

Montana 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 Montana (FY 2009), for each dollar received under the Hatch Act, the State of Montana leveraged by \$5.37 to the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station funding.

Funds Leveraged by Our Pro Rata Share of Hatch Act Appropriation

	FY 2009 ¹	FY 2010 ²	FY 2011 ³
Federal (Hatch)	\$2,342,626	\$2,342,626	\$2,717,446
State	\$12,572,473	\$12,333,046	\$12,260,950
Total	\$14,915,099	\$14,675,672	\$14,978,396

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

- The Montana Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES) employs 165 full time equivalent faculty, staff and students.
- Federal and State funds are leveraged with additional gifts and competitive funds, at least 2:1 annually.
- Provides over a 100 year funding and program foundation with our Federal partner for the Montana State University College of Agriculture, the Montana Land-grant.

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 \$2,717,446. We would use such an increase to:

- Retain critical employees and research programs necessary to keep Montana agricultural and natural resource systems sustainable and economically viable throughout all communities.
- Improve new bio-cropping systems, such as with camelina and safflower, by providing promising alternative cropping rotations with strong biofuel potential creating sustainable energy diversification and improved human health and nutrition properties.
- Deploy personnel and facilities throughout Montana with particular emphasis on improved efficiency through breeding and genetics in cow-calf and seed stock beef cattle systems, and with wheat and barley crops for domestic and international markets.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Energy development and mineral extraction practices are pervasive throughout Montana. New reclamation and restoration practices have led to improved stewardship for soil quality, plant community establishment and multiple future land uses.
- Insect, weed and disease management practices have been improved with genetic advances, identification of cost-effective alternatives (cultural, mechanical, chemical, biological), and enhanced understanding of biological interactions and their on-going impacts on plant and animal agricultural practices.
- Agriculture in Montana has historically adapted to wide swings in environmental conditions through scientific innovations, change in management practices and hard luck. The acceleration of environmental condition dynamics dramatically impacts water quantity and quality, temperature extremes, drought frequency, pest dynamics and other components associated with climate change. Current MAES research is central to comprehensive adaptation science discoveries and application for agriculture.