

## NIFA in the News – Week of September 10, 2012

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### In the News

**Grants to Support Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Awarded by USDA (KTIC 840 AM 9/3).** U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced grants that will help beginning farmers and ranchers with the training and resources needed to run productive, sustainable farms during a stop at the Farm Progress Show in Boone, Iowa Thursday. These grants were awarded to organizations across 24 states by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture through the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program. [Link](#)

**Young farmers get USDA boost (Western Farm Press 9/4).** Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced \$18 million in funding to support new farmer training and education programs at the 2012 Farm Progress Show in Boone, Iowa. These new grant awards were made available through the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) – a federal competitive grants program administered by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

**U.S. awards more than \$18 million in training grants (Reading Eagle 9/9).** U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced more than \$18 million in grants to train and aid beginner farmers and ranchers. The National Institute of Food and Agriculture awarded the grants through its Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program. Grants are given to organizations that carry out education, training, technical assistance and outreach programs to help farmers and ranchers with 10 years or less experience. [Link](#)

**Older Adults Not Prepared to Ensure Food Safety During Power Outages (Newswise, Science Daily 9/10).** In the wake of Hurricane Isaac, which left millions without power, a new study highlights that many older adults are not equipped to keep food safe during an extended power outage. The study, published in Educational Gerontology, was conducted by researchers from RTI International, Tennessee State University and Jackson State Community College. The study was partially funded through a grant from the National Integrated Food Safety Initiative of the U.S.

Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (grant no. 2007-51110-03819). [Link](#)

**Woody biomass alliance holds first meeting (Capital Press 9/11).** Northwest researchers say they are making progress in their efforts to develop ways to make jet fuel from wood slash. A group of researchers called the Northwest Advanced Renewables Alliance (NARA) is working to use residual woody biomass to develop jet fuel and co-products. Created in the fall of 2011, the alliance is led by WSU and primarily funded by a five-year, \$40 million Agriculture and Food Research Initiative competitive grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

**Converting plant waste into biofuels (MIT News 9/12).** MIT researchers are genetically engineering yeast to break down stubborn plant fibers into sugars that it can then ferment — a first step toward a potentially cost-effective single-organism process for manufacturing cellulosic biofuels. The source of the genetic material: anaerobic fungi from the digestive system of a horse on a hay-only diet. Postdoctoral fellow Michelle O'Malley was subsequently supported by a Whiting Foundation Fellowship and a US Department of Agriculture–National Institute of Food and Agriculture Postdoctoral Fellowship. [Link](#)

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