

Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station

BACKGROUND

The Hatch Act of 1887 established the "state agricultural experiment stations" to promote scientific investigation and experiment related to agriculture. The Hatch Act provides funds appropriated by Congress through a statutory formula to each state. A dollar-for-dollar match is required from the states, but many jurisdictions provide a greater amount.

Although modest increases have been provided in recent years, Hatch Act funding has fallen \$26 million (in 2000 dollars) since 1991. A 2004 study revealed that, between 1970 and 2000, investment of taxpayer funds for research at land grant universities contributed significantly to increases in agricultural productivity, producing and annual return to society of 50%.

The land grant system strongly supports funding for the Hatch Act at \$240 million for FY 2011.

The USDA financial support for university-based forestry research comes from the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry program and is distributed according to a formula similar to Hatch Act funding. The primary focus of the programs is to deliver scientific results and management technologies to the forestry industry and to prepare future workforce in forestry and related natural resources science. It is important to increase funding because the 2008 Farm Bill expanded eligibility to the 1890 institutions without additional funds for their participation.

The land-grant universities urge Congress to fund the McIntire-Stennis program at \$35 million for FY2011.

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VALUE OF HATCH ACT AND MCINTIRE-STENNIS ACT FUNDS

In Louisiana (FY2009), each dollar we receive from Hatch Act and McIntire-Stennis Act is leveraged by \$6.38 in state funding.

Funds Leveraged by Our Pro Rata Share of Federal Appropriations

	<u>FY2009</u>	<u>FY2010</u>	<u>FY2011 (projected)</u>
Total Federal	4,929,203	5,117,085	5,712,094
Hatch	4,384,445	4,551,563	5,080,814
McIntire-Stennis	544,758	565,522	631,280
Total State	<u>\$31,439,537</u>	<u>\$28,737,222</u>	<u>\$28,737,222</u>

IMPACTS

• Leverage Grant Funds

In FY2009, faculty supported by federal funds leveraged \$4,246,174 in external grant funds, which represents 27% of all grant funds secured by Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station (LAES) scientists.

• Faculty and Staff Supported by Federal Funds

Faculty – 82 Research Associates – 23 Graduate Students - 60

• Research Projects

In FY 2009, the LAES had 285 active research projects. Of these, 161 (56%) were Hatch projects and 14 (5%) were McIntire-Stennis projects; 35 multi-state projects are included in the Hatch project total.

• Infrastructure

In FY 2009, 59% of federal funds were budgeted to categories other than salaries. Of the state and federal funds budgeted to our 12 campus-based departments, ca. 60% of travel, 21% of operating services, 46% of supplies, and 22% of equipment budgets were either Hatch or McIntire-Stennis.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS (HATCH & MCINTIRE-STENNIS)

- **IPM Programs:** Integrated pest management programs were first to: identify Asian Soybean Rust in the U.S., evaluate transgenic cotton and soybean for insect control, and implement an area-wide Formosan termite management program in a major urban area.
- **Plant Variety Development:** Programs have developed rice, sugarcane, sweet potato, and wheat varieties that are the most widely planted in the southeastern U.S. This supports sustainable production of these crops and leads to economic development in Louisiana and surrounding states.
- **Intellectual Property:** Research-based intellectual property has elevated the LSU AgCenter as the leading campus in the LSU System in start-up companies, technology licenses, and royalty income.
- **Coastal Wetland Forests:** Research supports the health and sustainability of coastal forest-based ecosystems that can diminish impact of hurricanes, reduce coastal erosion, and enhance coastal restoration.
- **Wildlife Management:** Programs enhance populations of white-tailed deer, black bear, and high-profile amphibians and reptiles and provide insight into critical ecological processes.
- **Water Quality:** Best forestry practices are identified to minimize impacts on stream water quality and indicator fauna.

PROGRAMS TO BE SUPPORTED BY REQUESTED FUNDING INCREASES

- **Wetlands Plants:** Program will develop improved plant varieties to strengthen coastal restoration efforts and help stabilize shorelines against sea level changes that may arise from climate change.
- **Biofuels:** Efforts will focus on cellulose-based and plant oil-based alternatives to petroleum products, thereby reducing fossil fuel dependence and helping create a new energy sector in the U.S. economy.
- **Food Security:** Research efforts will prioritize production agriculture systems that will enhance a sustainable food supply and global food security in the face of predicted population increases.
- **Functional Foods:** Program will target enhanced understanding of foods and food components that can improve all aspects of human health, including obesity in children and adults.
- **Food Safety:** Initiatives will enhance a safe, reliable food supply that can promote wellness and confidence in all consumers of U.S. foods and food products.