

University of Tennessee 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

Joe DiPietro, Vice-President
University of Tennessee
Institute of Agriculture
1-865-974-7342
dipietro@tennessee.edu

Tim Cross, Dean and Director
University of Tennessee Extension
1-865-974-7114
tcross@tennessee.edu

VALUE OF SMITH-LEVER FUNDS

In Tennessee (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation is leveraged by \$3.51 in state funding. This in turn leverages \$0.84 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)	8,275,433	8,583,627	10,073,992
State	29,009,600	32,168,100	29,627,700
Local/County	6,935,608	7,000,000	7,100,000
Total	\$44,220,641	\$47,751,727	46,801,692

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

- Offices in each of Tennessee's 95 counties provide educational programs to meet local needs.
- Economic impact of Extension educational efforts in 2008 was \$343 million. For every \$1 invested in UT Extension, an estimated \$5.10 is returned to the people of Tennessee.
- More than 300,000 youth engaged in 4-H projects, activities and educational events annually.
- Extension staff and volunteers made 4.8 million direct contacts in 2008.

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 \$1,490,365. We would use such an increase to:

- Maintain county-based staff to deliver education based on local needs aligned with state and national priorities.
- Change behavior in youth and adults to improve nutrition and reduce obesity, while promoting healthy lifestyles.
- Improve the management of food, environmental, and agricultural resources on Tennessee's farms and timber lands.
- Expand the number of youth interested in science, engineering, and technology careers through 4-H workforce development programs.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Renewable Energy. UT Extension has lead the establishment of 3,000 acres of switchgrass on 58 farms in East Tennessee under contract with the nation's first cellulosic ethanol plant.

Childhood Obesity. In 42 counties, youth that participate in the Power U program have increased their activity levels and decreased their consumption of high-fat and high-sugar foods and beverages.

Youth Development. Summer camping programs were provided to 4,960 4-H youth in 2009, and an additional 8,319 youth participated in school-year environmental programs offered at Tennessee's three 4-H Centers.

Rural Communities. The number of farmers adding value to their products through direct marketing to consumers has increased by 26% in the past 10 years through the efforts of the Center for Profitable Agriculture.

