

NIFA in the News – Week of June 18, 2012

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In the News

Feral hog data online...Extension site offers public info (Times Record News 6/16) Texas AgriLife Extension Service, part of the Texas A&M University System, along with other land-grant university Extension entities and agencies in a multistate Feral Hog Community of Practice, have launched an important new resource, said a top project participant. The U.S. Department of Agriculture through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, as well as the national Cooperative Extension system, provided tools and resources to allow for creative collaboration among scientists and stakeholders to address important public issues like feral hogs. [Link](#)
Sonny Ramaswamy, director of National Institute of Food and Agriculture (Washington Post Live 6/19) (Quote from Sonny's participation on the Future of Food Forum 2012) "I grew up at a time in India where I was in a food insecure situation. And what America's investments did [including] the creation of land-grant colleges in India . . . allowed me to eat, allowed me to get educated, and here I am today. Young people do not find it interesting enough to want to get into this wonderful discipline of agricultural sciences. They're going where the money is at. . . . We're in deep trouble if we don't fix it. [Link](#)

Researchers take novel approach to honey bee plight (Western Farm Press 6/20) Iowa State University is taking a team approach in studying what is behind the disappearance of honeybees known as "Colony Collapse Disorder." Amy Toth, assistant professor in Iowa State's ecology, evolution and organismal biology department, was awarded an Agriculture and Food Research Initiative grant by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to explore the importance of nutritional stress and viruses on honeybee health. She is working with researchers Allen Miller and Jimena Carillo-Tripp in the plant pathology and microbiology department and Bryony Bonning in the entomology department. [Link](#)

WVU joins battle against pasture parasites; Research targets sheep industry's biggest woe (WVU Today 6/20) While lamb and wool prices are at an all-time high,

the sheep industry is facing a devastating threat in the form of destructive parasites. “Parasites are becoming resistant to every drug we have on the market,” said Scott Bowdrige, an assistant professor of food animal production at West Virginia University. “It’s a huge, huge problem.” Bowdrige, with the help of a \$150,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture, is working on a solution. [Link](#)

How engaged are your employees? (Drovers Cattle Network 6/21) MSU

Extension is initiating a project to improve communication on the farm. This project is supported with funding provided by the North Central Center for Risk Management Education and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). [Link](#)

Eureka Genomics Lands a National Institute of Food and Agriculture Award for \$100,000 (Globe Newswire 6/21)

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), USDA issued a \$100,000 award for the development of Bovine Parentage Genotyping by Highly Multiplex Next Generation Sequencing. This project is related to a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) between Eureka Genomics and the Agricultural Research Service, USDA to develop a low cost, low-density marker assay (LDMA) focused on the bovine industry. The core technology for low cost high-throughput genotyping will have applications across animal, plant and clinical markets. [Link](#)