



USDA INVESTS IN PUERTO RICO



At the U.S. Department of Agriculture, we work with thousands of farmers, ranchers and rural communities every day and we know that there is no limit to the economic potential of rural America. Over the past seven years, USDA has invested **more than \$20 billion** (fiscal year 2009-2015) in Puerto Rico. In 2016, we will continue to build on that investment to support the farmers, ranchers and growers who are driving the rural economy forward, carry out record conservation efforts, facilitate groundbreaking research, promote new markets for rural products, and provide a safe, affordable and nutritious food supply for Puerto Rico families.

INVESTMENT HIGHLIGHTS FY09-15



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

USDA invested nearly **\$2.6 billion** to support affordable housing, create jobs and promote economic opportunity for those who live, work and raise their families in rural Puerto Rico.



FARMING AND RANCHING

Farmers and ranchers are the backbone of America's vibrant agricultural economy. USDA has helped support the ongoing success of Puerto Rico farmers and ranchers by investing nearly **\$162 million** in programs that provide access to credit, support a strong farm safety net, and promote new markets for farm and ranch products.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Robust infrastructure development, including electricity, broadband and telecommunications, water and wastewater, and construction of community facilities like fire stations and libraries, is the foundation for rural America's viability. In Puerto Rico, USDA has invested nearly **\$208 million** in infrastructure development.



RESEARCH

From adapting to the effects of climate change to ensuring global food security, the challenges facing American agriculture are immense. USDA has invested nearly **\$117 million** in Puerto Rico to support research that will secure and improve our food, agricultural and natural resources systems.



CONSERVATION

Conservation helps farmers and ranchers keep land in production while improving the condition of natural resources. USDA invested nearly **\$101 million** in efforts to conserve and protect Puerto Rico's land, water and air resources.

ABOUT RURAL PUERTO RICO



Puerto Rico is home to **13,159 farms** and ranches across **584,988 cuerdas (one cuerda=0.97 acre)**. Puerto Rico's top agricultural products include milk and other dairy products from cows; plantains; vegetables or melons; poultry and eggs; and nursery and greenhouse crops. All told, sales of farm and ranch products contributed **\$548 million** to Puerto Rico's economy in 2012.

Agriculture in Puerto Rico contributes to a sector that nationwide supports **one in 11 jobs**, provides American consumers with **more than 80 percent of the food we consume**, ensures that Americans spend less of their paychecks at the grocery store than most people in other countries, and supports markets for homegrown renewable energy and materials.

