

University of New Hampshire 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

John E. Pike
Dean and Director
UNH Cooperative Extension
1-603-862-1520
email: extension@unh.edu

VALUE OF SMITH-LEVER FUNDS

In New Hampshire (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation is leveraged by \$4.84 in state funding. This in turn leverages \$1.83 in local funds. Combined state and local leveraging adds to a total \$6.67:

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)	1,597,075	1,675,780	2,056,381
State	7,735,304	7,661,455	7,661,455
Local/County	2,928,066	2,886,485	2,940,000
Total	\$12,260,445	\$12,223,720	\$12,657,836

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

- UNH Cooperative Extension maintains staffing in four core program areas (4-H youth development, agricultural resources, family and consumer resources, and forestry and wildlife) in each of NH's ten counties.
- We're part of a land-, sea-, and space-grant university and work closely with NH Sea Grant to provide educational programs to the commercial fishing industry and coastal communities.
- Our educational efforts are leveraged and expanded through more than 4,500 active volunteers.
- Close to 30 Extension faculty work with university faculty and county educators to fulfill the outreach and engagement mission of the University of New Hampshire.

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 ~ \$380,601. We would use such an increase to:

- Retain critical employees to continue our grass-roots educational initiatives in our local county offices.
- Fill critical existing and new Extension specialist positions that address high priority needs such as energy conservation and 4-H Science, Engineering and Technology.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- 16,314 youth participated last year in New Hampshire 4-H programs, either through 4-H clubs, afterschool programs, school enrichment programs, Operation: Military Kids, or 4-H Camp. 4-H programs help youth gain the skills, confidence and character to become healthy contributing adults, resulting in more success in acquiring and retaining employment, living on their own, starting a family and becoming involved in their community.
- Farmers using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques learned through Cooperative Extension reduce the use of pesticides. Using fewer pesticides benefits the community because it helps protect the environment and water resources from over-application of pesticides.
- Educational programs and technical support to land owners and community-owned forestland improves the health and aesthetic value of forested lands and provides financial resources to the industry. In turn, property values, tax revenues and opportunities to promote tourism increases, providing a stronger economy and quality of life for people living in NH.
- As a result of programs in food safety, participants are able to make safer food handling decisions and demonstrate safe food handling practices, benefiting the community by reducing the risk of foodborne illness and the resulting economic loss that impacts the food service industry.

