

Clemson University 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.

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VALUE OF SMITH-LEVER FUNDS

In South Carolina (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation is leveraged by \$3.69 in state and local funding:

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)	\$5,493,359	\$5,692,652	\$6,656,391
State	\$18,434,742	\$15,789,958	\$15,789,958
Local/County	\$2,360,095	\$2,360,095	\$2,360,095
Total	\$26,288,196	\$23,842,705	\$24,806,444

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

- Augmented appropriated funds: \$4,597,627 million from competitive grants and contracts.
- Employed the full-time equivalent of approximately 349 people.
- Served 46 county offices throughout the state.
- Extension employees made 408,893 educational contacts in 2009, including youth, community leaders, families, agribusiness, community leaders, and many others.
- The Home and Garden Information Center website had 4.8 million hits in a year.
- Over 2,407 Master Gardeners contributed over 67,168 hours of service conducting programs and activities, a \$873,184 value of time.

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 \$963,739. We would use such an increase to:

- Retain faculty and staff to continue to address the needs of a growing and diverse population and to improve the economy and quality of life for all reached.
- Increase volunteer training and use. Volunteers numbered almost 4,000 in 2009.
- Work with producers and forest landowners to provide the latest research based information to keep South Carolina's agriculture competitive and safe, while conserving resources.
- Expand 4-H youth programs that develop character, leadership and science skills that grow better citizens.
- Educate more families and consumers about healthy lifestyles and improve the quality and safety of food for the citizens of South Carolina.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Agronomic Crops:** Supported growers and producers in the implementation of systems that are economically sustainable, safe and environmentally sound. The economic impact of the Peanut Program was \$3 million and the Wheat Variety Challenge was \$2.4 million.
- **Food Safety and Nutrition:** Trained food handlers who potentially affected 234,232 people, which had an approximate economic value of \$17,250,000.
- **Forestry and Natural Resources:** Educated consumers on the use of best management practices of forest systems and other natural resources to improve forest productivity and promote natural resource conservation.
- **Youth Development and Families:** Provided 18,330 youth opportunities to become healthy, productive, and contributing members of society and promoted their educational success. The 4-H program created opportunities for family financial security and stability and for training and practical application in Science Technology and other projects.
- **Economic and Community Development:** Promoted community engagement, enhancement and improvement that is linked to sustainable economic development. The Innovation Center, funded through a \$150,000 USDA Rural Development grant, facilitates the creation of jobs in targeted rural areas of the state. Builders of Tomorrow conducts youth leadership and dropout prevention programs in low income counties. Over 91% of the participating students' grades and classroom behavior improved.