

North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service

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 North Carolina (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation is leveraged by \$3.68 in state funding. This, in turn, leverages \$2.55 in local funds. Combined state and local leveraging adds to a total of \$6.23:

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)	\$11,169,401	\$11,541,338	\$13,339,948
State	\$41,113,105	\$43,007,127	\$43,007,127
Local/County	\$28,465,944	\$28,465,944	\$28,465,944
TOTAL	\$80,748,450	\$83,014,409	\$84,813,019

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

- NC Cooperative Extension has centers serving all 100 counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.
- In 2008, NC Cooperative Extension made 1.8 million face-to-face educational contacts.
- The North Carolina 4-H Program serves more than 241,000 youth.

BENEFITS OF SMITH-LEVER FUNDS

As shown above, if Congress increases the FY 2011 Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation to \$350 million, North Carolina's pro rata share would be ~\$1,798,610. NC Cooperative Extension would use such an increase to:

- Improve access to a healthy and sufficient food supply for North Carolinians.
- Strengthen the economic viability of N.C. producers and entrepreneurs.
- Bring innovative technologies, including biotechnology, to traditional and large-scale agricultural producers and entrepreneurs.
- Increase academic success of all youth through programs designed to lower the state's high-school dropout rate (31%) and increase student engagement in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).
- Decrease childhood and adult overweight and obesity in an effort to reduce the increasing burden on health care and the occurrence of chronic disease.
- Strengthen the economy through youth and adult programs related to entrepreneurship, family resource management, community rural development and leadership development.
- Bolster the sustainability of Extension programs to impact North Carolina's land, lives and economy.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The N.C. Research Campus harnesses the power of several universities to address human nutritional needs. The development of new crops and the improvement of existing crops at the NCRC positions Extension to make such advances immediately available for producer adoption. In 2009, Extension programs allowed producers to increase income by more than \$3.7 million through the adoption of value-added and alternative enterprises.
- The partnership and leadership of the Center for Environmental Farming Systems has allowed Extension and NC State University to be leaders in developing a comprehensive effort encouraging local food production, distribution and utilization and integrating alternative production and organic production systems with conventional production.
- Extension's food safety programs reach homes and consumers, as well as the food service, food processing and food production industries. For food to be safe, all steps in the system must be addressed. More than 1,690 NC people have been certified through ServSafe, HACCP and GAPs food safety programs.
- Extension is a leader in STEM education. A recurring legislative appropriation approved in 2007 allows 4-H to take university research into K-12 classrooms. In 2008, 113,622 students in 2,735 classrooms were involved.
- Through the e-conservation adult workshops and Energy Transformation 4-H youth enrichment curriculum, 779 youth and family participants in a six-county pilot project changed an average of 17 bulbs each from incandescent to compact fluorescent, thereby saving more than \$170,000 over the bulbs' lifetimes.
- Through the Color Me Healthy initiative, more than 4,500 child-care providers have been trained to use a curriculum that improves children's eating and exercise habits and thus reduces childhood obesity.

