

University of Maine

BACKGROUND

The Hatch Act provides basic capacity funding for State Agricultural Experiment Stations. The act requires that states provide a 100% match from non-federal resources (many states provide a greater match). Hatch Act funding is distributed by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture to eligible institutions under a statutory formula.

Congress has provided small increases in recent years, but this has barely slowed the steady, decades-long erosion of this vital program.

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

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The University of Maine

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VALUE OF HATCH ACT FUNDS

In Maine (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Hatch Act is leveraged by \$1.86 in state funding:

Funds Leveraged by Our Pro Rata Share of Hatch Act Appropriation

	FY 2009 ¹	FY 2010 ²	FY 2011 ³
Federal (Hatch)	2,036,239	2,092,270	2,362,037
State	3,793,498	3,897,883	3,897,883
Total	\$5,829,737	\$5,990,153	\$6,259,920

NOTES: (1) FY 2009 funds are actual amounts; (2) FY 2010 is estimated; (3) FY 2011 assumes a \$240 million appropriation (as requested by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities).

Additional Program Data

- 85% funds salaries of station scientists and technical staff and research supplies to conduct research and development described below
- 15% provides graduate student support for research

BENEFITS OF HATCH FUNDS

As shown above, if Congress increases the FY 2011 Hatch Act appropriation to \$240 million, our pro rata share would be ≈ \$269,767. We would use such an increase to develop or expand research efforts in the following areas:

- Sustainable systems for wild blueberries, organic bread wheat, and potatoes
- Aquaculture Research Center and Darling Marine Center – new innovations in husbandry of wild species, health vaccines, and production systems
- Potato variety development
- Food Pilot Plant – new value-added food products
- Food safety and promoting healthful eating in young adults

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station conducts research in the following areas:

- Foods and nutrition R&D including food safety technologies, links to human health, food processing, and intervention programs for the youth and elderly
- Sustainable and profitable agricultural systems for potatoes, wild blueberries, horticulture, apples, small fruits and vegetables
- Aquaculture R&D to enhance opportunity and competitiveness of the Maine and regional industry
- Conservation of Maine's natural resources including water, soil, air quality, fisheries and wildlife and natural communities
- Economic, marketing, policy, and community development issues affecting Maine people and communities