

# The Pennsylvania 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.**

## CONTACT

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## VALUE OF HATCH ACT FUNDS

In Pennsylvania (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Hatch Act is leveraged by \$3.84 in state funding:

### Funds Leveraged by Our Pro Rata Share of Hatch Act Appropriation

	FY 2009 <sup>1</sup>	FY 2010 <sup>2</sup>	FY 2011 <sup>3</sup>
Federal (Hatch)	\$6,650,119	\$6,650,119	\$7,714,138
State	\$25,594,000	\$22,252,000	\$22,252,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$32,244,119</b>	<b>\$28,902,119</b>	<b>\$29,966,138</b>

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).

### Hatch Funds allow the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences to:

- Develop science-based information and technologies to continue to address the challenges of feeding and fueling a growing population while also tackling looming issues such as developing sources of clean, renewable energy; enhancing human and animal health; and protecting our air, water, forests, and other natural resources.

## 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  $\approx$  \$1,064,019. We would use such an increase to continue/expand research on:

- **Honey Bee Health.** When honey bees began disappearing, putting at risk the pollination services that directly affect one-third of our diet, Penn State scientists were at the forefront of the effort to find out why. As they investigate Colony Collapse Disorder, entomologists in the college are enhancing our understanding of how pesticides, viruses, parasites, and other environmental factors contribute to pollinator decline—knowledge that can help preserve honey bees and other beneficial insects, as well as tens of millions of dollars worth of food crops in Pennsylvania.
- **Vaccines for Infectious Disease.** College researchers also are working to develop vaccines and other methods to protect people and animals from infection. In one promising line of research, scientists are modifying a harmless virus with immunity-inducing proteins from disease-causing viruses to create new vaccines. Penn State diagnostic veterinarians are also working with one of the world's largest flu vaccine manufacturers—located in Pennsylvania—and with poultry producers to maintain the health of flocks and the quantity of fertile eggs the company needs to make H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccines.
- **Keeping Our Food Safe.** To help protect the public and the food industry from the effects of foodborne-illness outbreaks, food scientists in the college are exploring the use of ultrasound technology that will kill pathogens on vacuum-packed fresh or ready-to-eat meat. Agricultural and biological engineers are creating sensors to detect pathogens, as well as techniques such as pulsed ultraviolet light to inactivate them. Penn State food microbiologists are also developing DNA “fingerprinting” techniques that will enable the tracing of outbreaks back to their source.

## OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Contributing to a Cleaner Chesapeake Bay.** Help agricultural producers adopt methods—related to soil fertility, tillage, animal nutrition, stream protection, and other management practices—that are proven to reduce the flow of excess nutrients.
- **Developing energy crops for Pennsylvania.** Evaluate crop varieties, such as switchgrass and various oil-seed crops, that show promise as biofuel feedstocks to ensure they are well-adapted for the state, can utilize marginal crop lands, and can be economically produced.
- **Assessing specialty-crop markets.** Develop new technologies, such as mechanical fruit thinning, that will help growers affected by labor shortages.