

## **eXtension Federal Funding: FY 2011 Budget (and beyond)**

July 6, 2010

### **Situation:**

From FY 2006 through FY 2010, the Board on Agriculture's (BAA) Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC) and the Policy Board of Directors (PBD) included eXtension as a federal funding priority by supporting a request to increase the *New Technology for Ag Extension (eXtension)* Smith-Lever 3(d) line.

In November 2009, the PBD chose a different strategy for increasing support for eXtension by including \$5M in the FY 2011 Smith-Lever 3(b) & (c) funding priority request of \$350 million.

When Smith-Lever 3(b) & (c) funding is increased, a mechanism will be needed to transfer an appropriate portion of the increase from Smith-Lever 3(b) & (c) to eXtension. This transfer mechanism would apply only to the portion of funding increase in SL 3(b) & (c) from the current \$297.5M to \$350M.

Given this action by the PBD to increase eXtension via an increase in Smith-Lever 3(b) & (c), only 1862 land-grant institutions will be affected. If 1890 land-grant institutions should choose to increase their support of eXtension, other strategies and actions will need to be developed and pursued.

### **eXtension Federal Appropriation History:**

- **2006:** Due to the investment in eXtension by CES Directors and Administrators, NIFA supported and the federal government established a new 3(d) line, the New Technologies for Agricultural Extension (NTAE) line budgeted at \$1.5M.
- **2010:** The NTAE line in the USDA-NIFA budget was increased to \$1.75M.

### **Rationale for Increase:**

- eXtension remains a CES priority given past and present ECOP budget requests and the inclusion of eXtension in the FY 2011 Smith-Lever 3(b) & (c) request, which was re-enforced by the Policy Board of Directors of the BAA.
- eXtension has become a key venue for many faculty in their promotion and tenure portfolios.
- eXtension has been integrated into National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA) competitive grant programs (i.e., AFRI, SCRI, RAMP, PAMP, and many others). As a result, interest and support of eXtension is growing within CES, as well as within research and teaching.
- eXtension represents a national network that's raising the visibility of CES within NIFA, Congress, with other federal departments and agencies, and with private investors.

- eXtension was established due to the foresight and direction of CES Directors and Administrators.
- The investment by Directors and Administrators continues to leverage legislative support (i.e., NTAE), according to House and Senate Agricultural Appropriations staff.
- eXtension has evolved to more than 55 Communities of Practice (CoPs) resulting in increased multi-state collaboration, reduced duplication, and significant economic efficiencies at a time when state support has become increasingly challenged.

**Mechanism Language:**

Given the action of the PBD and in the event FY 2011 Smith-Lever 3(b) & (c) funding is increased, the following mechanisms are proposed. Both mechanisms assume that the *New Technologies for Ag Extension (eXtension)* Smith-Lever 3(d) line will remain funded at \$1.75M and that the current 0.8% assessment on Smith-Lever 3 (b) & (c) continues. Neither mechanism represents a permanent assessment in that it can be changed at any time by a vote of the directors and administrators, and it will apply only to the increase from \$297.5M to \$350M (an increase of \$52.5M) in Smith-Lever 3(b) & (c) funding.

*The Board on Agriculture Policy Board of Directors (PBD) at its November 2009 meeting changed the system strategy for pursuing the eXtension funding increase priority and added \$5M for eXtension to the Smith-Lever 3(b) & (c) budget request, raising the total Smith-Lever request to \$350M. The mechanism for enabling this PBD decision when an increase in Smith-Lever is realized is to use one of the following assessment rates to move the new funds to eXtension:*

- **Option A:** ...\$3.25M (5.39% of the increase in SL up to \$350M) – The budget request that the Cooperative Extension System had previously endorsed was to raise the NTAE from \$1.75M to \$5M, or an increase of \$3.25M.

-or-

- **Option B:** ...\$5M (8.72% of the increase in SL up to \$350M) – The amount that the BAA Policy Board of Directors added to the Smith-Lever request designated for eXtension was actually \$5M.