

University of Idaho 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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VALUE OF SMITH-LEVER FUNDS

In Idaho (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation is leveraged by \$3.50 in state funding. This in turn leverages \$1.34 in local funds. Combined state and local leveraging adds to a total \$4.84 for each Federal dollar invested:

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) | \$2,613,303 | \$2,734,597 | \$3,321,150 |
| State | \$11,698,000 | \$9,538,000 | \$8,774,960 |
| Local/County | \$3,501,621 | \$4,000,000 | \$3,600,000 |
| Total | \$17,811,924 | \$16,272,597 | \$15,696,110 |

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

- University of Idaho Extension maintains offices in 42 of Idaho's 44 counties.
- UI Extension employs 74 full-time educators assigned to counties and 46 subject matter specialists, most with joint research appointments in 10 different academic departments.
- UI Extension enrolls more than 36,000 Idaho youth in 4-H clubs and activities, and works with more than 4,000 trained volunteers to teach life skills through the various 4-H curricula.
- UI Extension supports Idaho's agriculture industry, which generated \$21 billion in sales, 157,000 jobs, and 17% of the GSP in 2009. Agriculture is the single biggest contributor to the economic base of Idaho's economy.

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 ≈ \$586,500. We would use such an increase to:

- Retain critical employees to continue to help Idaho farmers keep American agriculture competitive and generating sufficient food and food products to address global hunger. Salaries and fringe benefits constitute about 90% of our state budget; with substantial state budget reductions we must use every revenue source available to avoid losing key faculty members.
- Increase our ability to address childhood obesity through nutrition and physical activity education targeting school enrichment and afterschool programs.
- Address the educational needs for achieving energy security through conservation (at home and on farms) and use of renewable energy sources.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- UI Extension currently works through Idaho high schools, teaching teachers how to deliver food safety training for teenagers, 90% of whom will find their first employment in food services. UI Extension also provides training and food safety certification for Idaho's critical food processing workforce.
- UI Extension has a unique relationship with faculty colleagues engaged in world-class research about childhood eating behaviors and translates that new knowledge into important tactics for fighting childhood obesity.
- UI Extension's Nutrient & Waste Management Team is working with Idaho dairies and forage producers to understand the best practices for converting manure into plant nutrients (organic fertilizers), thereby reducing energy consumption (used to manufacture inorganic fertilizers) and helping deal with the growing supply of manure derived from our \$1.5 billion dairy industry.