

NIFA in the News – Week of July 30, 2012

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In the News

Crickets, other insects could meet global protein needs (Hagstrom Report, 7/23)

Most Americans think of insects as pests, and Sonny Ramaswamy, director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, has spent most of his career trying to reduce their population in crops. But when the land-grant colleges took exhibit space at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington this month, the director of the NIFA gave a demonstration on how to cook curried crickets. [Link](#)

Federal Funding to Develop Next Generation of Farmers at University of Maryland College Park (PoliticalNews.me, 7/29) U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Barbara A. Mikulski (both D-Md.) announced that the University of Maryland (UMD) College Park has been awarded a grant through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture for their Maryland Collaborative for Beginning Farmer Success program to help beginning farmers learn about and establish successful farms. [Link](#)

Richenbach on NIFA Special Assignment (UW-Madison News, 7/30) Over the next year, Mark Rickenbach, Forest & Wildlife Ecology, will be on special assignment to the Institute of Bioenergy, Climate, and Environment within the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. His work will focus on evaluation and planning of the agency's natural resource, bioenergy, and climate change portfolios. [Link](#)

Purdue Scientist Recognized for Pest Control Research (Fruit Growers News, 7/30) A Purdue University researcher is among three agricultural scientists recently named as recipients of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. Dr. Ian Kaplan's research on pests and beneficial insects in plant systems was funded by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. He was honored for his work on insect predator ecology and plant-insect interactions in specialty crops. [Link](#)

Drumming and Dancing Group Helps Latino Youth to Better Lives (IIP Digital, 7/30) About 100 kilometers north of San Francisco in the small city of Windsor, California, a youth organization that is more than a century old is helping underprivileged Latino teenagers stay in school and out of gangs. The 4-H clubs across the United States are sponsored by the youth development office of the U.S.

Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

Newly Appointed USDA Official Visits Fort Valley State (FVSU Review, 8/1)

The director of a government agency with ties to Fort Valley State University has been on the job only ten weeks, yet he visited the institution on July 26. Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy's U.S. Department of Agriculture agency, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), provides funding to land-grant institutions such as FVSU. He visited the campus to see firsthand what programs the university is offering. [Link](#)

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