



Teaching and Extension Programs at CSREES

Every state in the Union, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories has a land-grant university established under the Morrill Act of 1862. These land-grants: conduct most of the nation’s non-industrial agriculture, food, nutrition, and environmental research; educate the majority of graduate and undergraduate students in these disciplines; and provide extension services in over 3,000 counties.

Funding for the 1862 land-grants comes from the federal-state partnership in food and agricultural sciences, with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) providing the largest funding share. NASULGC supports the full range of research, education, and extension programs at CSREES, but recommends priority increases for six programs when Congress develops the FY 2008 Agriculture Appropriations bill:

- **Institution Challenge Grants.** This program supports innovation in teaching methods and materials, thereby helping to recruit and train the next generation of agricultural researchers.
- **Graduate Fellowship Grants.** Encouraging outstanding students to pursue graduate degrees in critical areas such as animal and plant biotechnology, food engineering, forest products, human nutrition and food science, food marketing and management, agribusiness, and water science is the mission of the Graduate Fellowships program. Changing demographics in the coming decade mandate that these disciplines receive immediate attention to ensure recruitment of the next generation of scientists in these fields.
- **Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program.** EFNEP helps low-income Americans improve their diets and increase physical activity. Now in its 38th year, EFNEP helps some 600,000 people each year (roughly 75 percent children) gain new skills in food preparation, storage, safety, and sanitation. Additional funding is needed to reach additional people in need.

- **eXtension.** The Cooperative Extension System’s, eXtension initiative is an Internet-based tool that will provide fast and convenient access to objective, science-based information and educational programming on a wide range of subjects. When fully operational, eXtension will harness a wealth of resources from across America’s land-grant universities, aggregating knowledge for all Americans that presently is dispersed across the country.
- **Renewable Resources Extension Act.** RREA provides for expanded and comprehensive extension education programs for forest and rangeland renewable resources management and sustainability, targeting forestland, rangeland, forest products utilization, fish and wildlife, recreation, environment, and public policy.
- **Resident Instruction Grants—Insular Areas.** This program addresses the critical agricultural research needs of the land-grant universities in the Insular Areas (U.S. territories and Puerto Rico). It provides competitively awarded grants to meet the unique needs of this underserved set of universities.

NASULGC’S PRIORITY REQUESTS FOR FY 2008

■ Institution Challenge Grants	\$6.000 M
■ Graduate Fellowship Grants	\$4.455 M
■ Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program.....	\$68.500 M
■ New Technologies for Extension (eXtension).....	\$2.970 M
■ Renewable Resources Extension Act	\$8.000 M
■ Resident Instruction Grants—Insular Areas	\$0.700 M

