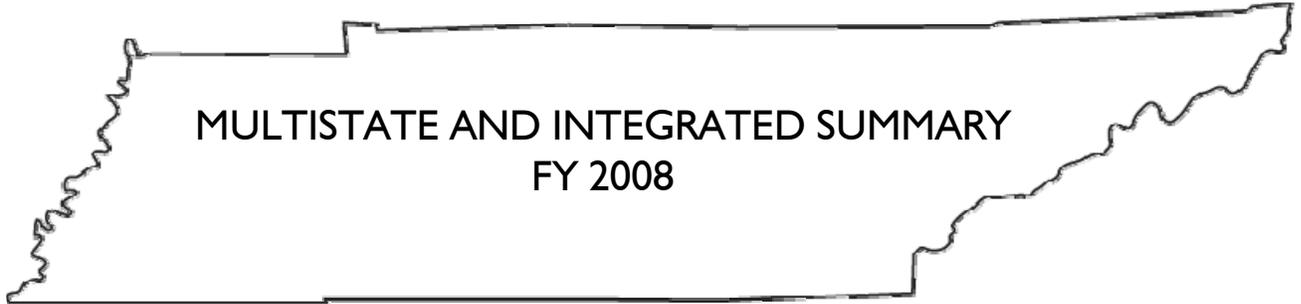


THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE EXTENSION



MULTISTATE AND INTEGRATED SUMMARY
FY 2008

AREERA SECTIONS 105 and 204

SMITH-LEVER FUNDS

Submitted to:

United States Department of Agriculture

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

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I. Introduction

In FY 2008, the University of Tennessee Extension met the multistate and integrated targets established for its Smith-Lever funds under Sections 105 and 204 of the Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Reform Act (AREERA) of 1998. The targets were recertified during FY 2008. This report is a summary of expenditures and specific program activities.

II. Multistate Extension Summary

UT Extension programs that represented both multistate and integrated efforts have been listed only in the integrated programs section of this report.

A. 4-H Positive Youth Development

National 4-H Congress (National)

Tennessee Extension 4-H specialists worked cooperatively with Extension personnel from across the nation to implement the 2008 National 4-H Congress in Atlanta. Tennessee Extension personnel provide leadership and operating support for this national event.

Southern Region 4-H Teen Leadership Conference (Regional)

Tennessee Extension 4-H personnel worked collaboratively with State 4-H Extension Specialists in all Southern Region states in hosting a regional teen leadership conference at the Clyde M. York 4-H Center in Crossville, Tennessee. More than 150 teens, Extension personnel and volunteers from across the region gained practical skills and knowledge in leadership and civic engagement.

B. Agriculture and Natural Resources

Entrepreneurship through Wines of the South Competition (Regional)

In 2008, the UT Extension-led “Wines of The South” competition provided a forum for southern wineries to compete in a unique venue and promote one another’s wine making skills. This allowed for comparisons and data to help make the wines even better. This equates to marketing advantages and increased sales and revenue for the wineries. The awards are used in promotional literature and to increase sales. This was the seventh year for this competition, conducted at the UT Conference Center, and there were 433 wines entered in 2008. Out of the potential fourteen states included in this regional competition, sixty wineries from thirteen states entered the competition.

Support for eXtension (National)

Tennessee has 15 Extension personnel that are active members of six eXtension Communities of Practice, including Imported Fire Ants, Horsequest, and Wildlife Damage Control.

Establishing Evaluation Community of Practice (National)

One Tennessee Extension Specialist in program development and evaluation cooperated with Extension personnel in seven states to propose a new eXtension Community of Practice in Extension Evaluation. One of the main outcomes of this effort for Tennessee will be to improve program evaluation for in-state and multistate agriculture and natural resources programs.

C. Family and Consumer Sciences

America Saves (National)

In 2008, UT Extension personnel continued their tradition of national leadership and collaboration in family financial management. The national America Saves campaign utilized the UT Extension framework for savings education for youth and young professionals. America Saves public service announcements were produced by UT Extension, in cooperation with national Extension partners.

III. Integrated Research and Extension Summary

In cases where UT Extension integrated programs are also multistate programs, the states have been delineated in parenthesis.

A. 4-H Positive Youth Development

National Health Rocks! Evaluation (National)

In 2008, Tennessee Extension specialists in Program and Staff Development worked collaboratively with Mississippi State Extension personnel to design and implement an online questionnaire to assist in evaluating the outcomes of this national program. More than 1200 youth in the national Health Rocks! program responded to the questionnaire, and the team began data analysis in 2008.

B. Agriculture and Natural Resources

How Farmers Learn (VA, LA)

In 2008, 55 Tennessee farmers and Extension personnel were interviewed in six focus groups as part of a multi-state research project to describe how farmers prefer to learn and the implications for sustainable agricultural education, especially Extension education. In Tennessee, farmers represented beef, forage, value-added and organic production. Preliminary findings indicated that Tennessee farmers prefer to learn through demonstrations, hands-on and one-on-one contact. In addition, the need for more Web-based resources in a user-friendly search format was identified. The Tennessee research was conducted by a team of six Extension personnel and three farmers. Researchers from UT, Louisiana State University and Virginia Tech are combining the results across the three states to describe ways that education can contribute to sustainable agriculture. This work was funded through Smith-Lever formula funds and Southern Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education.

Precision Agricultural Technologies

An integrated, multi-disciplinary research, education, and outreach program has been established to develop and disseminate information about precision agriculture management strategies that are profitable and practical for Tennessee producers. Field days, county and multi-county meetings, on-farm demonstrations, applied research projects and personal contacts were used to promote the adoption of precision agriculture technologies. UT Extension's educational effort to promote the adoption of precision agriculture technologies resulted in the following impacts:

- 81,104 acres of row crops were planted using variable seeding rates or variable application rates of fertilizers.
- 238 producers representing 182,649 acres have adopted precision agriculture technologies such as yield mapping or grid/zone soil sampling for making management decisions.
- 498 producers attending field days and county meetings increased their knowledge and skills of precision agriculture technologies related to row crop production.
- Tennessee producers sprayed variable rate applications of plant growth regulators, defoliant or pesticides on 115,740 acres of row crops.

Tennessee Cotton and Soybean IPM Success (AR and MS)

This multistate research project continued in 2008. The project involves Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi researchers to evaluate pest sampling procedures and thresholds.

Women in Agriculture (IL)

In 2008, UT Extension conducted Annie's Project, a program targeting the needs of women in agriculture developed by University of Illinois Extension farm management specialists. The program was conducted in three Tennessee counties (Weakley, Obion and Lake) with 15 women, all from small family farms.

Participants' post-program interviews and questionnaires showed that they felt empowered because of the knowledge and skills they gained to be business partners on the farm.

Improving Corn Profitability

Improving profit margins for corn producers benefits the economy of Tennessee. Since yield improvements may be obtained with proper variety selection, UT Extension and the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station cooperated to conduct variety trials and other on-farm research on best management practices. Tennessee produced over 550,000 acres of corn for grain in 2008. Many counties across the state had dry growing conditions during middle and late season which impacted corn yields.

Program impact from 18 counties includes:

- 1299 corn producers used data provided by UT publications or UT Internet resources and made changes in their production practices.
- 1519 corn producers reported harvesting higher corn yields or better quality crops using university trial results.
- Producers increased yield by 35,211 bushels by selecting top yielding varieties on 442,810 acres of corn.

Organic Dairy Production

UT Extension collaborated with the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station to conduct research and educate dairy producers about the opportunities and constraints for organic dairy production. This effort included research and outreach focused on the use of pasture for dairy cattle. In addition, specialists and agents educated dairy producers on improving health and reproductive performance of their herds by improved cow management, improved cow comfort, increased use of pasture and high quality forage, and by selection and crossbreeding. This work was funded by Smith-Lever and Hatch funds.

C. Family and Consumer Sciences

UT Obesity Research Center

In 2008, six UT Extension specialists from Family and Consumer Sciences, Animal Science, and Food Science and Technology served the UT Obesity Research Center, a multi-disciplinary team formed to study and take action in obesity prevention and treatment. The Associate Dean for Extension Family and Consumer Sciences serves on the steering committee for the Center, and it is collaboratively funded by the UT Office of Research, UT Extension, Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station and the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences. In 2008, Extension faculty and center researchers began team projects on three fronts: basic science, population research and clinical interventions.

Healthy Steps for Young Children

Too many young children are gaining unhealthy amounts of weight leading to chronic disease at increasingly younger ages. Healthy Steps, a nutrition and physical activity curriculum was used to reach child care, Head Start, and Pre-K classrooms. In 2008, a questionnaire for teachers was created and validated to measure program impacts through youth behaviors and choices.

Power U

Tennessee youth are among the most obese in the nation. In 2008, UT Extension continued the Power U program as an integrated research and Extension program aimed at describing and implementing ways to help fourth graders adopt a healthier lifestyle. In 2008 UT and TSU Extension conducted over 900 group meetings with over 20,000 educational contacts. A total of 766 volunteers supported Power U reaching an additional 5,008 educational contacts. Impact data was collected using a behavior checklist survey that showed 59% of students decreased their intake of high-fat foods and 64% decreased their intake of high-sugar foods including sweetened beverages.

Tennessee Shapes Up

Tennessee Shapes Up is a multi-disciplinary, integrated program to improve health. In 2008, it was implemented in 53 counties with a total 52,884 educational contacts through 1,241 group meetings, client visits to Extension office, direct mail, telephone calls and onsite visits to home or workplace. An additional 1.7 million educational contacts were made through mass media to promote healthy eating and weight management. Impact data was collected using a behavior checklist survey. A select number of participants were surveyed to determine program impact. The behaviors measured are the healthy lifestyle practices essential in achieving and maintaining healthy weight and preventing chronic disease.

- 73% (3,471) reported they increased intake of fruits and vegetables.
- 73% (3,328) reported they increased consumption of whole grains.
- 84% (5,780) reported they improved their blood pressure.

Family Economics: Money Crunch (KY, KS and FL)

Money Crunch builds on the overwhelming success of the Tennessee Saves program, targeting young employees and college students. The Money Crunch multistate team worked on a major grant application in 2008 that will, if fully-funded, reach young adults with education to make decisions regarding personal finances, including retirement packages and health care cost issues. As an integrated project, this program seeks to understand motivations and responses of college students and young employees.

TEAM UP Tennessee (AL, GA, IL, KY, MS, MO and SC)

The TEAM UP Tennessee program targets women in 11 Appalachian counties in Tennessee for breast and cervical screening. This program is coordinated by UT Extension with Extension personnel in seven states. In 2008, data collection began to correlate the TEAM UP program outcomes and contacts with breast and cervical cancer rates in counties, communities and states served.

V. Contact Information

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