

# Texas AgriLife Extension Service

## 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) is distributed to cooperative extension units at eligible land-grant institutions under a statutory formula.

Congress 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

Edward G. Smith, Director  
Texas AgriLife Extension Service  
The Texas A&M University System  
1-979-845-7967  
egsmith@tamu.edu

## VALUE OF SMITH-LEVER FUNDS

In Texas, each FY 2009 dollar received under the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation was leveraged by \$5.57 in appropriated state funding. This in turn leveraged \$2.71 in appropriated county funds. Combined state and county government leveraging totaled \$8.28.

### Funds Leveraged by Our Pro Rata Share of Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) Appropriation

	FY 2009 <sup>1</sup>	FY 2010 <sup>2</sup>	FY 2011 <sup>3</sup>
Federal (Smith-Lever)	12,011,684	12,560,133	15,212,320
State	66,863,878	68,050,677	69,028,870
Local/County	32,533,766	33,509,779	34,515,073
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$111,409,328</b>	<b>\$114,120,589</b>	<b>\$118,756,263</b>

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 – As an agency, AgriLife Extension:

- Augmented appropriated funds: \$39.7 million in FY09 from competitive grants and contracts.
- Serves all 254 Texas counties through 250 county offices.
- Employs the full-time equivalent of approximately 1,585 personnel, with an additional 380 FTEs supported by county sources.
- Conducted programs resulting in 22.9 million direct educational contacts in 2009, reaching agribusiness, community leaders, entrepreneurs, homeowners, families, and many others, including 593,128 youth involved in our 4-H and youth development program.

## 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 ≈ \$2,652,187. We would use such an increase to:

- Maintain the human resource network needed to serve a growing, diverse population—a network sustained by the long-standing partnership of federal, state, and county funders.
- Further the training and use of volunteers, who numbered 99,279 in Texas in 2009 and provided service that was equivalent to 2,104 additional full-time staff.
- Continue support for expanding the Web-based eExtension initiative to provide efficient, non-duplicative delivery of knowledge resources from the entire Cooperative Extension System.

## OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Agriculture & Food Security Programs:** Support producers and residents in Texas and beyond to ensure an abundant, economical and safe food supply. Annual economic impact: value-added benefits up to \$320 million per program.
- **Energy & Natural Resource Programs:** Serve both rural and urban areas to address sustainable energy, including biofuels, and ecosystem/watershed management, as well as military land management. Annual economic impact: upward of \$2.5 million per program.
- **Health & Wellness Programs:** Target at-risk and underserved audiences, focusing on nutrition, exercise, and prevention of diabetes, obesity, and other chronic diseases. Economic impacts based on savings in lifetime health care costs: \$56,221 per person in diabetes education alone.
- **Youth Development Programs:** Provide school enrichment, after-school activities, and 4-H clubs to teach life skills that foster productive citizenship. Science education, college and workforce preparedness, leadership and character development, teamwork, and critical thinking are key building blocks. External support yields \$2.1 million yearly in scholarships for 4-H members.
- **Workforce & Community Economic Development:** Extension certification and training programs annually serve thousands of individuals who render important community services, who must complete mandatory education to obtain and keep a job, or start and stay in business.
- **Support for Military:** Working from Forts Bliss, Hood, and Sam Houston, our outreach to military families across Texas covers deployment readiness, family advocacy, relocation assistance, new parent support, substance abuse, and more, plus 4-H for 5,600 youth with a deployed parent.

