

Oklahoma State University (OSU)

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 Oklahoma (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation is leveraged by \$6.18 in state funding. This in turn leverages \$1.34 in local funds. Combined state and local leveraging adds to a total \$7.52:

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)	5,276,481	5,505,154	6,610,969
State	32,617,393	32,131,822	29,200,000
Local/County	7,079,952	7,100,000	7,100,000
Total	\$44,973,826	\$44,736,976	\$42,910,969

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

- OSU Extension maintains county offices in 76 of Oklahoma's 77 counties.
- OSU Extension employs the full time equivalent of approximately 550 people.
- OSU Extension employees made 1.3 million educational event contacts in the past year.
- More than 141,000 youth are active in 4-H in Oklahoma.

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 ≈ \$1,105,815. We would use such an increase to:

- Retain critical employees. Salary expenses for long-term employees constitute over 85% of our budget. With state budget cuts of 10% or more we must use every revenue source possible to avoid cutting critical people.
- 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.
- Develop an Oklahoma Water Law Manual that is readable and usable by farmers and ranchers.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Developed winter Canola over the past five years as an alternative crop. An Oklahoma Canola processing facility now exists and over 100,000 acres were planted this year which is expected to yield over \$20 million in revenue.
- Conducted presentations for over 6,600 Oklahomans on wind and oil leases, as well as potential contracts for energy feedstock crop production.
- Provided direct and indirect impacts to Oklahoma Food Processing firms of 52,490 jobs and more than \$6.4 billion in economic activity over the past 10 years.
- In its' first year, our "Farm to You" program reached 14,000 elementary school children using hands-on exhibits to help them follow food from the farm, through the market and through their body, thus exploring the relationship between agriculture, food, and health.
- Provided on-site engineering assistance to Oklahoma manufacturing businesses, resulting in sales increase of \$21,882,099; sales retained (otherwise been lost) \$7,857,392; costs saved and avoided \$10,850,321; and 185 new jobs created at \$75,511 per job.
- Held five Oklahoma Meat Goat Boot Camps, providing a multi-day workshop for over 175 people from 21 states. They valued the camps as worth \$353,000 to them.