

North Carolina Agricultural Research Service

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.

CONTACT

Dr. W. David Smith
Associate Dean and Director
1-919-515-2717
w david.smith@ncsu.edu

Dr. Steve Lommel
Associate Director
1-919-515-2717
steve.lommel@ncsu.edu



VALUE OF HATCH ACT FUNDS

In North Carolina (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Hatch Act is leveraged by \$8.22 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)	7,006,285	7,006,285	8,127,290
State	57,608,764	57,608,764	57,608,764
Total	\$64,615,049	\$64,615,049	\$65,736,054

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

- Agriculture and agribusiness contribute \$70.1 billion to North Carolina's economy and account for 700,000 of the state's 4 million jobs.
- The \$64.6 million in State and Federal support is leveraged to attract an additional \$64 million in grant and gift support of research programs benefiting the state's economy, protecting its natural resources, and improving the health of its citizens.
- The majority (78%) of Hatch funding goes to the salaries of faculty researchers and technical support staff conducting 372 research projects supporting improved food production, the response of crop plants and animals to climate change, renewable energy development, improved human health, and food safety. Hatch funding will continue to be used predominantly to pay salaries.

BENEFITS OF HATCH FUNDS

If Congress increases the FY 2011 Hatch Act appropriation to \$240 million, our pro rata share would be an additional \$1,121,005, which would be used to:

- Enhance research to improve global food supply and security and support economically and environmentally sustainable farming systems by developing crop plants with improved stress resistance;
- Enhance the productivity of animal systems (75% of gross farm income) through improved nutrition, genetics, and animal health;
- Enhance renewable energy supplies and usage by developing technology to utilize animal waste and biomass crops for biofuel production.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- At our *Plants for Human Health Institute* on the NC Research Campus in Kannapolis, NC, we are enhancing the nutritional value of fruits and vegetables and related compounds to improve human health and prevent disease.
- Our plant breeding program produces graduates who will lead this critical field in the future and generates an average of 15 new plant varieties every year, enhancing agricultural productivity and human environments.
- Aquaculture is a \$55 million North Carolina industry thanks in large measure to research focusing on species such as trout, hybrid striped bass and flounder as well as water recirculating systems.
- An integrated, continuous flow, microwave based, thermal aseptic packaging process was implemented by a new, grower-owned company to produce shelf-stable sweetpotato puree, enhancing the value of the sweetpotato crop and creating employment by the company.
- Genomics research has resulted in sequencing of the genomes of a number of important organisms, including the plant pathogenic root knot nematode, the rice blast fungus, and microorganisms that may be used to clean up environmental contaminants.
- We have improved food safety through our Aseptic Packaging Center, by monitoring shellfish for hepatitis and other infectious diseases, and through our fungal toxin elimination research.