University of Illinois 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 Illinois (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation is leveraged by $3.82 in state funding. This in turn leverages $1.51 in local funds. Combined state and local leveraging adds to a total $5.33:

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)	9,167,594	9,486,737	11,030,054
State	34,999,130	33,265,541	31,800,017
Local/County	13,842,569	14,136,518	13,850,000
Total	**$58,009,293**	**$56,888,796**	**$56,680,071**

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

- University of Illinois Extension employs 802 FTE as of 12/15/09, who provide programs in each of the 102 counties in Illinois.
- Illinois Extension employees made 2.7 million educational event contacts with individuals in FY2009.
- More than 268,000 youth are involved in 4-H youth development programs in Illinois.

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 ≈ $1,543,317. We would use such an increase to:

- Retain critical employees in positions that will enable Illinois Extension to continue providing programs in important societal issues related to both urban and rural residents.
- Provide additional staff and technical support to deliver education related to **sustainable energy** drawing on the research of the University of Illinois Center for Advanced Bioenergy Research and other resources.
- Increase staffing expertise to address Illinois residents' expressed educational needs related to **water quality, financial management,** and **healthy food** and **physical activity** choices.
- Expand 4-H youth programs with emphasis on **science**, **the environment**, **physical fitness**, **employment skills**, and **developing healthy relationships**.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Energy education** was provided to approximately 1000 landowners and agriculture producers regarding current biofuels research and issues associated with wind farm development.
- **Food safety** rules and regulation education and certification was provided to over 4000 individuals involved in local food systems production, transportation, processing, and sales.
- Programs reached approximately 500,000 youth in activities that address healthy food choices and physical activity to prevent **childhood obesity**.
- To meet **growing food demands**, agricultural producers attended statewide Extension presentations that enhanced their knowledge of corn and soybean production strategies for an estimated 18.4 million acres.
- University of Illinois Extension collaborated with local, state, and federal agencies to develop **disaster mitigation plans** in flood-stricken communities in 28 counties.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION

January 2010