

NIFA in the News – Week of July 11, 2011

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In the News

PSU, others battle cuts (Central Daily Times 7/6). Efforts to reduce state funding cuts to Penn State's cooperative extension and agriculture research programs failed, leaving the College of Agricultural Sciences the job of deciding how to cut expenses by \$10.5 million. Congress established land-grant universities in the 1800s to teach agriculture, science and engineering. It expanded their mission to include agricultural experiment stations to conduct research, and cooperative extension programs to translate research into practical help for farmers and the larger public. Much federal support for these programs flows through the National Institute for Food and Agriculture, which took a 9 percent cut this fiscal year. Extension supporters largely beat back a House-passed \$30 million cut in a key category of federal matching funds within NIFA that supports salaries for a wide range of extension services, including county agents and 4-H. But a fiscal 2012 funding bill that passed the GOP-controlled House last month cuts \$35 million in those extension funds from the current level of \$294 million. The Democratic-controlled Senate has yet to act. [Link](#)

USDA Strengthens Efforts to Address Citrus Greening (Southeast AgNet 7/11). The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today that it seeks to establish a Citrus Disease Research and Development Advisory Committee comprised of representatives from both the citrus producer and scientific communities. USDA will invest \$2 million this year into research on the disease at the U.S. Horticultural Research Laboratory, a USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) laboratory located in Ft. Pierce, Fla. USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has committed to focusing \$9 million in a three-year, competitive grants program targeting citrus greening. [Link](#)

USDA approves research funds for fighting citrus greening (Orlando Sentinel 7/11). The U.S. Department of Agriculture said Monday it will spend \$11 million on scientific research to fight citrus greening, a bacterial disease that has been spreading tree to tree in Florida. The money will be awarded between now and 2014, with \$2 million funneled to Florida-based researchers immediately and the rest coming from a USDA competitive-grant program. The citrus industry in Florida totals more than 8,000 growers cultivating more than 500,000

acres. The first outbreak of citrus greening in the state was confirmed in the fall of 2005. [Link](#)

USDA commits \$11 million to stop devastating citrus tree disease (WINK TV - FL 7/11). The federal government is stepping in to try to stop the latest threat to Florida's citrus industry. The USDA announced \$11 million will go toward research to stop the spread of citrus greening. It's a tree disease that first showed up in Florida in 2005, completely devastating some groves. Greening now can be seen in pockets of groves throughout the state, including DeSoto County in southwest Florida. [Link](#)

USDA to contribute \$11M to citrus greening research (Bradenton Herald 7/12). The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Monday it would provide \$11 million over four years for research into the devastating bacterial disease called citrus greening. The money will be awarded between now and 2014, with \$2 million going this year to the U.S. Horticultural Research Laboratory at Fort Pierce, the department said in a press release. The rest of the money is slated to finance competitive grants through the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, it said. [Link](#)

Nelson secures citrus greening disease research funding from USDA (Fresh Plaza 7/12). Florida Citrus Mutual learned today that U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will fund \$11 million for citrus disease research over the next four years. Stopping citrus greening, a bacterial disease that attacks crops, is crucial to the future of the state's \$9 billion citrus industry. The money will be awarded between now and 2014, with \$2 million going to Florida-based researchers immediately and the rest of the funding coming from a USDA competitive grant program. "We deeply appreciate this initial quick infusion of desperately needed research funding to supplement what Florida growers have already spent," said Michael W. Sparks, executive VP/CEO of Florida Citrus Mutual. [Link](#)

Pesky water plant could treat cancer, SFA researchers say (KTRE Channel 9 7/12). Few people would ever think the invasive water weed, giant salvinia could someday be the primary ingredient of a cancer-treating drug. That is unless you're Dr. Shiyou Li, research professor and director of SFA's National Center for Pharmaceutical Crops (NCPC). Part of the NCPC project is funded by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. [Link](#)

Cooperative Extension's Cuentos en familia gets literacy grant (Reno Gazette Journal 7/12). University of Nevada Cooperative Extension's Family Storyteller program for Spanish-speaking parents has been awarded a \$140,000 continuation grant from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture that will allow it to expand and teach literacy skills to more people in Reno and Sparks. [Link](#)

USDA to provide \$11 million for citrus greening disease research over 4 years (TC Palm – FL 7/12). Florida Citrus Mutual has announced this week that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will fund \$11 million for citrus disease research over the next four years. "Stopping citrus greening, a bacterial disease that attacks crops, is crucial to the future of the state's \$9 billion citrus industry," officials of the 8,000-member group said in a news release. The money will be awarded between now and 2014, with \$2 million going to Florida-based researchers immediately and the rest coming from a USDA competitive grant program. A board of producers and scientists from leading citrus producing states including Florida,

California and Texas will oversee and evaluate the funding and research announced. U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will appoint the board members. [Link](#)

Oregon torrefaction company scores second USDA grant (Biomass Power and Thermal 7/13). Oregon-based torrefaction plant developer HM3 Energy Inc. said USDA has notified the company that its National Institute of Food and Agriculture Small Business Innovative Research phase 2 grant proposal has been accepted, and the company will receive \$500,000 pending final administrative review. HM3 received \$90,000 in phase 1 of the program, to develop an economical method to remove almost all rocks and soil from wet and dirty forest waste feedstock without using water. Spokeswoman Mary McSwain said the phase 2 grant will help the company with construction of HM3's equipment testing and process demonstration facility in Troutdale, Ore., in preparation for its first commercial torrefaction plant to be located in Prineville, Ore. [Link](#)

USDA Grant to Support New E. coli Research into Cattle's GI System (Nebraska TV 7/13). University of Nebraska-Lincoln scientists are taking their battle against foodborne pathogens such as E. coli O157:H7 into the belly of the beast, as it were -- hoping to figure out what is in the gut of some livestock that makes them so-called "supershedders" of pathogens. The research team, headed by food microbiologist Andy Benson, received a five-year, \$2.35 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The project will build on earlier work done with lab mice by Benson and his collaborators. [Link](#)

USDA grant to support new E. coli research into cattle's GI system (Drovers Cattle Network 7/13). University of Nebraska-Lincoln scientists are taking their battle against foodborne pathogens such as E. coli O157:H7 into the belly of the beast, as it were – hoping to figure out what is in the gut of some livestock that makes them so-called "supershedders" of pathogens. The research team, headed by food microbiologist Andy Benson, received a five-year, \$2.35 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The project will build on earlier work done with lab mice by Benson and his collaborators. [Link](#)

NAHLN funding is critical, but in jeopardy (Drovers Cattle Network 7/14). The U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA) reports that the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) may see a reduction in its FY2012 federal funding. The U.S. House of Representatives, Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee initially removed line item funding from within the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Recently, as the US House of Representatives deliberated the FY2012 agriculture appropriations bill, an amendment was approved to restore funding to the National Animal Health Laboratory Network under the NIFA Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative, but this issue is not fully resolved. [Link](#)

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