



ASA, CSSA, SSSA
Science Policy Office

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

ADVOCACY

Research Funding

The Science Policy Office advocates for federal funding for food, agriculture, and natural resources research programs, specifically the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Science Foundation, and Department of Energy-Office of Science. In 2020, ASA, CSSA, and SSSA submitted individual and coalition funding requests to the House and Senate in support of these programs.

Agriculture Research Service	\$1,789 million
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	\$480 million
Hatch Act Formula Funds	\$280 million
Smith-Lever Extension Funds	\$341 million
Competitive Research Grants	\$5 million
Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority	\$50 million
National Science Foundation	\$8,550 million
Department of Energy-Office of Science	\$7,400 million
Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy	\$450 million

Congressional Visits Day

Congressional Visits Day is an annual event held in Washington, D.C. which brings ASA, CSSA, and SSSA members to Capitol Hill to advocate for food, agriculture, and natural resources research funding. For 2020, ASA, CSSA, and SSSA members made three funding requests to Congressional offices:

- ✓ *Fund Agriculture and Food Research Initiative at \$480 million*
- ✓ *Fund Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority at \$50 million*
- ✓ *Fund the competitive equipments grants program at \$5 million*

Congressional Visits Day by the numbers:

77

Participants
CCAs, students, and
Society leadership

123

Congressional Meetings

143

Signatures on the AFRI
Dear Colleague Letter

105

Funding Requests

Congressional Soils Caucus

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

SOILS & CARBON STORAGE

Putting carbon into soil - improving soil health and capturing CO₂ from the atmosphere to mitigate climate change.

SOILS & FRESH WATER

Forever chemicals - how plastics and PFAs get to, and move through, our soils.

SOILS & FOREVER CHEMICALS

Soils filter fresh water - but what changes after natural disasters?

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 2019-2020 Congressional Science Fellow, Taylor Dunivin, served on the Senate Agriculture Committee.

SEED Ambassador Program

The Scientists Engaging and Educating Decisionmakers (SEED) Ambassador program is a year-long advocacy leadership designed to help Society members develop meaningful relationships with policymakers.

The 2019 inaugural SEED Ambassador class had 18 members from across the U.S., at different career stages, from academia, industry, and government.



2019 Seed Ambassadors



REPRESENTATION

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

National Coalition for Agricultural Research Funding

Climate Science Working Group

Geoscience Working Group

Farm Bill Conservation Coalition

ASA, CSSA, and SSSA also sign-on to coalition letters to show broad consensus on an issue and to demonstrate the influence scientists have when they speak out with a unified voice. In 2020, ASA, CSSA, and SSSA signed on to coalition letters focusing on:

- Federal response to COVID-19
- Use of scientific studies in EPA policy
- International student visas
- Plant gene editing
- Racism in academia

Nominations

Many federal agencies rely on scientific experts to provide guidance on specific scientific topics. ASA, CSSA, and SSSA regularly submit nominations for Society members to serve on federal advisory committees and topical working groups.

National Academy of Sciences Study of Earth Science at NSF

EPA Agricultural Science Committee

National Genetic Resources Advisory Council

National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board

Task Force on Agricultural Air Quality Research





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. In 2020, ASA, CSSA, and SSSA submitted input on topics such as:

- The federal research environment
- Open access
- Hemp farming regulations
- Urban and indoor agriculture
- Future of NIFA
- National Climate Assessment
- Federal data collection
- Biotechnology education

USDA Agriculture Innovation Agenda

The Agriculture Innovation Agenda, a USDA-wide effort to align research goals with innovative ideas for transformative products. USDA solicited stakeholders for their input on how to increase the productivity and reduce the environmental footprint of agriculture. ASA, CSSA, and SSSA, established an intersociety Task Force with four other scientific societies to develop a response. The final comments recommended that USDA should embrace agriculture education, diversity and inclusion, economic policies that help farmers be flexible, and products that increase resilience and sustainability, like sensor systems and breeding toolkits.



AIA Joint Task Force

American Society of Agronomy
Crop Science Society of America
Soil Science Society of America
Certified Crop Advisers
American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers
American Society of Plant Biologists
Entomological Society of America
National Association of Plant Breeders

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Science Policy Committees

The Science Policy Committees provide scientific expertise to recent or emerging policy issues. Committee members provide invaluable insight and guidance on such issues as GMO labeling, student and workforce development, and federal funding priorities. Society members at any career stage can volunteer to serve on the one of the Science Policy Committees during the annual call for volunteers.