

LSU AgCenter Cooperative Extension

VALUE OF SMITH-LEVER FUNDS

In Louisiana (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation is leveraged by \$6.49 in state funding. This in turn leverages \$1.15 in local funds. Combined state and local leveraging adds to a total of \$7.64:

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

	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Federal (Smith-Lever)	\$4,939,449	\$5,103,136	\$5,894,694
State	\$32,057,012	\$28,853,494	\$28,853,494
Local/County	\$5,164,893	\$5,248,639	\$5,248,639
Total	\$42,261,354	\$39,205,269	\$39,996,827

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

- Maintain 64 parish (county) offices for Louisiana.
- Extension employees made 3,447,509 educational contacts in 2009.
- Employ the full-time equivalent of approximately 485 people.
- More than 240,000 youth were reached by the Louisiana 4-H programs.
- Volunteers donated 825,622 hrs. toward extension programs valued at over \$16 million.
- The Web site has 3,994,199 visits in a year.
- 100 publications were published online or on paper.
- 1500 master gardeners reported over 55,000 volunteer hours valued at \$1 million and equal to 33 full time positions.

BENEFITS OF SMITH-LEVER FUNDS

With increased fiscal year 2011 Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriations to \$350 million, total investments in Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service programs could eventually expand by over \$10 million when state and local leverage rates above are applied. Increased investments would be used to:

- Retain faculty and staff to continue to address the needs of Louisiana's farmers and citizens to improve the economy and quality of life for all.
- Work with farmers and forest landowners to provide the latest research based information to keep Louisiana's agriculture competitive and safe, while conserving resources.
- Expand 4-H youth programs that develop character, leadership and science skills that grow better citizens.
- Educate more families and consumers about healthy lifestyles to improve quality of life and reduce obesity and health care costs.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Louisiana 'Master Farmers' lead the nation.** Over 100 farmers in Louisiana have achieved the status of Master Farmer – a title that means they have not only learned the latest in conservation practices but also are implementing those practices on their farms.
- **LaHouse leads the way for sustainable housing in Louisiana.** The Louisiana House Home and Landscape Resource Center, better known as LaHouse, provides a model for the public to learn about technological advances in safe, secure and sustainable housing.
- **Community gardens make a difference.** An innovative program helping people in neighborhoods grow their own vegetables. The idea is catching on across the state, and Louisiana Master Gardener volunteers, who are specially trained by the LSU AgCenter, are sharing their expertise to spur the growth of sustainable gardens in many communities.
- **Ag is magic across Louisiana.** We build ag awareness throughout the state through more than 10 events that reach approximately 20,000 youth. The goal of these events is to increase awareness of the nutritional and economic importance of Louisiana's agricultural products.
- **Agriculture is an economic engine.** Through the LSU AgCenter's research and extension programs, several value-added ag industries have been started: such as sweet potato and poultry processing facilities and cotton spinning factory.

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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