

University of Wyoming Cooperative 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) 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 Wyoming (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation is leveraged by \$3.70 in state funding. This in turn leverages \$2.26 in local funds. Combined state and local leveraging adds to a total \$5.96:

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)	\$1,467,184	\$1,537,244	\$1,876,042
State	\$5,440,160	\$5,440,160	\$5,440,160
Local/County	\$3,322,658	\$3,322,658	\$3,322,675
Total	\$10,230,003	\$10,300,062	\$10,638,877

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

- Maintain county offices in all 23 counties and the Wind River Indian Reservation.
- Employ the full-time equivalent of approximately 160 people.
- Extension employees made 335,350 education contacts in 2009.
- More than 16,284 Wyoming youth are active in 4-H traditional and non-traditional 4-H.

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 ≈ \$338,798. We would use such an increase to:

- Increase educational efforts to agriculture producers developing agriculture systems that maintain high productivity in the face of climate change including emerging economic opportunities offered by climate change mitigation technologies.
- Expand nutrition and 4-H youth programs to improve family nutrition and decrease childhood obesity.
- Improve educational outreach efforts in agriculture production and nutrition, improving the global capacity to meet the growing food demand, and foster innovation in fighting hunger by addressing food security for vulnerable populations.
- Increase efforts to develop crops for bioenergy production and to produce value-added bio-based industrial products enhancing energy sustainability.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Food Safety. CES as a partner in the Wyoming Food Safety Coalition reached 3,437 individuals with food safety training. Improved food handling behaviors increase the likelihood food served in Wyoming is safe, and, therefore, lives have been saved, illnesses avoided, healthcare costs controlled, fewer work days missed, and local businesses and institutions are stronger.

Community Development. CES partners with industry and municipalities in energy impacted communities. In 2009 reaching success with the opening of the Wamsutter Community Health Center. In addition to medical care, the center provides space for educational programs on wellness, nutrition, and other health-related services such as dentistry and chiropractor care. Without the extension community development educator, neither the health center nor many other community enhancement projects would be present today.

Agriculture and Land Conversion. The value of agriculture to Wyoming's economy approaches \$1 billion each year. Over 400 educational programs on small acreage management, range stewardship, and agriculture production ranging from bio-fuels, genetic tools, weed management and marketing options reached over 4,900 Wyoming producers. Evaluations indicated over 50 percent adopted positive practices to increase sustainability.