

NIFA in the News – Week of May 23, 2011

Curious as to what happens to all the news releases you see in the [NIFA newsroom](#)? Here's the weekly summary of NIFA in the news for the week of May 23, 2011.

Did you know you can receive NIFA's news releases via email? It's the easiest way to get the news as it happens. [Sign up in our newsroom!](#)

In the News

Tennessee identifies Large Animal Care Shortage Areas (Clarksville Online 5/22). The Tennessee Department of Agriculture has identified four areas of the state that are now eligible for USDA assistance in filling a shortage of large animal veterinary practitioners. The USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture's Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) will pay up to \$25,000 each year towards qualified educational loans of eligible veterinarians who agree to serve in an underserved area for three years. [Link](#)

Cornell researchers improve access to affordable, healthy food (Ithaca Journal 5/22). Cornell University researchers are involved in a \$5 million project to determine whether greater reliance on regionally produced foods could improve food access and affordability. "Enhancing Northeastern Food Security with Regional Food Systems" is a five-year project administered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

U of I researchers look at climate change and grain production (Twin Falls Times News 5/24). That's why nitrogen management is one of the key components of a new federal grant project that will evaluate the impacts of climate change on wheat and barley production in the Palouse region of Idaho, Oregon and Washington. The five-year, \$20 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture was announced in February. University of Idaho is the lead university on the project that includes 40 researchers and 14 graduate students from Idaho, Washington State University, Oregon State University and the USDA Agricultural Research Service. [Link](#)

UCCE to lead technology transfer in new honey bee health initiative (Western Farm Press 5/24). The technology transfer component of a newly funded nationwide initiative designed to monitor and maintain honey bee health will be hosted by the University of California Cooperative Extension in Butte County. The "Bee Informed Partnership" was created with a \$5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and

Agriculture. Technology transfer is headquartered in Butte County because of the locale's importance to beekeeping nationwide and Cooperative Extension's established leadership in honeybee research and extension. [Link](#)

Vet loan repayment applications due July 8 (Cattle Network 5/24). Applications are now being accepted for a federal loan repayment program that helps veterinarians working in underserved areas off-set the cost of earning a veterinary medicine degree, said Agriculture Secretary George Greig today. Applications for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program, which reimburses up to \$25,000 per year of student loan costs, are due July 8. [Link](#)

House Appropriations to Look at Ag Spending Bill (Farm Futures 5/24). A House Appropriations Subcommittee will mark up a \$17.2 billion 2012 ag spending bill on Tuesday. That's nearly \$2.7 billion less than Congress' final fiscal year 2011 amount, which was a 14% reduction from the year before. Under a legislative draft released Monday, discretionary funding for ag research would be reduced by \$354 million next year with nearly \$200 million coming from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA's primary extramural research agency. [Link](#)

Potato research tackles starch content and pests (Scientist Live 5/25). Howard Judelson at the University of California, Riverside, has received a US\$9m (EUR6.2m), five-year grant from the United States Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture USDA-NIFA to research late blight and ensure a sustainable and long-term control of this devastating disease. [Link](#)

Cellana Gets Funding to Formulate New Algae-Based Animal Feed (AZ Cleantech 5/25). Cellana, a Hawaii-based company engaged in the development of algae-based biofuels and bioproducts, has obtained a three year grant of \$5.5 million through a competitive selection process to formulate a protein supplement as a spin-off product from algae during the biofuel production process and to establish its dietary and economical value in cattle feeds. National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), which comes under the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Biomass Research and Development Initiative Biomass Program of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), have provided the needed funding for the program. The program aimed to augment the availability of clean renewable fuels and bio-based products will assist to broaden the range of energy resources of the nation. [Link](#)

UGA gets \$1M climate change grant (Atlanta Business Chronicle 5/25). The University of Georgia researchers won a \$1.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture to identify and promote ways pine forests can be used absorb the blows of climate change. [Link](#)

UGA researchers win \$1.34 million climate change grant (Red and Black 5/25). Researchers and an outreach specialist at the University have been awarded a \$1.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture to identify and promote ways pine forests can be used to mitigate and adapt to climate change. [Link](#)

Mysterious disorder threatens bees (The Sentinel 5/26). The USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, led by Penn State University, has launched a nationwide network to

monitor and maintain honey bee health through the Bee Informed Partnership at beeinformed.org. The project will take an epidemiological approach to identify common bee-management practices and use them to develop best practices, according to a press release from Penn State. [Link](#)

UGA to help solve nationwide honey bee problems (Southeast Farm Press 5/26). University of Georgia bee expert Keith Delaplane will work with a nationwide network to monitor and maintain honeybee health, particularly the causes of CCD, where bees abandon the nest causing the colony to literally collapse. The Bee Informed Partnership will use a five-year, \$5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture to do the work. [Link](#)

Bee Informed Partnership (Mid-South Farmer 5/27). A nationwide network to monitor and maintain honey bee health is the aim of the Bee Informed Partnership, a five-year, \$5 million program funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Penn State University is the lead institution. The Bee Informed Partnership will use an epidemiological approach to identify bee common management practices and use them to develop best practices on a regional and operationally appropriate level. The Partnership will include many institutions already involved in pollinator work, but will also strive to include citizens involved in beekeeping or other aspects of the problem for data collection and integration. [Link](#)