



Potential Impacts in the Northeast Region from the Elimination of Hatch, McIntire-Stennis and Animal Health Federal Formula Funds

The President's Budget Request for FY 2006 proposes to eliminate funding for programs that provide "base" research funding for land grant universities:

- Hatch (agriculture) funding would be reduced by 50% in FY 2006 and eliminated in FY 2007.
- McIntire Stennis (forestry) funding would be reduced by 50% in FY 2006 and eliminated in FY 2007.
- Animal Health and Disease (Sec. 1433) funding would be eliminated in FY 2006.

The elimination of this federal base of research support would have devastating impacts on the agricultural and natural resources research programs throughout the NE region's Land Grant universities. The following tables demonstrate the impacts in terms of funds and positions potentially lost.

Funding Sources at Risk, FY 2005

Funding Source	U.S.	Northeast Region
Hatch	\$178,707,000	\$29,417,928
McIntire-Stennis	22,205,000	2,761,720
Animal Health and Disease	5,057,000	368,319
Total	205,969,000	32,547,967
Estimated Northeast Region Match		\$83,366,745 estimated.

Estimated Regional Losses in Scientists (Faculty), Staff and Graduate Assistants

Positions	Potential Losses, in SY
Faculty	201
Staff	334
Graduate Research Assistants	406
Other	20

In addition to the loss of human resources, the NE region would experience numerous and significant negative impacts in a number of programmatic areas.

Impacts on Graduate and Undergraduate students:

- The loss of formula funds would severely impact teaching programs as numerous faculty members whose salaries are partially supported on federal formula funds and who also hold joint teaching appointments with teaching responsibilities at both the graduate and undergraduate levels would be lost to downsizing.
- Graduate students play a critical role in the research mission of the institutions and significant graduate support would be lost.
- Gains in minority faculty recruitment would be lost.
- Undergraduate would lose the opportunity to learn from outstanding scientists in the classroom as faculty positions shrink. Undergraduate research programs mentored by Experiment Station faculty would be significantly reduced.
- Future research capacity would be reduced due to fewer students graduating with advance degrees.
- Graduate students supported by grants would be less as research faculty numbers decrease.
- Ability to recruit top quality graduate students would diminish.
- Student/teacher ratios would be drastically increased due to fewer faculty and many classes would not be taught due to a lack of qualified instructors.
- Bottom line: The rich and robust undergraduate and graduate programs currently offered by many of our institutions would be severely and significantly diminished.

Impacts on NE Infrastructure:

- A significant portion of travel, operating services, supplies, and equipment which are currently covered by Hatch, McIntire-Stennis and/or Animal Health and Disease funding would not be available.
- Numerous field research sites, such as farms and forests, would no longer have the long-term funding base to support these research laboratories, and would be targets for closure. Competitive grants that often rely on the existence and availability of these facilities would be in jeopardy.
- Capacity to acquire and maintain expensive research equipment would be significantly impacted.
- Analytical laboratory services would be reduced or eliminated.
- Necessary repairs to aging structures and equipment would have be eliminated or delayed.

Impacts on the Ability to Leverage Funds:

- Faculty with partial salary support from formula funds leverage significant grant funds, including full indirect cost recovery, some of which would be lost as faculty numbers are reduced.

- As many major research initiative close, capacity to generate competitive fund from other agencies such as NIH and NSF would be severely reduced.
- Teams have been particularly successful in leveraging funds from grants and producer groups. Without the full complement of team members, the ability to obtain funds would be reduced.
- Faculty who are most likely to be terminated are the youngest, the most competitive and overall grant success would be diminished.
- Without the Federal formula funds that require matching state funds, the state and/or university may no longer feel obligated to provide current levels of support to the SAES and may choose to reallocate funds.
- Formula funds would not be available that have been used to leverage private and state funds to link programs between different states to allow research efforts to be regional, national or international in scope.
- There would be fewer funds available to meet cost-share requirements on grants.

Impacts on NE Research Programs:

- Multidisciplinary research teams that have improved agricultural production efficiently through long-term studies would not have formula funding to provide the basis of continuous support.
- Interdisciplinary teams that address national priority issues such as biobased products, water quality, animal waste management, and rural economic development would lose critical expertise and would not be able to maintain their current holistic efforts.
- Many innovative long-term research programs would not have been possible without formula funding as the continuing support base. Some examples of research areas in the NE region that would either be lost or seriously curtailed included:
 - Improvements to the N and P indices for application of crop fertilizers and the incumbent impacts on water quality
 - Reduced ability to respond rapidly and efficiently to critical energy issues/problems, e.g., Asian Soybean Rust, Asian Longhorned Beetle, Mad Cow Disease, Avian Influenza, West Nile Virus, and Eastern Equine Encephalitis.
 - Control and understanding of complex animal diseases and their implications to human health
 - Development of alternative enterprises to replace traditional agricultural cropping systems
 - Management of forage and grazing systems
 - Wildlife behavior and forest ecology
 - Environmental impacts related water quality, waste management, and air pollution.
 - Improved food quality from increased food safety and better post harvest technologies.
 - Reduced input production systems through IPM, biological control and more efficient irrigation systems

Summary

The data and impacts above clearly demonstrate the critical nature of Federal formula funds for long-term support of personnel, students, and infrastructure at many of the NE region's State Agricultural Experiment stations. Shifting formula funds into competitive grants would jeopardize the continuity and stability of the agricultural and natural resources research programs that currently ensure a high quality safe supply of food and fiber, strengthen our economy and improve lives.