

University of California Cooperative Extension

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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Note: UC does not support increases in formula funds in lieu of major increases in competitive funds.

VALUE OF SMITH-LEVER FUNDS

In California (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation is leveraged by \$6.54 in state funding. This in turn leverages \$2.32 in local funds. Combined state and local leveraging adds to a total \$8.86.

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)	7,317,596	7,317,596	9,671,853
State*	47,859,869	46,291,834	46,291,834
Local/County**	16,942,475	16,618,919	15,659,430
Total	\$72,119,941	\$70,228,349	\$71,623,117

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). *Fiscal year 2011 proportional increase based on California's percentage of the final 2009 Smith Lever allocation. ** All fiscal years include Direct and Indirect support. Fiscal year 2011 projection based on the average change from previous fiscal years.

Additional Program Data

- Maintain Cooperative Extension programs in 58 of 59 California counties.
- Employ the full time equivalent of approximately 350 county advisors and campus-based specialists.
- Extension county-based academics and non academics made approximately 700,000 face to face contacts with Californians.

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 increased share would be $\approx 2,354,257$. We would use such an increase to:

- Fill critical academic positions (county-based advisors and campus-based specialists) to meet the needs of Californians in the areas of sustainable agriculture and natural resources, youth and community development, and nutrition.
- Direct additional funds to implement programs for each mission in the UC ANR Strategic Initiatives identified in the *ANR Strategic Vision, 2025*. In FY 2010-2015, the focus will be on Water Quality, Quantity and Security; Sustainable Food Systems; Endemic and Invasive Pests and Diseases; Sustainable Natural Ecosystems; and Healthy Families and Communities.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Childhood Obesity - To address the public health crisis that one in three children is overweight or obese, UCCE partnered with the Tulare school district to deliver our *EatFit* curriculum to 6th graders. The innovative program applies math concepts to nutrition education. The low-income students not only improved eating and physical activity habits, but also math and language arts performance.

Food Safety - In response to the 2001 and 2004 outbreaks of Salmonella in raw almonds, UCCE research was used by the almond industry to develop a new 2007 regulation on the microbiological safety of almonds sold domestically (US, Canada, and Mexico).

Economic Viability of CA Agriculture - A new race of soil-borne fungus that attacks cotton and other plants was identified in California. San Joaquin Valley cotton growers planted UCCE recommended varieties that both reduce the spread of the fungus and command a premium price. In 2007 the valley's Pima cotton industry contributed more than \$550 million to the state economy from overseas sales, helping improve the U.S. trade balance.

Wildfire - California communities continually face danger from wildfires. UCCE educates the public about wildfire risks, and what to do before, during and after a fire. UCCE developed an interactive website (*Fire Information Engine Toolkit*), and in San Diego County implemented the highly utilized *Wildfire Zone Program*. In Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, participants of UCCE's wildland fire/urban interface program adopted the recommended fire prevention and control practices to avoid buying invasive species and to remove them from landscapes.

Sustainable Energy - California needs improved energy security. The possible ramifications of large-scale bioenergy development on food production and environmental quality must be carefully considered. UCCE research helps public policy distinguish among biofuels in terms of their impacts on carbon emissions, biodiversity, water, and air pollution, and food availability.

