

**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 Florida (FY 2009), each dollar we received under the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation was leveraged by \$7.51 in state funding. This in turn leveraged \$8.21 in local funds. Combined state and local leveraging totaled \$15.72 per dollar of Smith-Lever funds.

**Funds leveraged by our pro rata share of Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation:**

	FY 2009 <sup>1</sup>	FY 2010 <sup>2</sup>	FY 2011 <sup>3</sup>
Federal (Smith-Lever)	4,368,128	4,577,765	5,591,528
State	32,816,735	32,816,735	32,816,735
Local/County	35,841,360	35,841,360	35,841,360
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$73,026,223</b>	<b>\$73,235,860</b>	<b>\$74,249,623</b>

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**

- Florida Cooperative Extension maintains offices in all 67 Florida counties.
- 17 academic departments and 13 Research/Education Centers conduct extension programs.
- Florida Cooperative Extension employs 386 county faculty and 227 state faculty.
- Florida’s extension programs are integrated with AES and are carried out in collaboration with Florida A&M Univ.
- More than 263,000 youth are active in Florida 4-H.
- In 2009, more than 28,000 volunteers contributed the equivalent of 143,500 work days.

**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 ≈ \$1,296,102. We would use such an increase to:

- Keep critical faculty to assist Florida producers to be sustainable, profitable, and generate safe and affordable food products for the US and the world.
- Expand education of Florida’s children and families to improve health and nutrition, and to decrease childhood obesity.
- Advance agricultural producers’ food safety knowledge through good agricultural practices to prevent food-borne illnesses and keep our consumers healthy.
- Expand work with developers to integrate low impact development practices into the design and management of new communities to secure Florida’s water quality and water supply.
- Teach landowners how to best respond to the effects of climate variability and change.

**OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

- More than 32,000 people attended small farms and alternative enterprises trainings in 2009. The small farms/alternative website receives more than 70,000 hits per month.
- More than 3,800 landscape maintenance workers became certified after completing a 6-hour training course on “Green Industries BMPs” offered by extension.
- In 2009, adult volunteers and 4-H youth increased knowledge about healthy lifestyles after attending training on the national 4-H curriculum “Up for the Challenge.”
- Last year, we trained 46 extension faculty and health professionals to implement and train others to teach *Take Charge of Your Diabetes*, a UF IFAS Extension program that improves glycemic control and quality of life in persons with Type 2 diabetes.
- Eighty percent of 500 food service professionals who completed the ServSafe® program in 2009 passed the certification exam.
- In 2009, more than 650 stormwater professionals attended 18 Low-Impact Development workshops for training on minimizing water quality impacts linked to land development.

