

1 AN ACT concerning agriculture.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The County Cooperative Extension Law is amended
5 by changing Section 8 as follows:

6 (505 ILCS 45/8) (from Ch. 5, par. 248)

7 Sec. 8. County extension education funds.

8 (a) The county governing board shall annually consider the
9 total budget certified by the county or multi-county extension
10 board in order to consider the total funds needed for
11 Cooperative Extension Service programs in the county. The
12 county governing board may appropriate and pay 50% of the total
13 so determined from the general corporate fund or other
14 available funds or from an existing extension education tax of
15 the county for the extension educational program in the county
16 or multi-county group of which it is a part, provided that the
17 amount so appropriated shall not exceed \$54,400 in counties of
18 less than 10,000 inhabitants, \$61,200 in counties of 10,000 or
19 more but less than 20,000 inhabitants, \$68,000 in counties of
20 20,000 or more but less than 30,000 inhabitants, \$91,000 in
21 counties of 30,000 or more but less than 50,000 inhabitants,
22 \$117,000 in counties of 50,000 or more but less than 100,000
23 inhabitants, \$156,000 in counties of 100,000 or more but less

1 than 250,000 inhabitants, \$233,000 in counties of 250,000 or
2 more but less than 500,000 inhabitants, \$311,000 in counties of
3 500,000 or more but less than 1,000,000 inhabitants and
4 \$583,000 in counties of 1,000,000 or more inhabitants. The
5 amount to be so appropriated by the county governing board may
6 be reduced by the total of any private gifts or grants
7 specifically made to support the county extension programs
8 included in such determination, and may also be reduced by the
9 fair market value of office space furnished the Cooperative
10 Extension Service by the county governing board, provided it is
11 suitable for extension needs and meets the housing standards
12 adopted by the Cooperative Extension Service.

13 In order to provide matching funds, which shall not exceed
14 an amount equal to 50% of the funds needed as provided herein,
15 and funds for the purpose of general support to counties for
16 Cooperative Extension programs the State will recognize those
17 needs and shall ~~may~~ make an annual appropriation from the
18 Agricultural Premium Fund or any other source of funding
19 available.

20 On or before October 15 of each year, the director of
21 extension of the University of Illinois shall forward to the
22 Director of Agriculture, the Governor, the Speaker of the House
23 of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of
24 Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the Minority
25 Leader of the Senate, a report of the determinations made by
26 the various county governing boards of the total funds needed

1 for Cooperative Extension Service programs in the respective
2 counties. The State matching funds and funds for the purpose of
3 general support shall be included in an appropriation request
4 by the Department of Agriculture for the next State fiscal
5 year. That request shall be separate and apart from the
6 operating appropriation request for the Department of
7 Agriculture. The funds so appropriated by the State to the
8 Department of Agriculture shall be deposited into the State
9 Cooperative Extension Service Trust Fund and transferred as
10 provided in Section 8 (d) of this Act. The Department of
11 Agriculture shall have no responsibility for or control over
12 the cooperative extension service or its programs.

13 All funds provided pursuant to this Act may be used for
14 operations or facilities.

15 (b) If sufficient funds are not available from the general
16 corporate fund or if sums greater than the maximum listed above
17 are needed for the county's share of the extension education
18 program, the county governing board shall have the power to
19 increase by not more than .05 per cent, with approval by
20 referendum, the maximum rate at which it levies, or can levy,
21 taxes for general county purposes. Such additional rate shall
22 not be included within any statutory limitation or rate or
23 amount for other county purposes and shall be in addition
24 thereto.

25 Any county that under this Cooperative Extension Law has
26 approved a rate by referendum prior to the effective date of

1 this amendment, shall have authority to continue such tax as
2 approved, but may use the provisions of this subsection as
3 amended provided that another referendum must be held if the
4 rate desired is greater than the rate previously approved.

5 (c) Upon approval by resolution the county board shall
6 certify the resolution and the question of the adoption of a
7 levy sufficient to produce the sums determined by the county
8 board to the proper election officials, who shall submit the
9 question to the electors of the county at an election in
10 accordance with the general election law. No such levy shall be
11 made until the adoption by majority vote of the electors voting
12 on the proposition.

13 (d) Funds received from local sources and funds
14 appropriated by the county governing board or the State for the
15 county extension education program in any county shall be paid
16 over to the University of Illinois.

17 (Source: P.A. 89-691, eff. 12-31-96; 90-591, eff. 7-1-98.)

18 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
19 becoming law.