

Clemson University, Clemson, SC

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 South Carolina (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Hatch Act is leveraged by \$4.71 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)	3,710,719	3,710,719	4,304,434
State	17,474,631	17,474,631	17,474,631
Total	21,185,350	21,185,350	21,779,065

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

- 153 research projects are currently in progress
- 179 technical contributions were generated by Experiment Station scientists
- 13 disclosures and four patent applications for the year ending September 30, 2009

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 ≈ \$593,715. We would use such an increase to:

- Increase funding for research in sustainable energy – with emphasis on alternate crops such as sorghum, switchgrass, loblolly pine and poplar as well as technology for converting the biomass into usable fuels
- Increase funding for research in childhood obesity – through research programs focused on healthy diets and childhood activities
- Increase funding for research in climate change – for topics such as changes in natural organic matter and using biogeography and phylogeography as lenses to examine climate change

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The South Carolina AES focuses its research program on areas with direct impact on the people of South Carolina and the region such as:

- Continued advances in forage fed beef research – to develop systems that will rely less on grain and more on pasture-based programs for the production of beef cattle that have characteristics that are desirable to the consumer
- Identification of pathways of food pathogens in child care centers and schools – to minimize the health risks for children while they attend school or care centers
- Remote sensing of water quality and flow – to enable time-critical monitoring and management of watersheds and waterways
- Root system dynamics to improve uptake of nutrients – to improve the health, vigor and productivity of plants
- Develop nature-based technology to improve marine coatings – to minimize corrosion and increase the usable life of marine-based equipment and vessels
- Identify genes in fruit to improve nutrition, flavor and storage – to improve the productivity and market value of locally grown fruits
- Isolation of genes in poplar trees to improve biofuel value – to expand the utility of woody biomass