



The 10% Cuts to CSREES Programs Must Be Restored

During final deliberations on the FY 2004 Agriculture Appropriations bill, 33 programs administered by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) were each cut by ten percent. Land-grant colleges and state extension offices across America report that these cuts are already hurting a wide range of proven programs that help people, communities and businesses.

The cuts, they say, squander important advances made in many areas, among them combating obesity, expanding environmentally-minded pest management programs, ensuring food safety, and educating farmers and ranchers about new sustainable agriculture practices.

Moreover, the cuts have ominous implications for the long-term vitality of agricultural research, education and extension and America's competitive edge in global food and fiber markets. That vitality relies on the continued education and preparation of new agricultural scientists, who must step forward now to offset the growing number of retiring scientists in academia, industry and government.

Restoration of the 10% cuts – a total of \$20.6 million – is a NASULGC priority in the FY 2005 Agriculture Appropriations bill.

The full extent of the damage caused by these cuts will take a few more months to assess. However, in five critical program areas a clear picture has already started to emerge. A few examples include:

Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program

EFNEP teaches nutritional literacy to low-income families, reaching more than 600,000 adults and children each year. The timing of the threat could not be worse; public health

officials are calling obesity a growing epidemic, and EFNEP can help turn that trend around. Unfortunately, in community after community, extension offices are now laying off EFNEP staff, which will limit the reach of the program. The 10% cuts to EFNEP mean that in:

- Maryland: 375 currently enrolled families will not be served and another 3,000 eligible individuals will not receive nutrition education.
- Colorado: bilingual nutrition education serving low-income Hispanic families will be cut by 400 people.
- Tennessee: 14 staff positions must be cut and EFNEP programs in seven counties will be lost, forcing a large reduction from the 3,600 persons served on average.
- Florida: EFNEP youth contacts will be decreased by about 1,600 adult and 100 youth participants.
- Ohio: EFNEP will suffer major staff cuts, which will force it to give up on many of the 7,000 parents and 21,000 youth it reaches every year.
- Michigan: EFNEP will reach up to 600 fewer families.

Integrated Pest Management

IPM focuses research and extension on long-term pest prevention through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties. CSREES units around the country are the catalyst for teaching and encouraging farmers to adopt these environmentally friendly practices. The 10% cuts to IPM mean that in:

- Oregon: IPM outreach efforts will reach 1,000 fewer participants than last year.
- Nebraska: vertebrate and field crop insect IPM programs will be curtailed significantly.
- Iowa: the IPM center will be unable to fund special projects (including pest-management plans and crop profiles) and to facilitate communication among agencies, growers and specialists.

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- **Ohio:** extension will initiate or raise user fees to more than 14,000 Ohioans who annually participate in county pesticide education programs as well as 3,000 commercial applicators seeking recertification training.
- **Minnesota:** research on new pests (e.g. soybean aphid) will end, resulting in the increased use of synthetic pesticides.

Renewable Resources Extension Act

RREA provides forest and rangeland owners and managers with information to sustainably produce wood products, forage and livestock, fish and wildlife populations, and outdoor recreation opportunities. The 10% cut to RREA means that in:

- **Idaho:** important efforts that educate 1,230 private forest owners and loggers each year will be cut back.
- **Connecticut:** programs to maintain urban tree wardens serving all towns and cities will be severely strained.
- **Wyoming:** delivery of interdisciplinary natural resource programs, which have profound implications for the state’s economy, quality of life, and agricultural sustainability will be significantly reduced.

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education

The SARE program helps farmers and ranchers increase their knowledge about and adopt sustainable management practices. The 10% cut to SARE means that:

- **Iowa:** fewer grants will be awarded to producers for sustainable agriculture activities, and financial support for three sustainability partnerships with Iowa NGOs will be eliminated.
- **Ohio:** extension agents will have to cut back on their efforts to help limited-resource and beginning farm families, mostly in Appalachian small-scale farms.
- **Wyoming:** SARE programs will be cut by up to 75%, potentially hurting the state’s billion-dollar agricultural sector, which increasingly relies on sustainable practices.

Food Safety

In spite of an all-time high concern with mad cow disease, terrorism threats, and general concern for food security, the Food Safety program was cut by more than \$1.5 million. This 10% cut means that in:

- **Connecticut:** food safety training programs aimed at producers of cheese, seafood, and farm-to-table food will be drastically reduced.
- **Ohio:** food safety programs that reach over 30,000 youth and adult livestock producers and 9,931 low-income food handlers will be scaled back.

Congress Must Restore the 10% Cuts

Clearly, the 10% cuts made to key CSREES extension, research, and teaching programs are starting to have negative effects in states across America.

As Congress considers the FY 2005 Agriculture Appropriations bill, NASULGC urges members of the House and Senate to restore funding for all of the vital CSREES programs cut in last year’s bill.

Affected CSREES Line Items	10% Cut
Improved Pest Control – Expert IPM	\$18,000
Improved Pest Control – IPM	269,000
Improved Pest Control – IR-4 Minor Crop Pest	1,124,000
Improved Pest Control – Pest Mgmt. Alts.	160,000
Animal Health and Disease	533,000
Alternative Crops – Canola	89,000
Alternative Crops – Hesperaloe, etc.	37,000
Critical Agricultural Materials Act	131,000
Joe Skeen Rangeland	99,000
Graduate Fellowships	339,000
Alaska/Hawaiian Serving Institutions	346,000
Secondary Agriculture Education	104,000
Sustainable Agriculture SARE	1,438,000
Aquaculture Centers (Sec. 1475)	470,000
Smith Lever 3(d) – Farm Safety	578,000
Smith Lever 3(d) – EFNEP	6,128,000
Smith Lever 3(d) – Indian Reservation Agents	209,000
Smith Lever 3(d) – Pest Management	1,126,000
Smith Lever 3(d) – Sustainable Agriculture	510,000
Smith Lever 3(d) – Youth at Risk	888,000
Smith Lever 3(d) – Youth Farm Safety Ed.	52,000
Renewable Resources Extension Act	476,000
Rural Health and Safety Education	274,000
Extension Services 1994 Institutions	436,000
Grants to Youth Organizations	313,000
Critical Issues – Plant and Animal Diseases	52,000
Rural Development Centers	158,000
Water Quality	1,357,000
Food Safety	1,565,000
Pesticide Impact Assessment	473,000
Crops at Risk from FQPA	157,000
FQPA Risk Mitigation for Major Food Crops	512,000
Organic Transition Program	222,000
Total	\$20,644,000

NASULGC represents 213 American universities and has members in all 50 states, D.C. and the U.S. territories. For more information about this fact sheet, see: www.nasulgc-bac.com or call Fred Hutchison at 202.551.1440.