

FY2011 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

1890s Extension

Greater funding needed for historically black universities providing educational services and extension to farmers, families, and communities.

The 1890 land-grant universities and Tuskegee University (the 1890 Institutions) have an integrated mission to conduct research, educate undergraduate and graduate students, and provide public outreach (Extension). The 1890s Extension program, is comprised of a broad range of science-based educational efforts which have been proven to:

- Strengthen the agricultural industry (especially small farmers) by developing agricultural production systems that are efficient, sustainable, and highly competitive in the global economy.
- Enhance the health of families through diet/nutrition and food safety education and their economic well-being through practical financial education.
- Foster strong, stable communities through leadership development efforts and encouraging entrepreneurship.

Although these Extension programs serve a diverse clientele, emphasis is placed on those with limited social and economic resources.

The primary funding source for 1890s Extension is the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), USDA's extramural science funding agency. NIFA funds are matched with state monies and some institutions also receive limited support from county governments.

Congress has long recognized the value of the 1890s Extension program and modest increases have been provided in recent years. However, there are many unmet needs and greater support is urgently required.



A·P·L·U urges members of the Senate and House to support the highest possible FY2011 1890s Extension appropriation. Since both chambers have instituted an earmark moratorium,



we urge the reallocation of these project funds to the 1890s Extension program and our other NIFA priorities.

The 1890s Extension program benefits America by supporting outreach at the 1890 Institutions focused on:

- Agricultural diversification and marketing strategies to reverse the decline of small minority-owned farms.
- Risk management education that provides farmers and ranchers with tools to address risk related issues.
- Increasing viability and competitiveness of farms through sustainable practices.
- Improving nutrition, diet, and health of limited resource families with emphasis on reducing obesity.
- After school enrichment programs to enhance youth skills in science, technology, and math.
- Improving economic viability of rural communities.
- Protecting the environment/natural resource management.

For additional information, email Hunt Shipman (hshipman@cgagroup.com) or Jim Richards (jrichards@cgagroup.com). Phone: 202.448.9500.

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