

Cooperative Extension -- University of Wisconsin, 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.

Although congress has provided modest increases in the last two fiscal years, we are unable to keep up with educational program demand and growth.

The land-grant system strongly supports funding for Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) at \$350 million in FY 2011.

CONTACT

Richard M. Klemme
Dean and Director
Cooperative Extension
University of Wisconsin-Extension
(608) 263-5110
Richard.klemme@ces.uwex.edu

VALUE OF SMITH-LEVER FUNDS

In Wisconsin, each dollar we receive under the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation is leveraged by almost \$4 in state funding. This in turn leverages \$2 in local funds. Combined state and local leveraging adds to a total of \$6

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)	8,417,865	8,763,001	11,079,235
State	31,578,399	30,151,724	30,000,000
Local/County	20,685,544	20,000,000	19,500,000
Total	\$60,681,808	\$58,914,725	\$60,579,235

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

- Offices in each of Wisconsin's 72 counties and on three reservations.
- Extension educators made close to 1 million educational contacts this past year.
- We work with local, state and federal partners to offer educational programs addressing local needs and leveraging funds.

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 \$2.3 million. We would use the increase to:

- Provide more educational assistance to local communities to bolster local economic development.
- Enhance state and regional water quality education and bolster agriculture dairy modernization work.
- Work to improve family nutrition, family financial management and affordable housing programs.

OTHER PROGRAM INITIATIVES

- 4-H teams up with community and military partners in Wisconsin to offer Operation Military Kids, a nationwide initiative that supports the children and families of U.S. military personnel during and after the deployment of a loved one. Programs have been offered in more than 155 Wisconsin school districts and have reached more than 8,000 people through presentations and in-services.
- The Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP), a \$7 million federally funded program, provides community-based nutrition education in 68 Wisconsin counties. WNEP helps ensure that low-income families and children have the information they need to make healthy eating choices.
- The economic downturn has brought significant challenges to Wisconsin's \$26-billion-a-year dairy industry. Cooperative Extension's Agriculture and Natural Resources Program agents and specialists provide research-based decision-making and farm-management tools that help producers to better assess and manage their financial risk. The Farming Through Difficult Times Web site, which serves as a hub for up-to-date information, received nearly 10,000 visits the first three months it was available. <http://fyi.uwex.edu/farmfinances>

