

Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES)

BACKGROUND

The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 establishes the Cooperative Extension Service and provides federal funds for cooperative extension activities. The act requires that states provide a 100% match from non-federal resources (many states provide a greater match).

Funding under Smith-Lever sections 3(b) and 3(c) are distributed to cooperative extension units at eligible land-grant institutions under a statutory formula.

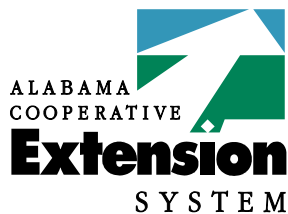
Congress has provided modest increases in the last two fiscal years, but this has barely slowed the steady erosion of this vital program in recent decades.

The land-grant system strongly supports funding for Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) at \$350 million in FY 2011.

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VALUE OF SMITH-LEVER FUNDS

In Alabama (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation is leveraged by \$5.12 in state funding. This in turn leverages \$.41 in local funds. Combined state and local leveraging adds to a total \$5.53:

Funds Leveraged by Our Pro Rata Share of Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) Appropriation

	FY 2009 ¹	FY 2010 ²	FY 2011 ³
Federal (Smith-Lever)	\$6,667,901	\$6,918,191	\$8,128,544
State	\$34,129,784	\$31,795,664	\$31,795,664
Local/County	\$2,762,435	\$2,630,164	\$2,630,164
Total	\$43,560,120	\$41,344,019	\$42,554,372

NOTES: (1) FY 2009 funds are actual amounts; (2) FY 2010 is estimated; (3) FY 2011 assumes a \$350 million appropriation (as requested by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities).

Additional Program Data

- Moved to a regional agent concept in 2004 focusing on 14 priority areas. In 2010, through a major needs assessment, will further hone our focus on the state's most pressing needs such as food safety and security, agriculture and forest sustainability, prevention of childhood obesity, community economic viability, health and wellness of citizens, and other key issues.
- Maintain offices in all 67 Alabama counties. All county coordinators serve on economic and community development and one or more additional priority program areas.

BENEFITS OF SMITH-LEVER FUNDS

As shown above, if Congress increases the FY 2011 Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation to \$350 million, our pro rata share would be ~ \$1,210,353. We would use such an increase to:

- Fund areas revealed in major needs assessment, including education in sustainable practices for farmers, forest owners and landowners, communities, business and industry, and families.
- Expand efforts in precision agriculture to lower fertilizer use, increase competitiveness of American agriculture in the global market, and protect food supply and the environment.
- Expand wellness education into all family programs to increase the effectiveness of education in food security, nutrition and home food preservation, economic literacy, care giving, and parenting, with a primary focus on strengthening the family and preventing childhood obesity.
- Enhance the food safety extension component of a university-wide food science and safety initiative. Focus will be on gaps in the food production, harvesting, processing, distribution and consumption chain.
- Provide capacity-building training for local leaders that will build stronger, more prosperous communities and economies. Specific emphasis of the programs will be designed to address local opportunities.
- Increase the use of technology in the design and delivery of education programs to our citizens. Included will be eXtension, mobile applications and electronic newsletters.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Precision Agriculture. Alabama Extension is tops in the nation in precision agriculture, resulting in a statewide economic impact of at least \$10 million in 2009 alone.

Volunteerism. 4-H now has both in-school clubs and out-of-school, community-based, volunteer led clubs. In 2009, 2,897 adult volunteers worked 75,081 hours. This is the fiscal equivalent of 30 full-time, entry-level positions.

Food Safety. More than 2,600 people took part in ServSafe education in 2009, with the great majority achieving certification. Each person saved from food borne illness saves from hundreds to tens of thousands of dollars in medical costs and lost work time.

