

FY2011 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Core Land-Grant Priorities

As Congress prepares to take final action on the FY2011 appropriations bills, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities reiterates its core research, extension, and higher education priorities for the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

On Feb. 19, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1, the Full-Year Continuing Resolution, to fund federal departments, agencies, and programs through Sept. 30, 2011. This legislation included more than \$217 million in reductions to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), USDA's extramural science funding agency. *This is a 16% cut in the NIFA appropriation compared to FY2010!*

In 2010, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (A·P·L·U) proposed modest increases to seven NIFA funding lines. We continue to believe that these and other NIFA programs remain seriously undervalued. However, in recognition of current budgetary realities, we have modified our FY2011 appropriations request as follows:

1. Core NIFA Program Levels Must be Maintained.

The House version of H.R. 1 contained numerous changes to the 60 funding lines that constitute the NIFA budget. Several programs were eliminated, a few received slight increases, and two of A·P·L·U's seven priorities—Smith-Lever and the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)—were cut dramatically.

We urge the Senate and the joint House-Senate conference committee that will meet to iron out the differences between the two versions of H.R. 1 to restore: (1) the \$29.872 million cut from the Smith-Lever program; and (2) the \$34.681 million cut from the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative.

All seven of A·P·L·U's priority lines must receive no less in FY2011 than in FY 2010: (1) Smith-Lever; (2) AFRI; (3) Hatch Act; (4) Evans-Allen; (5) 1890 Institutions Extension; (6) McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry; and (7) Extension Services at the 1994 Institutions.

However, even if FY2010 funding levels are maintained for these seven priorities, NIFA's agricultural research, extension, and teaching programs would still suffer a net reduction of \$167.6 million!



2. Project Funds Must Stay Within NIFA.

When an earmark moratorium was last imposed (FY2007), Congress kept NIFA's earmark monies within the agency. This precedent should be followed again in FY2011. Congressionally-designated projects represent a fundamental element of capacity support for land-grant universities and related institutions and part of this capacity will be lost if project funding does not stay within the agency. (We are not advocating in favor of earmarks, just to retain the funding in NIFA.)

In FY2010, congressionally-designated projects constituted \$134.729 million (≈10%) of the NIFA appropriation. As passed by the House, H.R. 1 would retain \$17.329 million of that amount within four research lines. This is not sufficient. A·P·L·U urges the Senate to retain all of the research and extension project funds within the agency.

We understand that the Senate and the conference committee must determine precisely where such retained funds should be reallocated. Rather than offer specific recommendations, we suggest instead that any retained funds be allocated equitably among A·P·L·U's seven core priorities. (These programs are briefly described on the reverse of this sheet.)

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Smith-Lever 3(b)-3(c)

The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 established within each state a Cooperative Extension Service, an educational outreach arm to “extend” the results of scientific research at land-grant universities to farmers, consumers, communities, and the public at large. Educational programs focus on national priorities such as reducing obesity, ensuring a safe and affordable food supply, providing youth leadership development, protecting natural resources, and contributing to sustainable energy, economically viable communities, and strong agricultural businesses. The Act provides federal funds for the full array of cooperative extension activities at eligible institutions within the 50 states, D.C., and U.S. territories. Smith-Lever 3(b)-3(c) funds are distributed under a statutory formula, must be matched at least 1:1 (most states provide a higher match), and leverage county funds and other public/private monies.

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative provides peer-reviewed, competitively-awarded grants to support: (1) high priority fundamental and mission-linked research of importance in the biological, environmental, physical, and social sciences relevant to agriculture, food, the environment, and rural communities; and (2) competitively awarded research, extension, and education grants addressing key issues of national and regional importance to agriculture, forestry, and related topics.

Hatch Act

The Hatch Act of 1887 funds America’s national network of state-based, federally-supported food and agricultural research laboratories. An integral part of each state’s land-grant university, these “state agricultural experiment stations” address critical national, multistate, state, and local problems. Hatch Act funds are distributed under a statutory formula to eligible institutions in the 50 states, D.C., and the territories. A dollar-for-dollar match is required from the states, but this is the minimum requirement and many jurisdictions provide a greater amount.

Evans-Allen Act

The Evans-Allen Act of 1977 provides capacity funding for food and agricultural research at the 1890 land-grant universities and Tuskegee University (1890 Institutions) in a manner similar to that provided to the 1862 universities under the Hatch Act. Funds are distributed to eligible institutions under a statutory formula and eligible institutions are required to provide a 1:1 match.

1890 Institutions Extension

This program provides funding to the 1890 Institutions to provide useful, research-based educational opportunities that respond to the changing needs of limited-resource, minorities, and economically disadvantaged clients. This program supports extension activities similar to those provided by the 1862 universities under the Smith-Lever Act. Eligible institutions must provide a 1:1 match.

McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry

The McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act of 1962 provides funding to support forestry research, (which includes forests and related rangelands) at institutions offering graduate training in the sciences basic to forestry or having a forestry school. McIntire-Stennis funds are distributed to eligible institutions under a statutory formula with a dollar-for-dollar match required from the states.

Extension Services at the 1994 Institutions

The Extension Services at the 1994 Institutions program strengthens communities through outreach programs designed to foster economic development, community resources, family and youth development, natural resources stewardship, agriculture, and health and nutrition awareness. The program provides competitively awarded grants to the Tribal Colleges and Universities that received land-grant status under the Equity in Educational Land Grant Status Act of 1994.

