

# Smith-Lever

*As Congress looks for alternatives to sequestration, completes the F. Y. 2013 appropriations process, and develops the F. Y. 2014 Agriculture Appropriations bill, 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 while adapting to varying climate.
- Ensure an abundant and safe food supply for all while conserving valuable soil and water resources.
- Prepare youth for success in the global workforce and all aspects of life.
- Contribute to community economic vitality.
- Help individuals and families improve health.



## A·P·L·U PRIORITY REQUEST

Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c).....\$294.000 M

### MAINTAIN SMITH-LEVER FUNDING!

**1. Sequestration.** Congress and the President must work out a fiscally-sound alternative to the scheduled sequestration cuts. *If it is not possible to avoid these reductions totally, then the effects on the Smith-Lever program must be minimized.*

**2. F. Y. 2013 Appropriations.** Congress must act expeditiously to complete the F.Y.2013 appropriations process and should maintain Smith-Lever funding at no less than the F.Y.2012 level of \$294.0 million.

**3. F. Y. 2014 Appropriations.** Once the F.Y.2013 appropriations decisions are final, Congress should complete the F.Y.2014 appropriations process in a timely way and fund Smith-Lever at no less than the F.Y.2012 level of \$294.0 million.

### A CROSS-SECTION OF SMITH-LEVER SUCCESSES

- Agro-economic studies have shown that each public dollar invested in agricultural research and extension generates \$20 or more in public benefits.
- The Master Gardener program annually provides more than 4.5 million volunteer hours, public value of \$96.5 million, and more than 800,000 pounds of produce for local food banks.
- The 6.2 million 4-H youth and 487,750 volunteers create positive change in every community. And, compared to their peers, 4-H youth are twice as likely to go to college and three times more likely to contribute to their communities.
- Community-based approaches are successfully changing nutritional behaviors, reducing risk factors for chronic disease, and producing significant health care cost savings.

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

## Appropriations Bill

Agriculture

## Agency

National Institute of Food & Agriculture

## Account

Extension Activities

## Program

Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c)

## Requested Amount

\$294,000,000

## Program Description

This program provides funding for delivery for Cooperative Extension System's wide array of programs which benefit the people of the United States.

## Authorization

7 U.S.C. 341, (Sections 3(b)-(c) of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, as amended).

## Eligible / Final Recipients

1862 land-grant universities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories.

## Matching Funds

States are required to provide at least a one-to-one match; most states provide much more than the minimum.

## President's FY 2014 Budget Request

Unknown at this time

## Five-Year Funding History

FY 2013 Unknown at this time

FY 2012 \$294,000,000

FY 2011 \$293,911,000

FY 2010 \$297,500,000

FY 2009 \$288,548,000

A·P·L·U requests that no less than \$294.0 million be appropriated for the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) program at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

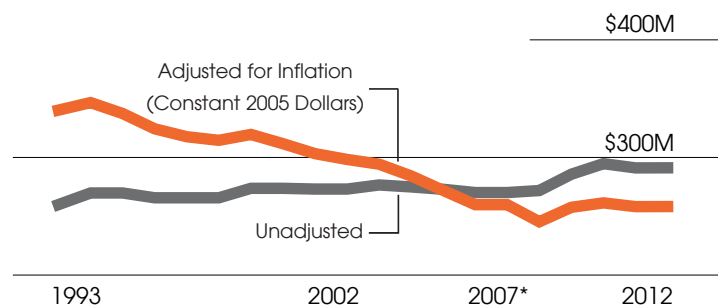
## Benefits / Impacts

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 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.
- Provides capacity for rapid response to urgent societal needs, such as the devastation to families and communities as a result of natural disasters.

## Smith-Lever Appropriation Must be Maintained

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



\*Data for FY 2007 not included in this chart because of a funding anomaly.