

# FY2011 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

## NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

# Smith-Lever

*Sustained funding is critically needed for the Cooperative Extension System, to help producers, consumers, families, and communities find science-based solutions to problems large and small.*

**E**stablished by Congress in the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, the Cooperative Extension System (CES) is a unique educational partnership of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and America's land-grant universities. The base source of funding for the CES is the annual Smith-Lever 3(b)-3(c) appropriation within the budget for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. These funds are matched at least dollar-for-dollar (most states provide a higher match) and leverage county funds and other public/private monies. Among many other things, Smith-Lever funds are vital to:

- Sustain profitable plant and animal production systems.
- Prepare youth, families and individuals for success in the global workforce and all aspects of life.
- Ensure an abundant and safe food supply for all while conserving valuable soil and water resources.
- Help families, youth and individuals to become physically, mentally, and emotionally healthy.

Despite these and other proven benefits, as shown below, the Smith-Lever appropriation failed to keep pace with inflation for 15 years!

**The land-grant system led a successful multi-year effort to reverse that decline, and this hard work must not be undone as Congress races to complete action on the FY 2011 appropriations bill. Smith-Lever funding must be increased or, at a minimum, maintained at its FY 2010 level. The \$29.827 million cut in the House version of H.R.1 must be restored!**



### Smith-Lever funding...

- Helps U.S. farmers be the most productive in the world.
- Provides information to consumers on selecting safe and nutritious food and products.
- Attacks obesity and diabetes through nutrition, diet, and exercise.
- Provides citizens access to CES resources 24/7/365 by using cutting-edge technology.
- Enables Extension to respond to emergency needs on farms and in communities.
- Sponsors programs helping farmers and consumers use energy more efficiently.
- Supports 6.5 million youth through 4-H programs in science, engineering, technology, citizenship, and healthy living.
- Saves millions of pounds of unneeded agricultural inputs and improves water quality in America's streams and lakes.
- Helps communities find solutions to issues of economic development and leadership.

**A·P·L·U urges members of the Senate and House to support the highest possible FY2011 Smith-Lever appropriation. Since both chambers have instituted an earmark moratorium, we urge the reallocation of these project funds to the Smith-Lever 3(b)-3(c) account and our other NIFA priorities.**

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

[www.land-grant.org](http://www.land-grant.org)

### Smith-Lever Funding Must be Maintained

Basic federal support for Cooperative Extension Services declined over 15 years until a bipartisan effort reversed the trend.

