

NIFA in the News – Week of July 18, 2011

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In the News

NAHLN funding is critical, but in jeopardy (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](#)

University of Nebraska to study climate change (North Platte Bulletin 7/17). The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension has been awarded \$4.1 million from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture for a five-year study of climate change and animal agriculture issues. The overall goal of the proposed project is for Extension, working with partner organizations, to effectively inform and influence livestock and poultry producers and consumers of animal products in all regions of the U.S. to move animal production toward practices that are environmentally sound, climatically compatible and economically viable. [Link](#)

The USDA “Invasive Species” Sham (World Press 7/19). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is the center of one of government's biggest shams. As a member of the National Invasive Species Council, the USDA has a mandate to “not authorize, fund, or carry out actions that it believes are likely to cause or promote the introduction or spread of invasive species in the United States or elsewhere.” Your tax payer dollars are paying for the eradication of invasive species like stink bugs and salt cedar. Meanwhile, more of your tax dollars are funding the vast promotion of the ultimate invasive species: genetically engineered plants and cloned animals. This includes USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) which was formerly CSREES, Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Economic Research Service (ERS), Food Safety and Inspection

Service (FSIS) and Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). [Link](#)

AgriLife Extension to address effect of climate change on animal agriculture (AgriLife Today 7/20). The Texas AgriLife Extension Service will share a \$4.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture with five other land-grant university extension agencies to address issues associated with climate change and animal agriculture. One of the main purposes of the grant is "to gather research-based practical information to identify existing and new practices for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from animal feeding operations," said Dr. Saqib Mukhtar, AgriLife Extension engineer and interim associate department head of the Texas A&M University department of biological and agricultural engineering. [Link](#)

NU Extension team gets \$4.1 million (KGWN CBS 5 7/20). A University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension team has been awarded \$4.1 million from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture for a 5-year project on climate change and animal agriculture issues. Five other land-grant universities are partnering in the project that will be facilitated through the Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center. It's hoped the project will lead to decisions that result in reduced greenhouse gas emissions without sacrificing America's capacity to produce meat, milk, eggs and other animal products. [Link](#)

University of Nebraska receives grant addressing climate change and animal agriculture KMEG News at Sunrise 7/20). The University of Nebraska in Lincoln has been awarded 4.1 million dollars from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture for a project addressing the climate change and animal agriculture issues. The overall goal of the proposed project is to move animal production towards practices that are environmentally sound, climatically compatible and economically viable. Minnesota, Texas A&M, Washington State, Georgia and Cornell University will also be part of the project. [Link](#)

University of Nebraska extension team gets \$4.1 million (Cattle Network 7/20). A University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension team has been awarded \$4.1 million from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture for a 5-year project on climate change and animal agriculture issues. Five other land-grant universities are partnering in the project that will be facilitated through the Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center. It's hoped the project will lead to decisions that result in reduced greenhouse gas emissions without sacrificing America's capacity to produce meat, milk, eggs and other animal products. [Link](#)

NU Extension team gets \$4.1 million (AP/Washington Examiner 7/20). A University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension team has been awarded \$4.1 million from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture for a five-year project on climate change and animal agriculture issues. Five other land-grant universities are partnering in the project that will be facilitated through the Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center. UNL Extension engineer Rick Stowell says strong and varied

reactions to proposals for countering global warming creates challenges for those involved in agricultural policymaking, product marketing and research. [Link](#)

Introducing the SciGirls of Tallahassee! (Talking Science 7/20). SciGirls Tallahassee originally started in the summer of 2006 as a two week summer camp that introduced 16 local middle school students to scientists and their work in their community. The program is a joint venture between WFSU-TV (Tallahassee's local public television station) and the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory. Since that first summer, the directors of the program, Kim Kelling-Engstrom and Pat Dixon, have expanded it to include two camps each summer and science related activities throughout the school year that inspire girls to pursue careers in science. SciGirls® is produced for PBS by tpt National Productions and is made possible by the National Science Foundation. With additional support from Exxon Mobil and the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

Clemson University graduates first class of 'New Farmers' (Clemson University Newsroom 7/20). After 30 years as a national television executive, Dale Snyder is the textbook definition of a new farmer. In fact, as little as a year ago, his agricultural skills were limited to potted plants on the front porch of his house. But no more. Snyder and his 26 classmates will graduate Thursday from the first class of Clemson University's New and Beginning Farmer program. "I lived on Sullivan's Island and I had flowers on my porch, and that was the extent of my farming experience," Snyder said. "This is all new to me — I really am a new farmer." S.C. New and Beginning Farmer is a statewide multi-agency partnership supported by the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture Grant No. 2010-03113. [Link](#)

New Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship Program Launched (Wisconsin Ag Connection 7/21). The Department of Workforce Development's Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards and GrassWorks Inc., a non-profit organization that supports managed grazing in the state's agriculture industry, formally kicked off the Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship program with an event in Marathon County. The Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship is a new two-year program established through a partnership with GrassWorks Inc., and the BAS. The program is funded in part by a grant from the U.S Department of Labor entitled Sector Alliance for the Green Economy and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

Willows, native grasses part of biocontrol project (AgriNews 7/21). Hybrid willows and native grasses growing in the middle of corn fields at Rosemount Research and Outreach Center could hold clues to biocontrol of pests as well as advancing bioenergy production. The plantings and research are funded by a grant from USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. It's a \$964,611 grant spread over five years. Two other university projects were funded as part of the same allocation, which was announced April 12. In total, 42 projects in 28 states received funding for projects aimed at spurring production of bioenergy and bio-based products in hopes they will produce jobs and lead to the development of sustainable regional

systems. [Link](#)

Azavea Releases Source Code for PhillyTreeMap to Provide Municipalities and Citizen Groups With Collaborative Urban Forestry Inventory Tools (San Francisco Chronicle 7/21). In April Azavea, a geospatial analysis (GIS) software development company launched PhillyTreeMap.org, a wiki-inspired geographic urban tree inventory application that enables the general public to collaborate with Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS), and other local groups to map trees in the 13-county, 3-state Philadelphia region. Today, Azavea announces that the code of the PhillyTreeMap.org project is released as open source software under the name OpenTreeMap, and is freely available at: <https://github.com/azavea/OpenTreeMap>. Azavea adopted the software and extended it with support from a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant from the US Department of Agriculture National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA). [Link](#)

Grazing Management Effects on Stream Pollutants (Newswise 7/21). Scientists in the Departments of Animal Science, Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine, and Veterinary Microbiology at Iowa State University and the USDA-ARS National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment have studied the effects of grazing management practices on sediment, phosphorus, and pathogen deposits into pasture streams. Results of the study are published in the July/August 2011 issue of the Journal of Environmental Quality. This research was funded with grants from the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service National Integrated Water Program and National Research Initiative. [Link](#)

Wisconsin pioneers innovative dairy grazing apprenticeship program (Dairy Herd Network 7/21). The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards (BAS) and GrassWorks Inc., a non-profit organization that supports managed grazing in the state's agriculture industry, today formally kicked off the Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship program with an event in Marathon County. The Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship is a new 2-year program established through a partnership with GrassWorks Inc., and the BAS. The program is funded in part by a grant from the U.S Department of Labor entitled Sector Alliance for the Green Economy (SAGE) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The Dairy Grazing program is the first of five projected apprenticeships to be developed through SAGE grants. [Link](#)

Farms of the Future: Bio-Oil, Biochar from Biomass (Newswise 7/21). A major new study by South Dakota State University researchers working with a U.S. Department of Agriculture colleague explores how to get the most from such a production system. The USDA is funding the project with a grant of \$1 million — \$200,000 annually for the next five years — to help scientists design a feedstock production system for optimum energy production of “bio-oil,” and also to explore the possible ecological benefits from the use of biochar. The grant was selected by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture's flagship competitive grants program called AFRI, or the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative. It was selected

in the sustainable bioenergy challenge area. [Link](#)

Researchers look into ‘belly of the beast’ (Gothenburg Times 7/21). 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](#)

AgriLife Extension to address effect of climate change on animal agriculture (North Texas e-News 7/21). The Texas AgriLife Extension Service will share a \$4.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture with five other land-grant university extension agencies to address issues associated with climate change and animal agriculture. One of the main purposes of the grant is “to gather research-based practical information to identify existing and new practices for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from animal feeding operations,” said Dr. Saqib Mukhtar, AgriLife Extension engineer and interim associate department head of the Texas A&M University department of biological and agricultural engineering. [Link](#)

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Kansas teacher receives national award (High Plains Journal 7/22). Theresa Farris was recently honored along with four other teachers from across the nation, receiving the "Excellence in Teaching About Agriculture" award at the Agriculture in the Classroom National Conference in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. June 22 to 25. Farris is the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom's 2011 Janet Simms Memorial Teacher of the Year. The award program honors teachers who are innovative in bringing agriculture into the classroom. It is co-sponsored by the Agriculture in the Classroom of the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the National Agriculture in the Classroom Consortium. [Link](#)

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