

eXtension

Innovative CSREES program requires greatly increased funding.

Since 2004, the Cooperative Extension System — a collaborative enterprise consisting of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) and America’s land-grant universities — has been building, testing, and refining a unique and innovative Internet resource called eXtension.

This exciting and important initiative brings the enormous research, education, and outreach resources and expertise of the nation’s land-grant universities to the Internet, and it links communities of experts with communities of users on an ongoing basis. Using “Communities of Practice” as a communications model, eXtension provides real answers in real time based on objective, scientific, peer-reviewed results. eXtension stands apart from other Internet portals or sites which contain information that may — or may not — be accurate or true.

Congress has supported eXtension from the beginning, providing approximately \$1.5 million per year over the past three fiscal years, while the Cooperative Extension System has redistributed \$2.2 million per year to start the initiative. However, with the official launch of www.eXtension.org on February 21, 2008, the time is right to move eXtension toward its full potential by increasing funding to \$2,970,000.

Existing eXtension Communities include: animal manure management, beef cattle; caregivers; corn; cotton industry; dairy cattle; disasters; diversity; entrepreneurship; gardens, lawns, and landscapes; geographic information systems; horses; imported fire ants; organic production; parenting; personal finance; soybeans; wildlife damage management; youth science, engineering, and technology.

NASULGC urges Congress to greatly expand eXtension by appropriating \$2.970 million for the “New Technologies for Agriculture Extension” line item. This is the same amount as in the President’s FY 2009 budget request for CSREES.

NASULGC’S PRIORITY REQUEST FOR FY 2009

- New Technologies for Ag Extension (eXtension) \$2.970 M



eXtension offers what other Internet sites cannot...

- Credible expertise.
- Reliable answers based upon sound research and field-tested data.
- Connections to the best minds in American universities.
- Creative solutions to today’s complex challenges.
- Customized answers to users’ specific needs.
- Dynamic, relevant, and timely answers.
- Contact to over 3,000 local Cooperative Extension offices.
- Community-building features, including blogs, online chats, content evaluation and rating, and more.



NASULGC, A Public University Association, represents 217 U.S. universities and has members in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories.

New Technologies for Ag Extension (eXtension)

Appropriations Bill	Agriculture
Agency	Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (USDA)
Account	Extension Activities
Project (Program) Name	New Technologies for Ag Extension (eXtension)

Requested Amount **\$2,970,000**

Authorization	7 U.S.C. 343(d), (Sec. 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914)
Description	This CSREES <u>program</u> provides funding to develop an Internet portal to America’s largest educational and information system, branded with individual land-grant university Cooperative Extension identification.
Benefits / Impacts	The New Technologies for Ag Extension (eXtension) program:
Justification / Explanation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Brings the enormous research, education, and outreach resources and expertise of the nation’s land-grant universities to the Internet. ■ Links communities of experts with communities of users on an ongoing basis. ■ Using “Communities of Practice” as a communications model, eXtension provides real answers in real time based on objective, scientific, peer-reviewed results. ■ Stands apart from other Internet portals or sites which contain information that may — or may not — be accurate or true.

Funding History

FY 2009 (President’s Budget)	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2006
\$2,970,000	\$1,475,000	\$1,485,000	\$1,485,000

Misc. Information

Matching Funds	This program operates under the 3(d) authority of the Smith-Lever Act which has a dollar-for-dollar matching requirement.
Final Recipients	Funds are distributed by CSREES to a consortium of land-grant universities and distributed to individual contributing institutions.
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