

North Dakota State University 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 Dakota, each dollar we receive under the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation is leveraged by over \$2.50 in state funding. This, in turn, leverages another \$1.00 in local funds.

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

	FY 2009 ¹	FY 2010 ²	FY 2011 ³
Federal	3,213,187	3,330,690	3,898,910
State	9,256,095	9,718,900	10,204,845
Local/County	4,188,181	4,721,431	4,957,502
Total	\$16,657,463	\$17,771,021	\$19,061,257

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

- We have offices in 52 of North Dakota's 53 counties and on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation.
- We employ the full time equivalent of approximately 260 people.
- Extension employees made 590,103 face-to-face educational contacts in the past year.
- More than 23,400 youth were reached through 4-H in the past year.

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 \approx \$803,861. We would use such an increase to:

- Provide more educational assistance and technical support to North Dakota rural communities impacted by oil, coal and bioenergy development.
- Continue to provide effective educational responses to natural disasters such as the drought of 2008, and the devastating spring blizzard and statewide flooding of 2009.
- Support the continued growth and development of eXtension.
- Provide more educational and technical support to agricultural producers, rural communities and 4-H youth programs in the areas of sustainable energy, food safety, childhood obesity, and factors impacting future agricultural production management.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- In a 2008 national Extension survey, 83% of North Dakota residents surveyed reported having used Extension services and rated the NDSU Extension Service as excellent or good.
- Over the past year, more than 400 people participated in Extension programs about wind energy financing and regulation, energy efficiency and wind turbine leases.
- More than 350 families are participating in the country's largest trial program to select superior vegetable varieties, including asparagus, beans and zucchini.
- The Horizons program has helped 41 small North Dakota communities combat poverty, population loss and economic decline gaining child-care facilities, affordable housing, cell phone service, community gardens and farmers markets, and food pantries.
- Some 2,700 commercial and 4,500 private pesticide applicators are certified annually through the NDSU Extension Pesticide Program.
- The Rural Leadership North Dakota program has helped 55 North Dakotans develop skills to become effective leaders and the tools to overcome challenges facing rural North Dakota. Another 18 North Dakotans are participating in RLND's 2009-2011 program.