UF/IFAS Workload $3,882,213 recurring

Submitted by State University System Board of Governors (BOG)

This funding request is for an increase in the UF/IFAS Workload. Funding for our Workload increases capacity for UF/IFAS and enables researchers to provide solutions to problems and challenges faced by the agricultural and natural resources industries as well as our communities.

UF/IFAS extension agents educate the industries, producers and communities on new technologies and production practices. UF students benefit from learning about and helping with the latest research.

The Workload Formula determines the cost of increased workload based on the increased demand for research and extension with the increasing Florida population. It is based on a 3-year rolling average of the cost of delivery of programs and services. It was developed at the request of and approved by the Florida Board of Governors (BOG) in 2004.

The Workload Formula uses extension delivery methods to measure increases in workload by both extension and research faculty in the form of workload delivery units. The model uses non-traditional teaching methods such as field consultations, office consultations, telephone and email requests, group workshops, and printed materials as well as patents and licenses.

According to the most recent National Science Foundation figures, UF has ranked first or second among US universities in total agricultural sciences research expenditures since fiscal year 2001.

UF/IFAS has a $610 million economic contribution to the state supplying 8,862 jobs. Sponsored research within UF’s Agriculture and Natural Resources or IFAS accounted for $166.2 Million dollars for the 2017-2018 year and state expenditures for Research and Extension accounting for $199.5 million.

UF/IFAS Extension and Research covers a wide and diverse set of issues that support Floridians.

Return on investment:

- Workforce training – increasing income by as much as 32 percent
- Beef cattle research resulting in $2 million to $7 million in savings to the Florida cattle industry each year
- Creating new industries such as blueberries (industry didn’t exist in Florida 20 years ago); now a nearly $70 million industry
- Development of more efficient drip irrigation systems with the potential to reduce water consumption by nearly 2 billion gallons per week
- Family Nutrition Program improved health-related behavior in Pre-K through 5th grade students between 72% and 93%
- From 2013-2017, 858 crop variety licenses were executed with 67% obtained by Florida based growers. For example, 90% of commercial strawberries planted in Florida are UF/IFAS varieties