, and consulting.



2020 Seed Ambassadors



COALITIONS

Partnerships

ASA, CSSA, and SSSA participate in multiple coalitions focusing on different scientific topics.

National Science Funding Coalition

Energy Science Coalition

AFRI Coalition

Supporters of Agriculture Research Coalition

Task Force on American Innovation

National Coalition for Agricultural Research Funding

Climate Science Working Group

Geoscience Working Group

Farm Bill Conservation Coalition

ASA, CSSA, and SSSA work with coalitions to show broad consensus on an issue. Scientists have greater influence when they speak with a unified voice. ASA, CSSA, and SSSA signed on to coalition letters focusing on:

- Research priorities for the incoming Biden administration
- Supplemental research funding to address COVID-19 impacts
- Support for AgARDA
- Welcoming new federal agency leadership
- Agriculture research infrastructure
- Open science and public access
- Agriculture and climate change

41 SOCIETY AND COALITION LETTERS AND STATEMENTS SUBMITTED

Nominations

Many federal agencies rely on scientific experts to provide input and guidance. ASA, CSSA, and SSSA submitted nominations for Society members to serve on the following federal advisory committees and topical working groups:

National Academy of Sciences Committee to Advise the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP)

USDA Urban Ag Advisory Committee

EPA Science Advisory Board

National Academy of Sciences Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources (BANR)

National Academy of Sciences Blue Ribbon Panel on Enhancing Coordination Between Land-Grant Universities and Colleges





Requests for Information

ASA, CSSA, and SSSA regularly send letters to Congress, the administration, and federal agencies on a variety of science and research issues. ASA, CSSA, and SSSA submitted input on the following topics:

- EPA: Plant-Incorporated Protectants (PIPs)
- Congress: Agriculture and Climate Change
- USDA: Climate-Smart Agriculture & Forestry Strategy
- AMS: Plant & Animal Biotechnology
- OSTP: Scientific Integrity

Climate Change

CLIMATE SOLUTIONS STATEMENT

Seeing the rapidly increasing focus on agriculture as a climate solution, ASA, CSSA, and SSSA developed a new climate solutions position statement, *Advancing Resilient Agriculture: Recommendations to Address Climate Change*. The statement was developed by a Climate Change Task Force of Society members and CCAs and outlines concrete actions policymakers can take to help U.S. agriculture mitigate climate change.

The statement provides recommendations under seven categories:

- **Agricultural Practices**
- **Data**
- **Research**
- **Food system resilience**
- **Communication and outreach**
- **Diversity**
- **Collaboration**

CLIMATE SURVEY

Nearly 700 ASA, CSSA, and SSSA members and CCAs responded to a climate survey assessing the effectiveness of eleven agricultural strategies to adapt to or mitigate climate change. The top three strategies focused on enhancing or improving soil, improved water management, and germplasm and crop improvement.

Science Policy Committees

The ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Science Policy Committees provide scientific expertise and guidance on emerging policy issues. Society members at any career stage can volunteer to serve on the one of the Science Policy Committees during the annual call for volunteers.

Get Involved

Text **SCIADVOCATE** to **52286**
to receive policy news and advocacy alerts

