

NIFA in the News – Week of February 6, 2012

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In the News

UC Davis partners in beef E. coli prevention (Western Farm Press 2/3). The University of California, Davis, is participating in a large-scale research effort aimed at preventing potentially fatal illnesses linked to E. coli bacteria. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is funding the \$25 million, coast-to-coast project, to which UC Davis is providing expertise in livestock health, foodborne disease and consumer food marketing. The project, announced Jan. 23 by the USDA, aims to reduce the occurrence of and public health risks associated with Shiga toxin-producing E. coli. The research effort is led by the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. [Link](#)

Community-based Obesity and Type 2 Diabetes Prevention Programs for Children (Diabetes Health 2/4). Research suggests that low-income communities of color have the highest risk of developing these diseases. Due to greater inherited risk, African-American and Latino children have an up to eight-fold higher risk of developing obesity and diabetes than Caucasians. Low socioeconomic status further increases the risk. Interventions that prevent obesity and diabetes are vital in preserving a future for ourselves, our children, and our families. Our recently completed project, Taking Action Together, aimed to reduce the rate of type 2 diabetes in overweight African-American children. The program was developed in collaboration with experts in nutrition, exercise physiology, medicine, public health, psychology, education, and cultural sensitivity. Principal Investigator Professor Sharon E. Fleming received funding from USDA CSREES grants, the Agriculture Experiment Station, and the YMCA. [Link](#)

E. coli research will not target distillers grains (DTN/Progressive Farmer 2/6). Although a \$25 million USDA research grant will not specifically target the incidence of E. coli in beef cattle fed distillers grains, researchers may still find information along the way, according to Jim Keen, DVM, associate professor of epidemiology at the University of Nebraska's Great Plains Veterinary Educational Center. USDA recently announced it awarded a research grant to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to help understand how E. coli pathogens travel through the beef production process, how outbreaks occur, and how to prevent illness and

improve the safety of the food supply. Agricultural Research Service studies on distillers grains are cited in the story. [Link](#)

North Dakota scientists part of the huge USDA T-CAP grant (Farm and Ranch Guide 2/9).

Robert Brueggeman, NDSU plant pathologist in Fargo, N.D., and Timothy Friesen, USDA ARS Northern Crop Science Laboratory in Fargo, N.D., announced that work they are conducting with malting barley varieties resistant to spot form net blotch is part of the huge USDA Triticeae (barley and wheat) Coordinated Agricultural Project Grant (T-CAP). USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) awarded a \$25 million grant over five years for wheat and barley research to a team led by Jorge Dubcovsky, University of California-Davis and Gary Muehlbauer, University of Minnesota. [Link](#)

'Successful options for grass-fed beef' in La Crosse Feb. 11 (AgriView 2/9). Successful options for profiting from grass-fed beef production are the focus of a Land Stewardship Project (LSP) workshop being held Feb. 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at People's Food Co-op in La Crosse. These workshops are supported in part by the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

Colony collapse survey falls short (Capital Press 2/9). A lack of funding has prevented the USDA from studying the full impact of colony collapse disorder on beehives throughout the country. Congress authorized the USDA to spend \$2.75 million a year for such a survey of the syndrome, known as CCD, under the last farm bill. But that money wasn't appropriated, according to an internal agency audit. [Link](#)

USDA awards grant for food safety research (High Plains Journal 2/9). The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that it has awarded a research grant to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to help reduce the occurrence and public health risks from Shiga toxin-producing E. coli (STEC) along the entire beef production pathway. [Link](#)

