

NIFA in the News – Week of June 20, 2011

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In the News

USDA program targets counties' need for vets (Knoxville News Sentinel 6/16).

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture has identified four areas of the state that are eligible for federal assistance in filling a shortage of large-animal veterinarians. The financial assistance will help vet students pay up to \$25,000 each year toward their student loans provided they agree to serve in one of the underserved areas of the state for three years. A vet student's financial aid comes under the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

Study will focus on swine heat stress (High Plains Journal 6/18).

An Iowa State University animal scientist is leading a research project to understand the physiological impacts of heat stress on pigs. Baumgard is heading a team of animal scientists that will study how heat affects swine in several areas including nutrition, reproduction, muscle biology and immunology. The \$2.5 million research project is funded for five years by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

Study takes in-depth look at forestlands and communities (East Oregonian 6/20).

The challenges, hopes and fears of a rural area economically dependent on forests are the subjects of a study under way by the University of New Hampshire in cooperation with the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and other agencies. A grant-funded project called "Community and Forest: Linked Human-Ecosystem Responses to Natural Disturbances in Oregon" is under way, looking at ecological, social and economic conditions in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest ecosystem. The project is funded through a \$400,000 grant from the Disaster Resilience for Rural Communities Program, a part of the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

Ag in the Classroom Receives USDA Grant (Wisconsin Ag Connection 6/20).

Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom Program was recently awarded a

\$10,000 grant from U.S. Department of Agriculture for an agricultural literacy project called Telling Our Agricultural Story. "We often have farmers and teachers call with concerns over misinformation being taught in classrooms, movies, books or other events related to our food supply and methods of production," said Darlene Arneson, Ag in the Classroom Coordinator. "Now with Telling Our Agricultural Story program funds we will put together a set of resources and lesson plans that can be used in a classroom setting, with youth groups such as 4-H and FFA, and in educational displays." [Link](#)

Michigan State researchers get \$5 million US grant to increase cows' feed-to-milk efficiency (The Republic 6/21). Michigan State University says its researchers have received a \$5 million federal grant to study ways to improve dairy production and sustainability worldwide. He and other Michigan State researchers got the grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

MSU animal science researchers awarded \$5 million (State News 6/21). MSU researchers have been awarded a \$5 million grant from the Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Researchers in the MSU Department of Animal Science will use the grant to study genetics related to the efficient production of milk in cows, said Rob Tempelman, professor of animal science and member of the research initiative. [Link](#)

USDA grant to build sustainable community food systems (ECN Magazine 6/21). To foster the growth of equitable, healthful and sustainable community food systems, Cornell will receive \$1 million of a five-year, \$5 million multistate project. The "Food Dignity: Action Research on Engaging Food Insecure Communities and Universities in Building Sustainable Community Food Systems" project is led by Christine Porter, Ph.D. '10, an assistant professor of public health at the University of Wyoming. The project, funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, grew out of Porter's Cornell Ph.D. dissertation in the field of nutritional sciences. [Link](#)

Ag Gets \$5 Million Grant to Study Food Insecurity, Systems (US Ag Net 6/21). As part of a national initiative to reduce food insecurity, faculty in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences will direct a new \$5 million project to study whether greater reliance on regionally produced foods could improve food access and affordability for disadvantaged communities, while also benefiting farmers and others in the food supply chain. Funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the project -- "Enhancing Food Security in the Northeast with Regional Food Systems" -- brings together researchers, educators, entrepreneurs and community leaders from a 12-state region to shed light on how the food system can better serve all Americans. [Link](#)

\$5 million grant goes to Michigan State University to study possibility of feeding cows less but getting more milk (Kalamazoo Gazette 6/22). U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture awarded Michigan State University animal science researchers \$5 million to study ways to increase the efficiency and sustainability of milk production — breeding dairy cows that produce

milk with less feed. It's an important question in a world with a growing population and a decreasing amount of available land suitable for growing crops. [Link](#)

Obese Dieters' Brain Chemistry Works Against Their Weight-Loss Efforts (Science Daily 6/23). If you've been trying to lose weight and suspect your body's working against you, you may be right, according to a University of Illinois study published in *Obesity*. Funding was provided by grants from the National Institutes of Health, including the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award, and the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

UOG ecologist earns grant to thwart pesticide use for regional tomato farmers (Pacific Daily News 6/23). A University of Guam chemical ecologist and entomologist has received a \$188,000 grant to conduct studies to find new pest-control methods for tomato farmers. Western Pacific Tropical Research Center scientist Gadi V.P. Reddy has been educating farmers on the alternatives to pesticide use and has recently been awarded the grant from USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture Pest Management Alternatives Program. [Link](#)

UI to received \$4.5M for food safety research (CNBC 6/23). The University of Iowa has been awarded more than \$4.5 million for food safety research. The funding, announced Thursday, is from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Iowa is one of 24 institutions to receive grants to conduct research to reduce food-borne illnesses and deaths. Sen. Tom Harkin says in a news release that the research will help consumers have access to safer food. [Link](#)

University of Iowa receives food safety grant (KCRG TV9 Morning News 6/24). The University of Iowa has been awarded more than \$4.5 million dollars for food safety research. The funding is from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The U of I is one of 24 institutions to receive grants to conduct research to reduce food-borne illnesses. [Link](#)

UOG scientist wins USDA competitive funding (PhysOrg 6/24). Western Pacific Tropical Research Center (WPTRC) scientist Dr. Gadi V.P. Reddy is concerned about the effect of toxic agricultural chemicals on the health of island residents and ecosystems. He has been educating farmers on the alternatives to pesticide use and has recently been awarded an \$188,000 grant from USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA) Pest Management Alternatives Program (PMAP). Dr. Monte P. Johnson, National Program Leader with USDA-NIFA congratulated Dr. Reddy on his award saying, "Competition was tough." Dr. Reddy's grant was one of six projects funded by PMAP in this grant cycle. [Link](#)

Published on June 24, 2011 / Jennifer Martin