

University of Vermont 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 Vermont (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation is leveraged with \$2.55 in state funding. This in turn leverages \$2.83 in grant funds secured by faculty and staff. Combined state and local leveraging adds up to a total annual budget of \$13.1 million.

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

	FY 2009	FY2010	FY 2011
Federal (Smith-Lever)	\$1,722,198	\$1,801,151	\$2,182,952
State	\$4,576,000	\$4,576,000	\$4,576,000
Total	\$6,298,198	\$6,377,151	\$6,758,952

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

- The Center for Sustainable Agriculture is a leader in the state in local food production education and assistance, addressing access to that food by low income residents across the state, and in supporting educational efforts for local producers in the area of food safety.
- UVM's Farm Viability program has written over 100 business plans in 5 years and worked with over 200 farmers in the last year on enterprise budgets to prepare for refinancing.
- Ongoing work to develop sustainable energy crops (oil seed and biomass) and food crops (grains) to enhance diversity options for dairy and other farms to sustain current as well as create new business opportunities
- Ongoing efforts to support farmer led education and application of land treatment strategies that reduce run-off from agricultural fields and through Sea Grant reductions in urban 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 approximately \$380,000. We would use such an increase to:

- Hire additional farm nutrient management faculty and program staff to provide training and assist with the application of nutrient management plans
- Hire two new program staff to expand efforts in supporting local food initiatives across the state that provide access to low income residents
- Hire a new faculty member focused on food safety initiatives that supports local producers meet current federal guidelines on good agricultural practices and combat obesity.
- Leverage increase by hiring AmeriCorps/VISTA volunteers to further expand our capacity to reach more audiences

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- On-going support of the Vermont Farms! Association to expand it's success in growing agritourism in Vermont
- Offer over 600 workshops per year in every county in the state for audiences that include small farmers, organic farmers, dairy farmers, vegetable farmers, community leaders, single mothers with children, diabetes patients, disadvantaged youth, other youth, gardeners, composters, watershed associations, (who else can we list) teachers and daycare providers
- Three thousand volunteers spent 29,000 hours working with state residents supporting programs offered by UVM Extension

