# Virginia Tech

## 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.**

## CONTACTS

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## VALUE OF HATCH ACT FUNDS

In Virginia (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Hatch Act is leveraged by $7.22 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) | 4,529,537 | 4,654,386 | 5,399,088 |
| State | 32,695,969 | 32,151,304 | 31,214,858 |
| **Total** | **$37,225,506** | **$36,805,690** | **$36,613,946** |

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).

**Of the annual Hatch allocation to the VA AES:**

- 67% salaries for faculty researchers
- 27% salaries for technical support
- 4% materials and supplies
- 2% graduate students

## 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 ≈ $834,702. We would use such an increase to:

- Development of agricultural systems that maintain high productivity in an environmentally sustainable manner.
- Prevention of chronic diseases such a obesity, heart disease and diabetes through improved nutrition and exercise.
- Providing a safe and secure food supply through reduced microbial contamination and consumer education.
- Plant breeding and genetic engineering for bioenergy and other value-added products.
- Studying Impacts of global change on conservation and management of natural resources
- Develop methods to lessen effects of infectious and vector-borne diseases on plants, animals, and humans

## OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Examples of research conducted by the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station are:

- Metabolic engineering of organisms for efficient production of biofuels
- Whole farm dairy and beef systems for enhancing environmental quality
- Molecular and genomic approaches to plant breeding
- Control of food-borne pathogens in pre- and post- harvest environments
- Genetic basis for resistance and immunity to avian diseases
- Watershed-based planning and TMDL development for the Chesapeake Bay watershed

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