

Cornell University (Ithaca and Geneva)

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 New York (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Hatch Act is leveraged by one dollar in state matching funding:

Funds Leveraged by Our Pro Rata Share of Hatch Act Appropriation

	FY 2009 ¹	FY 2010 ^{2,3}	FY 2011 ³
Federal (Hatch)	\$6,012,629	\$6,012,629	\$6,974,650
State Match	\$6,012,629	\$6,012,629	\$6,974,650
Total	\$12,025,258	\$12,025,258	\$13,949,300

NOTES: (1) FY 2009 funds are actual amounts; (2) FY 2010 is estimated; and does not include a scheduled 3% increase. (3) FY 2011 assumes a \$240 million appropriation (as requested by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.)

Additional Program Information

- More than 80% of Hatch funds are allocated to applied research projects through a competitive process that engages stakeholders to ensure relevancy and accountability. The approximate 240 funded projects in the portfolio address issues important to the nation and New York State and support research associates, post docs, technicians, research support staff and graduate students. Some projects are jointly funded with Smith-Lever funds to ensure integration of applied research and extension. (Tenure-track professorial salaries are not paid with Hatch funds)
- About 12% provides equipment and supplies for applied research projects in labs, farms and greenhouses.

BENEFITS OF HATCH FUNDS

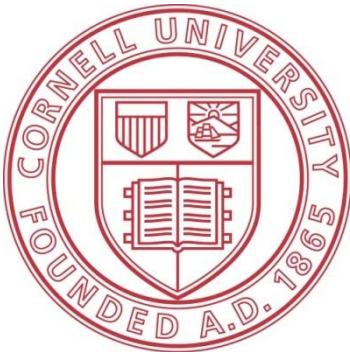
As shown above, if Congress increases the FY 2011 Hatch Act appropriation to \$240 million, our pro rata share would be ≈ \$962,000. This increase would substantially strengthen our ability to solve societal problems in the NIFA core priority areas. Our research portfolio addresses real-world problems and identifies opportunities throughout the state. We would use an increase to expand the portfolio of applied research projects in the following areas, among others;

- Encourage market development and consumer access to local foods; advance work in promising new methods for season extension for fruits and vegetables, encourage the development of market systems for getting foods to market, and develop and communicate sustainable agricultural practices to producers.
- Support renewable energy initiatives focused on optimizing use of local/regional biomass resources, including overcoming storage and handling challenges.
- Develop new decision-making tools and crop varieties, and investigate irrigation options and infrastructure needs for farmers and related industries to aid them in adapting to climate change in the northeastern U.S.
- Enhance research in underserved communities, in particular, to identify barriers to healthy eating and address the problems of childhood obesity.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The project list below represents a small portion of the important research with measurable impact supported by The Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station and The New York State Agricultural Experiment Station:

- **Obesity and nutrition.** Cornell Hatch funds have supported groundbreaking research and recommendations for how to adopt healthy eating habits.
- **Sustainable food systems.** Hatch funds have sponsored Cornell research that has led to significant reductions in fertilizer and pesticide use in dairy, vegetables, fruit and field crops.
- **Assessment and mitigation of invasive species.** Cornell Hatch funds have helped to identify and slow the spread of harmful invasive species and have designed protocols, including biological and environmental controls, to combat them.
- **Biomass/feedstock trials to enhance Northeast production.** A first-of-its-kind, multi-year field project identified the best varieties of grass for the Northeast and developed recommendations to aid producers.
- **Plant breeding for enhanced nutrition; pest/disease resistance; and regional adaptation and productivity.** In recent years, Hatch funds have supported the development of 13 potato varieties resistant to common diseases, the first organic seed field corn specifically for Northeast field conditions, and several disease-resistant tomato varieties that are now in widespread use by commercial growers and tomato product producers, among others.



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