

USDA Hatch and Smith Lever Funds.

It is imperative that we have sustainable plant and animal agriculture systems that ensure society a secure, healthy, economical food and fiber supply; and there are very important issues on which our future agricultural productivity depends. Farms and rural communities will benefit directly from a constant flow of new knowledge and technologies generated and disseminated by our land grant universities.

UI Experiment Station and Extension faculty in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences supported by Hatch and Smith-Lever funds generated over \$22 million in additional extramural funds in 2011.

Hatch and Smith-Lever funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA NIFA), provide basic capacity for agricultural research and Extension at the University of Idaho, including salaries of Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension faculty and staff, and operational expenses. Funding in Federal FY12 totaled \$5,406,605, including \$2,690,531 Hatch (including regional research) and \$2,716,074 Smith-Lever 3b&c.

Accomplishments.

- Onion growers in the Treasure Valley are saving more than 400,000 gallons of water per acre, plus \$80 in fertilizer cost, through moisture monitoring and drip irrigation practices developed through applied research and educational programs conducted by CALS faculty.
- Idaho's dairies have the capacity to replace a combined 10 million pounds of inorganic nitrogen each year (costing Idaho farmers more than \$5 million) with high quality compost. Research and extension efforts by CALS faculty are addressing both the phosphorous reduction and compost utilization issues.
- To maintain advances in agricultural productivity, farmers are learning to apply treatments according to pest biology and population, and to rotate the use of chemicals to avoid certain pests becoming resistant to control measures. CALS faculty conduct these research and extension programs.
- Climate conditions are having a negative effect on cropping systems, carbon budgets and soil qualities throughout our region. Interdisciplinary teams of scientists are integrating modern biotechnology approaches with classical breeding practices to develop management systems and crop varieties adapted to these conditions.
- Stripe rust was the number one threat in 2011 for Idaho wheat growers and is expected back in 2012. Untreated, stripe rust can reduce wheat yields by up to 80%. CALS extension specialists and educators are already training growers on the best ways to battle stripe rust through variety selection



and timely application of fungicides. Extension specialists and educators also are seeking computer models to better predict potential threats. Additionally, UI wheat breeders are focused on developing new wheat varieties resistant to stripe rust.

Consequences of Reduced Funding.

The following table shows a 19.1% reduction in funding from FY10 to FY12 or nearly \$1,300,000, which contributed to an estimated loss of 20 positions, including research scientists, extension professionals, graduate assistants and undergraduate student employees. Additionally, the University of Idaho, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, has already suffered a 20% base budget reduction (~\$6 million) in its state agriculture research and extension appropriation during FY2009 and FY2010.

NIFA Program	FY 2010	FY 2012	Change
Hatch Act (Research)	\$2,423,386	\$2,690,531	\$ 267,145
Smith-Lever 3b-c (Extension)	\$2,734,597	\$2,716,074	\$ -18,523
Special Research Grants	\$1,523,783	\$ 0	\$-1,523,783
Total	\$6,681,766	\$5,406,605	\$-1,275,161

Potato production will decrease, insect and disease infestations will lower potato yield and increase loss in storage, and molecular genetics and plant production research in breeding program will be decreased. The 2011 Idaho potato crop had \$912 million in sales. Every 1% loss in production would cost Idaho’s potato producers over \$9 million annually.

Additional cuts to Hatch funds or USDA Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP) and Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) competitive grants programs will reduce our ability to develop drought resistant winter and spring wheat varieties adapted to changes in climate. Wheat production in the USA and the world will decrease resulting in an increased world hunger, reduced economic viability of rural communities, and an increased trade deficit.

For more information, please contact:

John K. “Jack” McIver, Vice President for Research and Economic Development
vpresarch@uidaho.edu | 208.885.6689 | www.uidaho.edu/research