

# The University of Georgia 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.

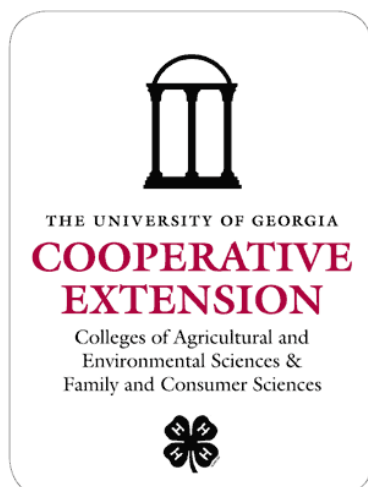
Congress has provided modest increases in the last two fiscal years, but this has barely slowed the steady erosion of this vital program in recent decades.

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

## CONTACT

J. Scott Angle  
Dean & Director  
Agricultural & Environmental Sciences  
1-706-542-3924  
caesdean@uga.edu

Beverly Sparks  
Associate Dean for Extension  
1-706-542-3824  
caesext@uga.edu



January, 2010

## VALUE OF SMITH-LEVER FUNDS

In Georgia (FY 2009), each dollar received under the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation is leveraged by \$4.46 in state funding. This in turn leverages \$3.24 in local/county funds. Combined state and local leveraging sources total \$7.70 for each Smith Lever dollar received.

### 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	7,588,373	7,875,068	9,261,468
State	33,859,014	32,183,109	32,183,109
Local/County	24,600,840	24,600,840	24,600,840
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$66,048,227</b>	<b>\$64,659,017</b>	<b>\$66,045,417</b>

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

### Additional Program Data

- Maintain county offices in 158 of Georgia's 159 counties.
- Employ the full-time equivalent of approximately 824 Extension professionals.
- Extension employees made 3.5 million educational event contact hours in 2009.
- More than 160,000 youth are active in 4-H in Georgia.

## BENEFITS OF SMITH-LEVER FUNDS

As shown above, if Congress increases the FY 2011 Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation to \$350 million, Georgia's pro rata share would be **≈ \$1,386,400**. Georgia would use such an increase to:

- Retain critical employees to continue to help Georgians keep American agriculture competitive and generating sufficient food and food products to address global hunger.
- Expand families and 4-H youth programs to improve nutrition and help end child obesity.
- Improve education & food safety of Georgia agriculture to keep Americans healthy.
- Work with farmers and consumers on energy conservation and biomass energy generation
- Increase outreach to farmers to mitigate problems associated with climate change.

## OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**Ag Production & Climate Change.** UGA/USDA alternative to methyl bromide rapidly adopted through on-farm research trials, field days, and county delivery method. Reducing input costs by at least \$150 per acre, alternative fumigant used on 25, 50, and 60 percent of Georgia's fumigated plasticulture acreage in 2007, 2008, and 2009, respectively, with a total return to Georgia growers of at least \$1.6 million.

**Obesity.** Georgia has some of the highest U.S. obesity and diabetes rates, so UGA launched the nation's first online, statewide Extension fitness programs – *Walk Georgia*. The first two events of this 8-week program had 6,250 participants who walked 1,061,803 miles. They reported weight loss, decreases in high blood pressure, and improved feelings of well-being. Potentially \$78 million to \$93 million in hospital costs could be saved annually in Georgia.

**Food Safety.** Recent salmonella outbreaks in peanuts and a suspected outbreak in tomatoes cost Georgia farmers millions in lost revenue and wasted crops. The Extension AG economists worked with farmers on planning and planting recommendations to adjust the surplus and the FCS food safety specialists worked with consumers to explain the situation, understand the recall and allay fears about unaffected peanut products to keep concerns realistic to the situation.

**Energy.** UGA Extension is working with farmers and communities to use wood pellet products for heating fuel and energy generation thereby creating new businesses to convert biomass into environmentally friendly fuels/products, create new jobs and boost rural economies.