

Washington 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.

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VALUE OF HATCH ACT FUNDS

In Washington state (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Hatch Act is leveraged by \$6.12 in state funding:

Funds Leveraged by Our Pro Rata Share of Hatch Act Appropriation

	FY 2009 ¹	FY 2010 ¹	FY 2011 ²
Federal (Hatch)	3,889,358	4,136,271	4,793,235
State	23,801,335	22,510,608	20,934,865
Total	\$27,690,693	\$26,646,879	\$25,728,100

NOTES: (1) FY 2009 and FY 2010 funds are actual amounts; (2) FY 2011 assumes a \$240 million Hatch appropriation (as requested by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities) and reflects an estimated 7% reduction in the state appropriation.

Of the annual Hatch allocation to the WSU Agricultural Research Center:

- 14% provides graduate student fellowships to conduct relevant research
- 68% funds provides materials and supplies for faculty research projects to meet Washington's emerging needs in agriculture
- 18% funds WSU's farms, equipment, and laboratories for agricultural research

BENEFITS OF HATCH FUNDS

As shown above, if Congress increases the FY 2011 Hatch Act appropriation to \$240 million, our pro rata increase would be \approx \$656,964. We would use such an increase to develop or expand research efforts and graduate student funding in the following areas:

- Improving low input and sustainable wheat cultivation in dryland areas
- Extending the growing season for fresh local produce.
- Applying a new microwave method for food preservation
- Adapting WA agricultural systems to climate variations
- Developing cultivars with superior oil and flavor production
- Improving apple and cherry varieties and fruit quality
- Improving viticulture and enology for the production of world-class wines
- Investing in control of emerging pests and pathogens

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Washington State University ARC supports research many other areas, including:

- Organic and sustainable agriculture
- Economics of farm profitability
- New biomass energy sources and technologies
- Integrated pest and pathogen management
- Agriculture at the urban-rural interface