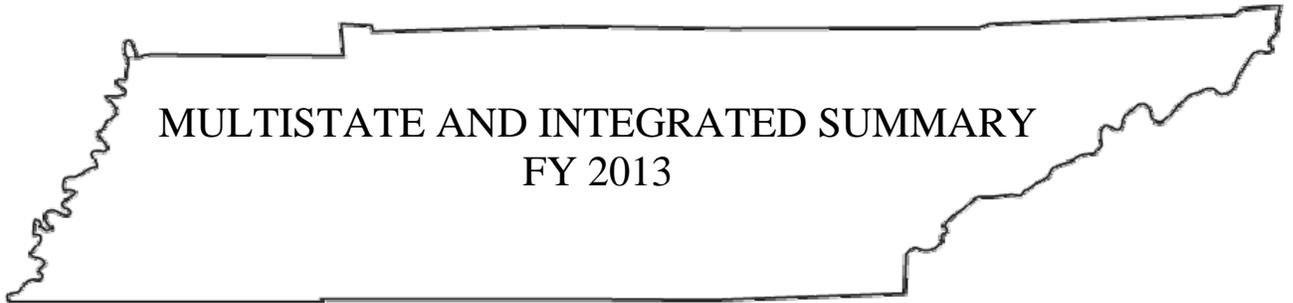


THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE EXTENSION



MULTISTATE AND INTEGRATED SUMMARY
FY 2013

AREERA SECTIONS 105 and 204

SMITH-LEVER FUNDS

Submitted to:

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I. Introduction

In FY 2013, 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 2013 National 4-H Congress in Atlanta. Tennessee 4-H specialists provided leadership and operating support for this national event.

Southern Region 4-H Horse Championships (Regional)

Tennessee Extension 4-H personnel assisted in conducting the Southern Region 4-H Horse Championships held in West Monroe, Louisiana. Youth demonstrated their hands-on equine management skills and gained knowledge in equine science.

4-H Volunteer Leader Conference of Southern States (Regional)

Tennessee Extension 4-H specialists worked cooperatively with Extension personnel from across the Southern Region to plan and conduct the 2013 4-H Volunteer Leader Conference of Southern States in Eatonton, Georgia. The forum helped volunteer leaders to develop their skill set, cooperate with other volunteers from throughout the region, 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 Camp in Crossville, Tennessee. This conference is jointly planned by the University of Tennessee, the University of Kentucky, and an advisory group of 15 teens. More than 150 members, Extension personnel, and volunteers from across the region gained practical knowledge in implementing service-learning programs and supporting project groups in their communities.

B. Agriculture and Natural Resources

Tri-State Beef Conference (North Carolina, Virginia)

Extension personnel from Tennessee, Virginia and North Carolina planned and conducted the second Tri-State Beef Conference in 2013. Regionally and nationally known speakers presented educational information on forage economics, cattle health management, risk management, nutrition, and marketing. The event was held in Abingdon, Virginia with 106 producers and 39 agribusiness representatives. The producers were from four states (Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, and West Virginia). All producers were surveyed at the end of the conference, and 100% indicated that they planned to adopt new practices. The economic impact of those new practices totaled \$174,000 in additional farm income.

Household and Structural Integrated Pest Management Program (National)

The University of Tennessee Extension's Urban Integrated Pest Management program has developed successful management strategies for pests found in and around structures. This success has brought our program national recognition as we were requested to teach 1,671 pest management professionals from throughout the country in 2013. Assuming that we saved at least one account for each of these contacts, our strategies were worth about \$835,000 to the pest management industry. In 2013, quiz scores from the four Wood-destroying Organisms and General Rodent Control sessions have increased from pre- to post-training by 30% and 25%, respectively.

Apicultural Programs (National)

Agriculture depends on healthy honey bees, maintained by beekeepers to pollinate numerous crops. The University of Tennessee is one of 17 institutions collaborating to reverse managed bee decline. As lead institution, the University of Tennessee formed, certified, and maintained the eXtension Bee Health Community of Practice with 38 leaders and 120 members from 37 states. In 2013, use of the Bee Health eXtension website increased by 17.1% over the previous year with more than 214,000 page views. The Bee Health Community of Practice is an important resource for the UT Extension Beemaster program, and in 2013, more than 100 Tennesseans completed the program. These beekeepers learned how to save honeybee colonies from various catastrophes, including parasitic mites, with an estimated 10,500 bee colonies saved. The total value of the saved colonies, hive parts, and honey production was \$5.7 million.

C. Family and Consumer Sciences

eXtension Involvement (National)

Tennessee Extension personnel have addressed over 800 Frequently Asked Questions through eXtension. In 2013, highlights of Tennessee Extension's Family and Consumer Sciences eXtension involvement included the following:

- 12 Tennessee Extension personnel served on the Community of Practice for *Families, Food and Fitness*.
- 11 Tennessee Extension personnel served on the *Financial Security for All* Community of Practice.
- Four Tennessee Extension personnel served on the *Food Safety* Community of Practice, including the leader, a specialist in the UT Extension Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.
- Two Tennessee Extension personnel served on the on the Community of Practice for *A,B,C's of Omega 3's*.
- Five Tennessee Extension personnel were active on the *Family Caregiving* Community of Practice.

Tennessee Extension personnel shared implementation strategies, outcome measurement, and evaluation protocols with their Community of Practice colleagues.

Program Evaluation Network (Mississippi, Florida, Maine, Michigan)

The Program Evaluation Network (PEN) is a custom-built software that contains valid and reliable questionnaires to measure the results of Extension programs. Since 2008, PEN has been used by to survey approximately 250,000 individuals in programs that served 1 million individuals. PEN has helped Extension professionals to improve their programs and to communicate program results to stakeholders. As a result of UT Extension seminars and webinars, five institutions used the PEN software in 2013: Alcorn State University, University of Florida, University of Maine, Tennessee State University, and Michigan State University.

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

4-H Healthy Living Professional and Volunteer Development Needs Assessment (National)

Tennessee Extension specialists completed a national needs assessment of professionals and volunteers working in 4-H Healthy Living Programs in coordination with the state 4-H program leaders at the nation's 1862, 1890, and 1994 land grant institutions and National 4-H Headquarters within USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. State 4-H program leaders nominated national experts to serve on five different study panels; 37 national experts participated. The results indicated that professionals and volunteers need training and technical assistance to address all dimensions of human health (physical activity, unintentional injury, injury prevention, social/emotional development, healthy eating, and substance abuse). The results also showed the need for affordable programming, and the results will inform professional development and training.

4-H Health Rocks (Nebraska)

Tennessee Extension specialists and administrators worked with researchers at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln (UNL) to implement *4-H Health Rocks Study of Middle School Students: A Quasi-Experimental Design* in Tennessee. UNL researchers visited Knoxville, Tennessee to plan the project and explore partnerships opportunities for 4-H programming. Tennessee continues to have the largest Health Rocks program in the nation, and in the 2013 program year, more than 19,000 youth completed 10 hours of the Health Rocks curriculum.

B. Agriculture and Natural Resources

Solar Energy and Energy Sustainability

In 2013, the University of Tennessee Department of Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science initiated an integrated research and Extension program to promote solar energy and sustainability. Programs were conducted in 32 Tennessee counties. Homeowners, farm operators, and businesses have conducted 154 energy assessments, implemented 307 energy conservation and efficiency improvements, and installed 20 solar energy systems as a result of this program.

Quality Deer Management (National)

In 2013, we continued our integrated research and Extension program in Quality Deer Management. A series of four one-day workshops were implemented with the Quality Deer Management Association for 112 landowners representing 28 states. Participants reported that they learned science-based strategies for managing white-tailed deer, and an end-of-program survey showed an average 75% knowledge gain.

Agronomic Variety Testing Program (Kentucky)

Agronomic crop producers in Tennessee and Kentucky need unbiased variety performance data on which to base their purchasing decisions. Replicated variety tests were conducted on corn, soybeans, wheat, and some specialty crops at seven of UT's Research and Education Centers. County Standardized Variety Trials were conducted on corn, soybeans, and wheat in large strip-trials on producer's farms in 28 Tennessee counties and five Kentucky counties. Data from all of these crop trials were compiled and published together on the variety trial website and printed copies were distributed to farmers, seed industry representatives, consultants and other interested clientele. Based on surveys conducted by extension agents with grain producers in northwest Tennessee, over 90% of the producers reported that they base their variety buying decisions on data provided in UT variety test publications. In 2013, the increased income per year to those grain producers was over \$123 million.

Native Grasslands Management (Kentucky, Alabama)

Native grasslands were once abundant in the region and today can play a vital role in agricultural systems (forages, biofuels production) and conservation of imperiled ecosystems in Tennessee and across the eastern United States. An integrated, multi-disciplinary research and extension program has been established to develop and disseminate information about native grassland management strategies that are profitable and practical for Tennessee producers. During 2013, 10 field days were conducted and demonstration projects were maintained on six Research and Education Centers as well as two sites in Kentucky, and one site in Alabama. Tennessee Extension professionals also participated in the 25-state National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative, and in 2013, this program focused on shortleaf pine restoration.

C. Family and Consumer Sciences

Community, Local, and Regional Food Systems (Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia)

A multi-state working group of 20 Extension and research specialists from six institutions (University of Kentucky, North Carolina State University, Mississippi State University, West Virginia State University, Virginia Tech, and the University of Tennessee) worked throughout 2013 to strengthen the region's local food systems. The group developed an asset inventory of Extension resources related to community, local, and regional food systems. More than 60 regional assets were identified, and this inventory will aid in identifying model programs to replicate across the Southern Region. This group also developed common measures to document the impact of Extension's efforts in community, local, and regional food system initiatives.

UT Obesity Research Center

In 2013, seventeen UT Extension specialists from Family and Consumer Sciences, Animal Science, Plant Sciences, 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. This effort is collaboratively funded by the UT Office of Research, UT Extension, Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station and the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences. Integrated programs explore such issues as access to affordable food, creating a more walk-able community, and building inter-agency partnerships.

Tennessee Shapes Up

UT Extension Family and Consumer Sciences faculty implemented an integrated research and Extension program called *Tennessee Shapes Up* in 60 Tennessee counties in an effort to reverse the obesity trend in Tennessee. 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. Various program evaluations reached 5,899 with these results:

- 78% reported eating more grains.
- 68% reported decreased consumption of high-sugar foods.
- 78% reported engaging in physical activity for 30 minutes or more on 5 or more days per week.
- 64% reported improvements in blood pressure.
- 45% reported improvements in blood sugar.
- 79% reported using labels to make healthier choices.
- 47% reported losing weight. A total of 3,707 pounds were lost with average weight loss per participant of three pounds.

Healthy Steps (North Carolina)

In 2013, almost 31% of children enrolled in kindergarten in Tennessee were overweight or obese. Research shows that children who were overweight in kindergarten were four times more likely to become obese nearly a decade later than five-year-olds of a healthy weight. *Healthy Steps*, a nutrition and physical activity curriculum produced by the UT Extension Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, uses popular preschool themes to teach nutrition and physical activity, such as counting, home, and family. *Healthy Steps* incorporates into these themes the *Color Me Healthy* curriculum from the North Carolina State University. *Healthy Steps* was implemented in 18 Tennessee counties in 2013; 3,117 direct contacts were made in Voluntary Pre-K, Head Start and center-based classrooms. Surveys were completed by teachers at the end of the program to document program outcomes:

- 98% reported preschool children in their classes were more actively engaged in physical activity.
- 99% reported preschool children in their classes were more willing to taste fruit.
- 98% reported preschool children in their classes were more willing to taste vegetables.
- 95% reported preschool children in their classes were more willing to taste whole-grain foods.
- 95% teachers reported using physical activities from *Healthy Steps* at least three times per week.

V. Contact Information

Inquiries regarding this report should be directed to:

Dr. Tim L. Cross, Dean

The University of Tennessee Extension

2621 Morgan Circle

121 Morgan Hall

Knoxville, TN 37996-4530

phone: 865-974-7114

facsimile: 865-974-1068

email: tlcross@tennessee.edu