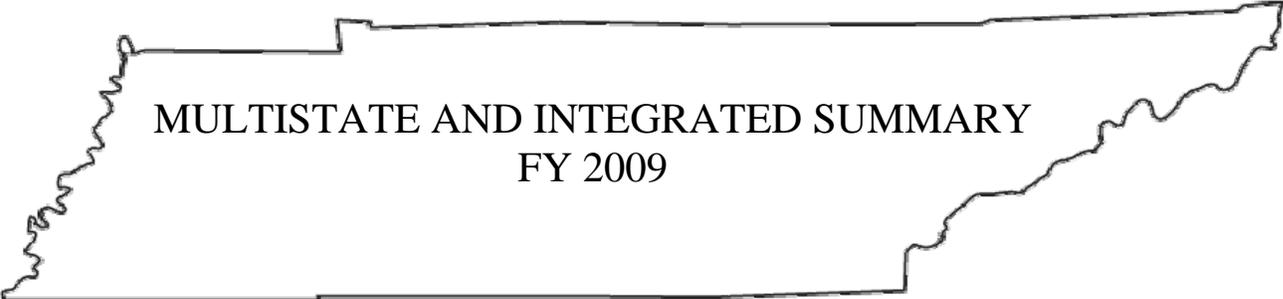


THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE EXTENSION



MULTISTATE AND INTEGRATED SUMMARY
FY 2009

AREERA SECTIONS 105 and 204

SMITH-LEVER FUNDS

Submitted to:

United States Department of Agriculture

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

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I. Introduction

In FY 2009, 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 2009 National 4-H Congress in Atlanta. Tennessee Extension personnel provided leadership and operating support for this national event.

Southern Region 4-H Leader Forum (Regional)

Tennessee Extension 4-H specialists worked cooperatively with Extension personnel from across the Southern Region to plan and conduct the 2009 Regional 4-H Leader Forum in Eatonton, Georgia. Tennessee had 36 adult volunteers and Extension staff in attendance. The forum helps volunteer leaders to develop their skill set and strengthen 4-H programs in their local communities.

Southern Region 4-H Teen Leadership Conference (Regional)

Tennessee Extension 4-H personnel worked collaboratively with State 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 125 teens, Extension personnel and volunteers from across the region gained practical skills and knowledge in leadership and civic engagement.

B. Agriculture and Natural Resources

Southern Region Integrated Pest Management Center (Regional)

Tennessee has created an information network that assist The Southern Region Integrated Pest Management Center (SRIPMC) to support IPM efforts within the southern region. UT Extension assisted SRIPMC in compiling information concerning pest management in apple and peach production during FY 2009 for Tennessee's crops. Past crop pest profiles were completed at the beginning of 2009 and include; grape, blueberry, tobacco, wheat and dairy cattle. In 2009, UT Extension also provided information to the Environmental Protection Agency on the critical use exemptions of methyl bromide in strawberry, pepper, cucurbits and turfgrass production. This action helped retain the use of this critical pesticide, reducing possible crop losses by an estimated \$24 million during a single production season.

Support for eXtension (National)

Tennessee has at least 15 Extension personnel that are active members of six eXtension Communities of Practice (CoP) leadership teams, including Imported Fire Ants, Horsequest, and Wildlife Damage Control.

Best Practices for Livestock Systems Evaluation (National)

UT Extension contributed an accountability report, a statewide beef impact report, to the National eXtension Evaluation CoP. The report was used by the CoP as one of eight model evaluation reports from around the country. The report was featured during one of the 2009 Evaluation CoP virtual professional development seminars.

C. Family and Consumer Sciences

America Saves (National)

In 2009, UT Extension personnel continued their tradition of national leadership and collaboration in family economics program. 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 4-H SET Study (National)

UT Extension's Evaluation Specialist served as the Southern Regional 4-H Liaison for the National 4-H SET Study focused on youth engagement and knowledge. The Liaison coordinated Institutional Review Board submissions and staff communications between and among Oklahoma, Alabama and Kentucky Extension personnel and the study's principal investigators. This work was funded by Smith-Lever funds, Noyce Foundation and National 4-H Council.

Health Rocks! (National)

UT Extension contributed to the evaluation protocol used in this national project. The national instrument administered to youth participants used the decision-making and healthy lifestyles scales validated in Tennessee. The UT Extension Evaluation Specialist served as a consultant to the national implementation team at Mississippi State University and shared results with numerous national stakeholders and professional groups, including the American Evaluation Association.

Shooting Sports (Mississippi)

Tennessee Extension contributed to a research project being conducted by Mississippi State University graduate students and faculty. The projects sought to describe decision-making skills that may or may not be attained by youth in the Mississippi 4-H shooting sports program. Instruments developed by UT Extension specialists (and pilot-tested by UT Extension agents) were employed in this study.

B. Agriculture and Natural Resources

Reducing Risks in Fruit and Vegetable Production (National)

Cucurbit downy mildew causes sudden, unexpected losses to cucurbit crops. Cases are sometimes severe and difficult to suppress after the initial onslaught. UT Extension participated in a national monitoring and forecasting system for cucurbit downy mildew aimed at prudent use of the downy mildew fungicides. Sentinel plots that included susceptible varieties of cucurbit crops were established at three locations, to serve as warnings to growers that the disease had arrived. These plots were the first cucurbits in the state to contract the disease, and growers were notified of its presence through newsletters and group meetings. Warnings were issued to growers when the disease appeared in the sentinel plots in 2009. Avoidance of disease losses resulted in substantial savings to growers. In addition, the sentinel plot program – and the educational program associated with it – spotlighted the disease and created interest and awareness that will contribute to future disease control efforts.

How Farmers Learn (VA, LA)

In 2009, Tennessee Extension continued to implement the results of a recent “How Farmers Learn” research project. Over 50 farmers 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. Results were presented at numerous professional meetings including the American Evaluation Association and the Professional Agricultural Workers’ Conference. In Tennessee, professional improvement meetings were planned for all Extension agricultural agents and specialists. 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:

- 320,438 acres of row crops were planted using variable seeding rates or variable application rates of fertilizers.
- 863 producers representing 481,178 acres have adopted precision agriculture technologies such as yield mapping or grid/zone soil sampling for making management decisions.
- 1070 producers attending field days, workshops 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 291,928 acres of row crops.

This work was funded through Smith-Lever funds and grants from Cotton, Inc.

C. Family and Consumer Sciences

Parenting Apart: Effective Co-Parenting Independent Study

An independent evaluation of Parenting Apart: Effective Co-Parenting was conducted by an independent evaluator utilizing data from 19 Tennessee counties. Using a retrospective post-then-pre design, 139 participants reported their knowledge gain in two areas: (a) the impacts of divorce and of putting children in the middle of conflict, and (b) strategies to reduce conflict with one's former spouse. Two-month follow-up interviews were used to assess behavior change in two areas: (a) using techniques to manage post-divorce conflict with one's former spouse, and (b) implementing strategies to keep children out of the middle of conflict. The following results were reported:

- The participants reported knowledge gain and behavior change in each of the four respective areas.
- It was also found that knowledge gain in regards to the impact of divorce and putting children in the middle of conflict predicted behavior change in regards to implementing strategies to keep children out of the middle of conflict ($p < .05$).

This integrated research and Extension program was funded by user fees and Smith-Lever funds.

UT Obesity Research Center

In 2009, six UT Extension specialists from Family and Consumer Sciences, Animal Science, and Food Science and Technology continued their service on 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.

UT Extension's involvement in the Obesity Research Center is primarily in two critical research and Extension areas: population research and clinical interventions. Integrated programs explore such issues as access to affordable food, creating a more walk-able community, and building inter-agency partnerships. In 2009, UT Extension faculty continued a research project of the "Destination ImagiNation" participants, about 8,500 youth who attend an annual conference at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville campus. This study is examining environmental and behavior patterns affecting obesity. The youth are part of a problem-solving and creative thinking competition, and the UT research team hypothesizes that participation in such activities produces positive health behaviors and outcomes.

Power U

Tennessee youth are among the most obese in the nation. This has serious health consequences and may impact their ability to be productive members of society. The Power U program was implemented as an integrated research and Extension program in 161 classrooms in 29 Tennessee Counties. There were a total of 700 group meetings with 15,285 educational contacts. There were an additional 10,992 educational contacts through exhibits, newspaper articles, TV and radio programs, and other promotional items. A total of 974 volunteers supported Power U reaching an additional 3,251 educational contacts. Power U is an interactive curriculum that makes learning fun for both the student and teacher. Through tasting parties, students are exposed to a variety of

new fruits and vegetables. The foods are presented in ways that are pleasing to 4th graders. Impact data was collected using a behavior checklist survey and through teacher and parent comments.

- 2,752 youth increased intake of whole grains
- 2,830 youth decreased their intake of high-sugar foods including beverages.
- 2,890 increased the time they spent in physical activity.
- 3,087 increased their intake of fruit and vegetables.
- 2,877 increased intake of dairy foods.

The integrated project demonstrates that exposure to a variety of fruits and vegetables at a young age increases their likelihood of the food's adoption and is important for healthy prevention of obesity. Increasing physical activity and decreasing intake of sugar helps maintain caloric balance essential for healthy weight.

Healthy Steps for Tennessee's 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 implemented in 35 Tennessee counties in 2009. 4,473 direct contacts were made in Voluntary Pre-K, Head Start and center-based classrooms; 141,675 indirect contacts were made through exhibits, newspaper articles, publications and television. In addition 1,553 preschool teachers and volunteers delivered education. Surveys were completed by 200 teachers at the end of the program to document program outcomes.

- 92% reported preschool children in their classes were more actively engaged in physical activity.
- 97% reported preschool children in their classes were more willing to taste fruit.
- 90% reported preschool children in their classes were more willing to taste vegetables.
- 84% reported preschool children in their classes were more willing to taste whole-grain foods.
- 89% reported using nutrition educational activities from Healthy Steps at least once a week.
- 81% reported using physical activities from Healthy Steps at least three times per week.

Tennessee Shapes Up

Tennessee is the fourth worst state for overweight and obesity with a prevalence of about 68% of the adult population. Tennessee Shapes Up is a multi-disciplinary, integrated program to improve health. UT Extension's Tennessee Shapes Up program was implemented in 55 of the 95 Tennessee counties. Extension agents conducted 4,172 group meetings with 92,607 educational contacts.

Impact data was collected using a behavior checklist survey:

- 2,476 reported they increased intake of fruits and vegetables.
- 1,844 reported they increased consumption of whole grains.
- 1,700 engaged in physical activity for at least 30 minutes five or more days during most weeks.
- 1,499 people reported they lost an average of 4.2 pounds. This was a total of 2950 pounds lost.

IV. Summary of Multistate and Integrated Expenditures with Smith-Lever Funds

U.S. Department of Agriculture
 Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
 Supplement to the Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results
 Actual Expenditures of Federal Funding for Multistate Extension and Integrated Activities

Fiscal Year: 2009

Select One: Interim Final
 Institution: University of Tennessee Extension
 State: Tennessee

	Integrated Activities (Hatch)	Multistate Extension Activities (Smith- Lever)	Integrated Activities (Smith- Lever)
<i>Established Target %</i>		10%	15%
<i>This FY Allocation (from 1088)</i>		\$8,275,433	\$8,275,433
<i>This FY Target Amount</i>		\$827,543	\$1,241,314
Title of Planned Program Activity			
A. 4-H Positive Youth Development		\$204,484	\$217,385
B. Agriculture and Natural Resources		\$1,022,423	\$2,565,143
C. Family and Consumer Sciences		\$233,696	\$1,565,172
Total		\$1,460,603	\$4,347,700
Carryover		-0-	-0-

Certification: I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that this report is correct and complete and that all outlays represented here accurately reflect allowable expenditures of Federal funds only in satisfying AREERA requirements.


 Tim L. Cross, Dean, UT Extension

March 31, 2010

V. Contact Information

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