

Mississippi State University

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 ACT FUNDS

In Mississippi (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Hatch Act is leveraged by \$4.04 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)	4,331,182	4,331,182	5,024,171
State	17,517,105	17,500,000	18,000,000
Total	\$21,848,287	\$21,831,182	\$23,024,171

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

- MSU's experiment station science base includes **196 scientists** and **140 graduate students** involved in agricultural research.
- Research funding is aimed at **traditional agriculture** with 50% plants; 25% animal and animal-based food; 15% people-based science; 10% soil, land, water and wildlife
- **Biotechnology and molecular biology**, two non-traditional, cross-commodity fields are major tools in both traditional and emerging areas of research.
- **External research funding has averaged over \$26 million** across the last 3 years.

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 \approx \$692,989. We would use such an increase to:

- **Expand support of graduate research**, developing the next generation of agricultural researchers.
- Provide scientists the flexibility to **quickly address promising new research areas and emerging issues**.
- Enhance **long-term basic research** not supported by competitive industry funding, but necessary to support Hatch national objectives.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Renewable energy** utilizing plant materials to develop efficient energy sources is a major, nationally-recognized research area for Mississippi State University.
- **Ecological and water resource research** is growing in importance across the region and nation in response to droughts and floods, as well as stricter environmental laws. Mississippi has expertise that will allow us to take a lead role in addressing these issues.
- **Health and food safety issues**, emphasizing prevention of food-borne disease, as well as behavior-influenced health problems, such as obesity and diabetes, are immediate concerns for Mississippi and at the national level. We currently work on numerous sociological research studies with potential for providing data for future research.
- **Biotechnological research** has become integral to most agricultural issues with potential in health and medical areas in addition to traditional agricultural farming. MSU is a leader in both plant and animal genomics and biocomputing as evidenced by significant levels of competitive research funding in this area.