

AAQTF Recommendation to the Secretary

The NIFA air quality research program should be re-instated and funded at a minimum of \$10M per year.

Agriculture continues to be identified as a significant contributor to air quality concerns. Regulatory and voluntary solutions may be needed/imposed. However, we lack sufficient quantitative understanding of the contributions of agriculture to these issues. There is increasing urgency to address knowledge gaps due to the continual strengthening of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and concerns about regional haze, and emissions of particulate matter and odor causing compounds. We need research based on sound science to identify solutions that are effective, practical, and economically feasible. There are also significant gaps and lack of understanding of the emissions, fate and transport, and transformations of emissions of most interest from agricultural sources. USDA research funding is needed to fill those gaps because they are not research priorities for other agencies. Furthermore, there is a significant lack of long-term commitment to complex research issues, ongoing gaps in long-term air quality monitoring in agricultural areas, and a lack of data to develop, inform and validate air quality models used to assess local and regional environmental impacts of agricultural emissions.

A long-term commitment from USDA-NIFA is needed to this research and is essential to the continued viability of the agricultural sector.