

Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station

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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VALUE OF HATCH FUNDING

In Minnesota (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Hatch Act is leverages \$1.97 in state funding, \$1.77 in 2010. Due to a projected decrease in state funding in 2011, the leverage will decrease to \$1.50.

Funds Leveraged by Our Pro Rata Share of Hatch Act Appropriation

	FY 2009 ¹	FY 2010 ²	FY 2011 ³
Federal (Hatch)	5,473,227	5,473,227	6,348,943
State	10,781,668	9,695,094	9,428,479
Total	\$16,254,895	\$15,168,321	\$15,777,422

NOTES: (1) FY 2009 funds are actual amounts; (2) FY 2010 is estimated; (3) FY 2011 assumes a \$235 million appropriation (as requested by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities).

Additional Program Data

- Federal and State funding of MAES supports research in five colleges and at U of M Research and Outreach Centers across Minnesota.
- This funding supports about 350 research projects each year conducted by more than 250 U of M faculty.
- These projects employ more than 600 field research and laboratory assistants, technicians and postdoctoral research associates

BENEFITS OF HATCH ACT FUNDS

As shown above, if Congress increases the FY 2011 Hatch Act appropriation to \$240 million, our pro rata share would be \approx \$875,716. We would use such an increase to:

- Meet the challenges of global warming and global hunger.
- Explore biomass and other sustainable energy opportunities
- Find new methods to assure the safety of our food supply.
- Develop strategies to improve agricultural productivity.
- Develop nutrition knowledge to tackle childhood obesity.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- A recently completed strategic plan for Minnesota agriculture gathered input from stakeholders across the state to help set the research agenda. They repeatedly emphasized their appreciation of and need for more MAES assistance to respond to the critical issues facing producers and industry.
- MAES research has led Minnesota to be first in organic production of soybeans, corn and rye and a leader in organic livestock production, sustainable agriculture techniques, local foods and organic food marketing.
- MAES research has provided unbiased research to support the quality of Minnesota's lakes and rivers; helping farmers use best management practices; and finding cost effective ways to reduce environmental concerns.

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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