

NIFA in the News – Week of November 12, 2012

Curious as to what happens to all the news releases you see in the [NIFA newsroom](#)? Here's the weekly summary of NIFA's mentions in the news media for the week of November 12, 2012.

In the News

Workshop to focus on rat lungworm (Maui News 11/6). A workshop on rat lungworm (*angiostrongylus cantonensis*), which can be passed to humans with possibly deadly consequences through consuming uncooked produce or slugs or snails, will be held from 5:45 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the University of Hawaii Maui College. This workshop is a joint educational effort funded by a U.S. Department of Agriculture-National Institute of Food and Agriculture grant with the assistance of the USDA, CTAHR, Hilo Medical Center, the state Department of Health and the Pacific Biosciences Research Center. [Link](#)

USDA grant to fund ag policy research at UNL (High Plains Journal 11/9). UNL received a two-year \$766,166 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to establish a new policy research group within its Center for Agricultural and Food Industrial Organization. [Link](#)

Texas A&M forest expert: Forest fertilization can increase production, decrease carbon emissions (EurekAlert 11/9). Dr. Jason Vogel, assistant professor of forest ecosystem science within the Texas A&M University department of ecosystem science and management, is studying just how much difference fertilization can make to the productivity of the forest and carbon sequestration. Vogel is a part of the Pine Integrated Network Education, Mitigation and Adaptation Project, known as PineMap, a coordinated adaptation project awarded in 2011 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The institutional leads are the University of Florida and Virginia Tech, and there are 12 institutions and 52 principal investigators participating. [Link](#)

Rotations: More diversity, lower inputs equal greater resiliency (AgriView 11/9). What if you could grow corn and soybeans with lower costs, fewer chemicals and less environmental impact, while at the same time increase yields, sustainability and even slightly, profitability? Newly reported long-term research by Iowa State University and others shows it's possible simply by diversifying the corn-soybean rotation. In the aftermath of the 2012 drought, now might be a good time to be thinking about making changes to increase an operation's resiliency. The Leopold Center provided a competitive grant to set up the research plots in 2003 and has continued to support this

project. Additional support comes from the ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, with funding leveraged from USDA's National Research Initiative, the Iowa Soybean Association and the Organic Center. [Link](#)

U-M Researchers to Study 'Food Security' Across Michigan (Lab Manager Magazine 11/9). Researchers at the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment are leading a five-year, \$4 million study of disparities in access to healthy food across the state. The researchers will interview residents and study data in 18 small to mid-sized cities to better understand the factors affecting "food security," a socioeconomic term that defines easy access to safe and healthy food. Other universities involved in the federal grant are the University of Michigan-Flint, Michigan State University, University of Wisconsin, Lake Superior State University and Grand Valley State University. The grant was awarded by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture within the U.S. Department of Agriculture. [Link](#)

Purdue Extension educator earns top award (KPCNews 11/10). A LaGrange County extension educator was one of several award winners when the Purdue Extension Service held an awards ceremony at Purdue University on Thursday. As a result of his work, he serves as the Indiana Small Farms coordinator for the Small Farm Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture and co-chair of the Small Farms and Sustainable Agriculture team within Purdue Extension. [Link](#)

Agricultural education blossomed under Land Grant Act of 1862 (Bradenton Herald 11/11). The Land Grant Act of 1862 is an important part of American history because it improved the lives of millions of Americans by providing access to higher education when it was not previously possible. Land grant universities offered studies in home economics, mechanical arts, agriculture and other courses that could be used to improve a person's daily life. [Link](#)

DBI, DNREC partner in biofuel education project (Biomass Magazine 11/12). As part of a five-year, \$50,000 grant supporting state greenhouse gas reduction projects, the Delaware Biotechnology Institute has partnered with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control in response to the need for 36 billion gallons of petroleum-based fuel to be replaced by biofuels by 2022, according to the Renewable Fuel Standard of 2007. Moreover, the education framework of this program is being leveraged against a large-scale multi-institutional grant from the USDA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative project led by Cornell University. [Link](#)

Award for Excellence in Research to Multistate Collaboration for Work on Soybean Rust (KTIC 11/13). The 2012 Experiment Station Section Award of Excellence in Multistate research will go to a team of scientists from agricultural experiment stations at Land-Grant Universities across the country for identifying management strategies for soybean rust, a fungal disease that poses a serious threat to U.S. soybean production. For the past five years, the National Institute of Food and

Agriculture (NIFA) and the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) have presented this award in recognition of successful, well-coordinated, high-impact research and extension efforts. [Link](#)

OARDC receives national research award for critical soybean rust (Pork Magazine 11/13). The Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) is one of the recipients of the 2012 Experiment Station Section Award of Excellence in Multistate Research for its work to rapidly address the threat of soybean rust to U.S. agricultural production. The annual award is given by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) in recognition of successful, well-coordinated, high-impact, multi-institution research efforts. [Link](#)

Purdue receives 4-year National AgrAbility Project grant from USDA (Purdue University/ Farm Industry News 11/13). The Breaking New Ground Resource Center at Purdue University has been awarded a four-year, \$1.9 million National AgrAbility Project grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to continue its work in helping farmers with disabling injuries or illnesses continue to live productive lives in agriculture. AgrAbility, founded in 1991, is funded by the USDA's National Institute for Food and Agriculture and provides education and support to farmers, ranchers, seasonal farm workers and their families who have been affected by an injury, illness or lifelong disability. [Link](#)

Aquaculture research program looking to recruit fish farmers (Farmers Advance 11/14). The Ohio Center for Aquaculture Research and Development at the Ohio State University South Centers is looking for a few good fish farmers. The center is offering 25 new and beginning fish farmers a hands-on approach to aquaculture and the business of fish farming through a year-long program that offers participants the opportunity to study the issue at the Piketon facility. And thanks to a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the Aquaculture Boot Camp (ABC) program is offered at no cost. [Link](#)

Pig genome sequenced: Research could help combat animal and human disease (PhysOrg 11/14). A new genomic analysis reveals some new, unexpected and potentially beneficial similarities between pigs and humans, along with a few distinct differences. The International Swine Genome Sequencing Consortium – led by researchers at the University of Illinois, Wageningen University in the Netherlands and the University of Edinburgh – conducted the analysis. "This new analysis helps us understand the genetic mechanisms that enable high-quality pork production, feed efficiency and resistance to disease," said Sonny Ramaswamy, the director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. "This knowledge can ultimately help producers breed high-quality swine, lower production costs and improve sustainability." [Link](#)

Scientists go the whole hog in genome mapping (Reuters, WKZO 11/14). Scientists have mapped the genome of the domestic pig in a project that could

enhance the animal's use for meat production and the testing of drugs for human disease. A study published in science journal Nature identified genes that could be linked with illnesses suffered by farmed pigs, providing a reference tool for selective breeding to increase their resistance to disease. "This new analysis helps us understand the genetic mechanisms that enable high-quality pork production, feed efficiency and resistance to disease," said Sonny Ramaswamy, director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. "This knowledge can ultimately help producers breed high-quality swine, lower production costs and improve sustainability." [Link](#)

E. coli lasts longer in Salinas soil, study says (The Grower 11/14). New research finds the pathogen E. coli O157:H7 lives about 30 days in soils from California's Salinas Valley — 10 days more than in the state's Imperial Valley or Yuma, Ariz. Lower salinity in Salinas irrigation water is the main cause of the difference, said Mark Ibekwe, a microbiologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service in Riverside, Calif. The research was funded by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Agricultural Research Service. [Link](#)

Pig Genome Sequenced, Scientists Bring Home Bacon (International Business Times 11/14). Oink oink! Scientists are happy to report that they've finished mapping the pig genome, a feat that could help the agricultural industry breed better bacon and provide crucial insights into biomedicine and pig evolution. "This new analysis helps us understand the genetic mechanisms that enable high-quality pork production, feed efficiency and resistance to disease," Sonny Ramaswamy, the director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, said in a statement Wednesday. "This knowledge can ultimately help producers breed high-quality swine, lower production costs and improve sustainability." [Link](#)

AgrAbility Project receives \$1.9 million grant (Purdue Exponent 11/14) . In order to continue helping farmers with injuries or disabilities, The U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded a Purdue center with \$1.9 million. The four-year National AgrAbility Project grant was given to Purdue's Breaking New Ground Resource Center. Paul Jones, manager of the National AgrAbility Project, said the project has been key in providing jobs for rural, agriculturally involved Americans with disabilities. [Link](#)

Cooper scientist will talk about guayule (Modern Tire Dealer/ Tire Business 11/14). Cooper Tire & Rubber Co. research scientist Dr. Howard Colvin will present a paper at the 24th annual meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Industrial Crops (AAIC) Nov. 15, 2012, in Sonoma, Calif. The paper is titled, "Securing the Future of Natural Rubber -- An American Tire and Bio-Energy Platform from Guayule." The AAIC meeting focuses on "Developing Sustainable Solutions." Colvin's presentation provides an overview of the \$6.9 million Biomass Research and Development Initiative Grant that Cooper, in conjunction with research partners including Yulex Corp. and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA),

through its Agricultural Research Service (ARS), received in July from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the USDA. [Link](#)

Cooper scientist to discuss guayule research (Tire Business 11/14). Cooper Tire & Rubber Co. will discuss its research into guayule, the desert shrub seen as a possible natural rubber substitute, at the upcoming annual meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Industrial Crops (AAIC) in Sonoma, Calif. Cooper received a \$6.9 million Biomass Research and Development Initiative Grant—in conjunction with research partners including Yulex Corp. and USDA’s Agricultural Research Service—in July from the U.S. Department of Energy and the USDA. The four-year grant focuses on research efforts aimed at developing enhanced manufacturing processes, testing and utilizing of guayule natural rubber as a strategic raw material in tires, and evaluating the remaining biomass of the guayule plant as a source of bio-fuel for the transportation industry. [Link](#)

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