

## USDA Hatch and Smith-Lever Funds

Future agricultural productivity is an imperative national issue. Sustainable plant and animal agriculture systems assure society a secure, healthy, economical food and fiber supply. Farms and rural communities benefit directly from new knowledge and technologies generated and disseminated by land-grant universities like the University of Idaho.

Hatch and Smith-Lever funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture provide basic capacity for agricultural research and extension programs at the University of Idaho, including funding the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension operational expenses and faculty and staff salaries. University of Idaho extension educators currently reside in 42 of 44 counties, but all 44 counties are served.

Funding in Federal FY14 totaled more than \$5.2 million, including nearly \$2.25 million in Hatch funds and nearly \$2.96 million Smith-Lever 3b-c funds. The University of Idaho Experiment Station and Extension faculty supported by Hatch and Smith-Lever funds generated more than \$15.6 million in additional non-institutional funds in 2013.



*Beef cattle grazing trial at the Nancy M Cummings Research, Extension and Education Center*

### Accomplishments

The University of Idaho's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) faculty contribute to the health of Idaho's people, crops, and economy with projects such as:

- CALs research and extension faculty helped manage potato diseases including bacterial ring rot, insect-caused zebra chip disease and potato virus Y. Faculty in CALs conduct research to develop sensitive detection procedures for bacterial ring rot in seed potatoes and educational programs that focused on practices to significantly reduce the occurrence of the disease in seed and commercial potato operations. CALs faculty also are studying the biology of the insect that spreads zebra chip disease to better forecast outbreaks of this disease, which reduces yield and causes discoloration, and develop effective control methods for the insect. Management practices are presented by Extension faculty to the potato industry. Potato virus Y threatens potato yield and quality by damaging seed potatoes and causing potato tuber necrotic ringspot disease. CALs faculty are developing new methods to monitor and eradicate the most dangerous strain of the virus and are seeking new virus-resistant genes for future potato breeding.
- The U-Idaho Extension Horizons program, with funding from the Northwest Area Foundation, brought leadership training and expertise to 49 small towns in Idaho between 2003 and 2011. Horizons spawned a fountain of community development projects, including Kelly's Whitewater Park in Cascade. In 2011, Kelly's generated approximately \$600,000 of new economic activity in Valley County, including 7.6 new seasonal jobs and about \$83,000 in new tax receipts.
- Eat Smart Idaho includes the UI Extension's grant-funded programs that bring nutrition education to low-income families. During 2012, Eat Smart Idaho reached nearly 20,000 low-income adults and children. Approximately 2,800 of the low-income learners were able to complete a series of four or more classes, causing a documented change in their diets that reduced their risk for diet-related diseases and reduced future health-related expenses by \$14.55 for each dollar spent to deliver the program.

Other important projects include developing new varieties of soft white winter wheat, connecting Idaho food companies with a food processing specialist, developing crop varieties and management systems designed to adapt to the changing climate, and investigating the use of manure and compost from dairies to replace nitrogen fertilizer.

### **Consequences of Reduced Funding**

The University of Idaho's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences has faced severe budget cuts in recent years. The college received a 17-percent reduction in federal funding from FY10 to FY13, adding up to more than \$1.1 million. The state of Idaho reduced the agriculture research and extension appropriation by \$6 million between FY09 and FY11. This cut contributed to a loss of 80 research scientist, staff, extension faculty, graduate assistant and undergraduate employee positions and a loss of \$2 million in maintenance and operations funding. In 2013, the state of Idaho did increase the agriculture research and extension budget by \$650,000 to help pay for research and extension center operational expenses. Though helpful, these funds do not come close to meeting the operational costs of our strategically-located R&E Centers.

Budget decreases will further hinder the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences' ability to respond to the research and extension needs of Idaho's agriculture, such as pest management and environmental quality issues, resulting in a diminished quality of life, especially in Idaho's rural communities.

**Request:** At least the FY 2014 level of \$243.7 million for Hatch Act and \$300 million for Smith-Level 3 (b) and (C).

**Account:** Agriculture Appropriations, NIFA, Research and Education Activities, Hatch Act and Smith-Lever 3 (b) and (C)

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