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ASN APPLAUDS FY 2017 AFRI BUDGET REQUEST

February 4, 2016—The American Society for Nutrition (ASN) applauds the Obama administration’s budget request of \$700 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). If approved by Congress, the increase would double AFRI’s annual budget and fulfill the Congressional authorization that was passed eight years ago, when the program was established as part of the 2008 Farm Bill.

“The FY 2017 AFRI budget request reflects the ongoing and critical need for funding of our country’s agricultural research, which impacts many of the ASN members and the greater public.” said ASN President Patrick J. Stover, PhD. Since AFRI was established, the program has supported research discoveries in agriculture to combat childhood obesity and improve nutrition, along with ground-breaking research to address water availability concerns, address antimicrobial resistance, increase food production, ensure food safety, find new energy sources, and mitigate the impacts of climate variability.

AFRI funding supports many ASN member nutrition scientists and researchers. More than \$30 million in grants will be awarded to fund 80 projects at universities, research institutes and laboratories across the nation to address important issues facing nutrition and agriculture.

ASN is the authoritative voice on nutrition and publisher of The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, The Journal of Nutrition, and Advances in Nutrition. Established in 1928, ASN’s more than 5,000 members in more than 75 countries work in academia, practice, government and industry. ASN advances excellence in nutrition research and practice through its publications, education, public affairs and membership programs, reaching over 36 million individuals annually. Visit us at www.nutrition.org.