

Ohio State University 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

Keith Smith, Associate Vice President,
Agricultural Administration & Director
Ohio State University Extension
614-292-6181
smith.150@osu.edu

VALUE OF SMITH-LEVER FUNDS

In Ohio, each dollar we receive under the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation is matched by more than \$2 in state funding. This, in turn, leverages \$1.50 in county funds.

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

	FY 2009 ¹	FY 2010 ¹	FY 2011 ²
Federal (Smith-Lever)	\$10,336,252	\$10,761,420	\$12,817,444
State	\$23,586,327	\$23,518,608	\$22,467,678
County	\$18,498,721	\$16,815,503	\$15,133,953
Total	\$52,421,300	\$51,095,531	\$50,419,075

NOTES: (1) FY 2009 and 2010 funds are actual amounts; (2) 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 Ohio's 88 counties.
- We employ the full-time equivalent of approximately 770 people.
- OSU Extension employees made nearly 1.5 million educational contacts in the past year.
- More than 330,000 youth are reached through 4-H Youth Development activities each year.

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 \$2,056,024. We would use such an increase to:

- **Strengthen families and communities**, teaching Ohioans to make informed choices about finances, healthy living, food safety and more.
- **Advance employment and income opportunities** through economic development programs tailored to local community needs, whether metropolitan, rural or suburban.
- **Prepare youth for success**, developing critical skills in communications, math, science, research and leadership through 4-H Youth Development programs.
- **Enhance agriculture and the environment**, supporting Ohio's \$94 billion agricultural industry, with technology, marketing and education.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Provided the latest in best practices for growing produce. Just two of OSU Extension's community gardening efforts donated 3.5 tons of produce to local food banks in 2009.
- Helped retain nearly 1,000 jobs in 2009 through Business Retention and Expansion Initiative efforts with 20 companies.
- Improved savings habits in 96 percent of young people from 73 Ohio counties who participated in Real Money, Real World, a money management program for middle and high school students.
- Reached urban and rural young people across Ohio with 4-H programs and clubs that allow youth to learn by doing – 17 percent of Ohio 4-H members live in cities and suburbs.
- Boosted profits by \$10 million for the more than 7,000 readers of C.O.R.N., an electronic agronomic newsletter with crop production and farm management information.
- Reached 5,000 Ohioans who have diabetes with information on how to manage their disease through nutrition education, cooking demonstrations, food shopping tips, and connections to other diabetics.
- Trained and educated certified crop advisors in crop management and production – information the advisors value at \$14/acre for a total economic impact of \$125 million.

