

Talking Points – not a leave behind

Introduction

- Explain the unique land-grant mission established by Congress to teach agriculture, conduct research, and disseminate information through extension. The challenges we address are not only regional and local, but of national and global significance; and because so few understand agriculture today, these challenges are often esoteric in nature and misunderstood. Without the constant support of land-grant capacity, our agricultural research system will not have the necessary infrastructure to address the challenges facing American farmers, ranchers, and consumers.
- Here to discuss 6 core programs that are essential to maintaining our premier agricultural research system: McIntire-Stennis, 1890s Extension, Evans-Allen, Hatch Act, Smith-Lever, and AFRI.
 - Land-grant capacity programs (McIntire-Stennis, 1890s Extension, Evans-Allen, Hatch Act, Smith-Lever,) provide base funding for America's land-grants to employ the scientists, extension agents, and educators required to respond to current and emerging challenges and to train the next generation of problem solvers.
 - AFRI is the nation's premier extramural agricultural research, education, and extension program that provides competitive dollars to address key issues of national and regional importance to agriculture, food, forestry, and related topics.
- When explaining the programs make them relevant to your state, personalize their impacts, and link them back to the specific NIFA programs for which we are requesting support.
- Stress that states help pay for this unique system--for every Federal capacity \$ appropriated, your home state of XX provides matching funds, often well in excess of the Federal funds.
- NIFA is the extramural partner of America's land-grant universities and is responsible for delivering these six core programs. The six programs we are seeking support for are not only the foundation of the land-grant system, they account for over 77% of NIFA's appropriated funding.
- Unfortunately, Federal funding for these vital programs has not kept pace with demand, need, or inflation:
 - All while the local, state, regional, national and global challenges we are charged with addressing have grown.
 - And, while our competitors' (China, Brazil, etc...) investments in agricultural science and competitiveness have grown substantially.

Ask

- \$200 million increase in NIFA's appropriated topline allocated to the six priority programs at the values indicated in the one-pager: McIntire-Stennis, 1890s Extension, Evans-Allen, Hatch Act, Smith-Lever, and AFRI.

Justification

- The American land-grant university system is the backbone of agricultural research and its integrated personnel, programs, and applications, are not only are vital to food production, but also jobs, national security, and health.
- The five capacity programs within NIFA provide just that: capacity. They are the program dollars that provide the nation's premier research, education, and extension institutions the infrastructure and personnel to implement agricultural and food research, extension and education. Funding the five core capacity lines leverages the potential and value of every other NIFA program, none of which exist without the capacity provided by the five foundations programs.
 - Hatch, Evans-Allen, and McIntire-Stennis provide funding for agricultural experiment stations, research for underserved populations, and forestry research.
 - Smith-Lever and 1890s Institution Extension provide funding for Cooperative Extension Services that share the practical research findings with members of the community and underserved populations. 4-H literally does not exist without this funding!
- AFRI is oversubscribed.
 - In FY 2015, AFRI received a total of 2,694 competitive grant applications, requesting almost \$1.8 billion. Through a competitive peer review process, 1,453 proposals were recommended and rated Outstanding, High Priority, and/or Medium Priority.
 - AFRI funds were available to make awards to the highest-ranked 569 proposals distributed across the six Farm Bill priorities in the amount of \$280.7 million.

APLU Request

- APLU's request was derived by taking \$200 million (a partial reflection of the demand, need, and inflation loss needed for the six priority programs) and allocating the \$200 million proposed increase among the six priority programs at the proportion of the programs' percent of the total of the six core APLU priorities.