

Hatch Act

Increased investment needed to support food and agricultural research capacity at land-grant universities and related institutions.

America's national network of state-based, federally-supported food and agricultural research laboratories is the envy of the world. These "State Agricultural Experiment Stations" were established pursuant to the Hatch Act of 1887 and receive funds appropriated by Congress through the USDA's Cooperative Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES).

Hatch Act funds are distributed according to a statutory formula to each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories. A dollar-for-dollar match is required from the states, but this is the minimum requirement and many jurisdictions provide a greater amount.

Congress has long recognized the enormous value of the Hatch Act program and wisely provided a \$19 million increase to it in FY 2008 as compared to FY 2006.* The President's FY 2009 budget, however, proposes to cut Hatch Act funding by \$57 million and to make \$98 million of the remainder subject to new competitive multistate procedures.

If enacted, these changes could result in as much as a 79 percent reduction to some State Agricultural Experiment Stations. Congress must reject this proposal in its entirety.

Instead, Hatch Act funding must be increased in order to:

- Accelerate scientific progress on vital national research priorities.
- Ensure experiment station financial stability from year-to-year.
- Underwrite essential infrastructure to respond to emergency situations.

NASULGC urges Congress to provide an increased appropriation in FY 2009 for the food and agricultural research made possible by the Hatch Act program.

NASULGC'S PRIORITY REQUEST FOR FY 2009

■ Hatch Act \$215.000 M

*FY 2007 is not used for comparison since the Hatch Act program received a one-time-only increase in lieu of CSREES earmark funding.



A tremendous return on investment...

A 2004 study by economists Wallace Huffman (Iowa State) and Robert Evenson (Yale) found that between 1970 and 2000, investment of taxpayer funds for research in state agricultural experiment stations at land-grant universities contributed significantly to the increase in agricultural productivity, producing an annual return to society of approximately 50 percent.

Hatch Act funds benefit America by providing research capacity to...

- Develop new biofuels and bioproducts, enhance energy efficiency and reduce dependence on foreign oil.
- Improve knowledge concerning the complex linkages between food, nutrition, and human health.
- Fight avian influenza and prepare against pandemic flu outbreaks.
- Protect America's food supply and ensure our biosecurity.
- Combat the twin epidemics of obesity and diabetes.
- Preserve the nation's natural resources
- Build strategies for producers, consumers, and communities to address climate change.
- Maintain competitiveness of U.S. food, fiber, and fuel producers in global marketplace.

Hatch Act

Appropriations Bill	Agriculture
Agency	Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (USDA)
Account	Research and Education Activities
Project (Program) Name	Hatch Act

Requested Amount **\$215,000,000**

Authorization	7 U.S.C. 361a (Hatch Act of 1887, as amended)
Description	This CSREES <u>program</u> provides funding to support the State Agricultural Experiment Stations enabling them to address critical national, multistate, state, and local problems. Funds are distributed to eligible institutions under a statutory formula.
Benefits / Impacts Justification / Explanation	<p>Hatch Act funds benefit America by providing research capacity at 1862 land-grant universities and related institutions in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Develop new biofuels/bioproducts, enhance energy efficiency, reduce dependence on foreign oil. ■ Improve knowledge concerning the complex linkages between food, nutrition, and human health. ■ Fight avian influenza and prepare against pandemic flu outbreaks. ■ Protect America’s food supply and ensure our biosecurity. ■ Combat the twin epidemics of obesity and diabetes. ■ Preserve the nation’s natural resources. ■ Build strategies for producers, consumers, and communities to address climate change. ■ Maintain competitiveness of U.S. food, fiber, and fuel producers in global marketplace.

Funding History

FY 2009 (President’s Budget)	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2006	FY 2005	FY 2004
\$139,208,000	\$195,812,000	\$322,597,000	\$176,969,000	\$178,707,000	\$179,085,000

Misc. Information

Matching Funds	States are required to provide at least a one-to-one match. However, most states provide much more than the minimum.
Final Recipients	State Agricultural Experiment Stations established pursuant to the Hatch Act of 1887 at the 1862 land-grant universities or such other substantially equivalent institutions as any state shall determine.
Note for Senate Offices	Funding is <u>not</u> being requested for this program through another appropriations bill.

Additional Information > www.nasulgc-bac.com/kb.htm