

The Pennsylvania State University

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

Dennis D. Calvin
Interim Director, Pennsylvania Cooperative Extension
1-814-865-5410
dcalvin@psu.edu



February 2010

VALUE OF SMITH-LEVER FUNDS

In Pennsylvania (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation is leveraged by \$3.08 in state funding. This in turn leverages \$1.27 in local funds. Combined state and local leveraging adds to a total \$4.35:

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)	9,847,402	10,199,303	11,901,024
State	30,384,000	29,979,000	29,979,000
Local/County	12,512,355	12,627,011	12,758,000
Total	\$52,743,757	\$52,805,314	\$54,638,024

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).

Smith Lever funds allow Penn State Extension to:

- Connect all citizens of the Commonwealth to the expertise of one of the world's foremost research universities through Penn State Extension offices in all 67 counties
- Share reliable, science-based information with individuals, businesses, organizations, and communities to improve Pennsylvania's economy and the lives of Pennsylvanians
- Work with public- and private-sector stakeholders at the county, state, and federal level to identify and address national and state priorities in key areas

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 \$1,701,721. We would use such an increase to continue to address emerging issues that require additional focus such as:

- **Marcellus Shale.** Marcellus shale drilling could forever change the landscape and economies in affected regions. Communities need information to help them deal with this gas rush. Penn State Extension has responded with a team of more than 40 educators and faculty, who are addressing issues such as education/workforce needs, water quality, municipal services, land use, housing, and other concerns. Already they have educated landowners to negotiate gas leases collectively worth \$250 million more than the initial offers received from energy companies, keeping some of the value of this resource in local communities.
- **Biofuels.** Changes in state law require that every gallon of gasoline and diesel fuel sold in Pennsylvania contain a percentage of biofuels. Penn State Extension is working with scientists, crop growers, and biofuel producers to demonstrate crop varieties and production systems that will work for Pennsylvania. Finding economical ways to produce and distribute feedstocks for cellulosic ethanol and biodiesel can enhance profitability for farmers while protecting air and water quality and reducing reliance on imported oil.
- **Chesapeake Bay.** Initiatives arising from President Obama's executive order on cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay have the potential to transform agriculture in Pennsylvania. Penn State Extension is assisting agriculture in meeting these new demands. Extension faculty and county based educators help dairy and livestock producers adopt best practices proven to reduce excess nutrients in surface and ground water. One initiative, promoting precision feed formulation for dairy cattle, can reduce the amount of excess manure nitrogen and phosphorus by 50 percent or more, according to the Chesapeake Bay Commission. Extension also is helping farmers understand complex nutrient credit-trading programs.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Promoting Healthy Lifestyles.** Food, diet and Health programs.
- **Pest Prediction and Response.** Protecting animal and human health.
- **Youth Education.** Penn State's 4-H programs reach more than 100,000 kids each year