

NIFA in the News – Week of December 3, 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 December 3, 2012.

In the News

Arkansas State University Receives NIFA Grant to Study Camelina For Ag and Bioenergy Potential (Grainnet 11/26). Faculty in the College of Agriculture and Technology at Arkansas State University have been awarded a \$276,877 research grant from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and will work with Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas. The project is focused on building capacity for bioenergy research and outreach in East Arkansas and the Delta region. [Link](#)

Risk Management Center continues grant program (Midwestern Producer 11/29). The North Central Risk Management Education Center has been awarded nearly \$1.2 million in funding for 2013. The Extension Risk Management Education program will award grants of up to \$50,000 to projects that teach farmers and ranchers the tools they need to address the uncertainties in farm income, particularly in the areas of production, price/market, financial, legal and human risks. The Extension Risk Management Education is funded by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

Scientists Sequence Wheat in Breakthrough for Food Security (Wisconsin Ag Connection 11/29). USDA scientists working as part of an international team have completed a "shotgun sequencing" of the wheat genome, a paper published in the journal Nature reported. The achievement is expected to increase wheat yields, help feed the world and speed up development of wheat varieties with enhanced nutritional value. ARS is one of nine institutions with researchers who contributed to the study. Funding also was provided by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. NIFA focuses on investing in research, education and extension programs to help solve critical issues impacting people's daily lives. [Link](#)

Global Team Generates Major Breakthrough in Deciphering Bread Wheat's Genetic Code (Lab Manager Magazine 11/30). Scientists from the United States, United Kingdom and Germany recently completed the first analysis of the bread wheat genome, one of the "big three" global crops upon which mankind depends for nutrition. In addition to the National Science Foundation, the United States Department of Agriculture--Agriculture Research Service and the National Institute of

Food and Agriculture--the UK Biological and Biotechnological Sciences Research Council and the German Ministry of Education and Research supported the work.

[Link](#)

Winter wheat may get boost from climate change, study finds (Capital Press 11/30). Dryland winter wheat production in the Northwest, surprisingly, may improve with climate change. Scientists are finding some surprising results two years into a five-year look at the effects of climate change on inland Northwest crop production . The study is funded by a \$20 million grant from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Three land-grant universities, including OSU, and the USDA Agricultural Research Service are involved in the study. [Link](#)

UC Davis aids wheat genome effort (Western Farm Press 11/30). Intent on developing wheat varieties with higher yields and enhanced nutritional content, researchers at the University of California, Davis, have teamed up with scientists at nine other institutions in an attempt to sequence the wheat genome. Funding for the study was provided by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council of England, the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, The Royal Society, the German Ministry of Education and Research, and the National Science Foundation. [Link](#)

Feeding 9.6 billion in 2050 (Jerusalem Post 12/3). In order to feed the roughly 9.6 billion people who will likely inhabit this planet in the year 2050, government officials must work to spread out investments strategically and launch socially guided policies, according to an expert from the United States Department of Agriculture. The expert, Prof. Sonny Ramaswamy, was speaking a conference titled "Increasing Future Food Production: Challenges and Opportunities for the New Era," held in Beit Dagan at the Volcani Center campus of the Agriculture Ministry's Agricultural Research Organization – in honor of the ARO's 90th anniversary – on Monday. [Link](#)

NMSU shares \$2.4 million pecan marketing grant (Demming Headlight 12/3). New Mexico State University celebrated two researchers at a Research Rally who are part of a team receiving a \$2.4 million collaborative grant to help pecan growers in the state - and across the U.S. pecan-growing belt - stay competitive in the market focusing on the nutritional benefits of the nut crop. Richard Heerema, a specialist with the Cooperative Extension Service; and Jay Lillywhite, a professor with the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business, received the four-year grant through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture Specialty Crop Research Initiative Program. The University of Georgia is the lead on the project, with partners at Texas A&M. [Link](#)

Menominee Nation college gets \$400K grant (Green Bay Press Gazette 12/3). The College of Menominee Nation in Keshena received \$400,000 in funding as part of almost \$17 million in grants to tribal colleges and universities announced Monday by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The

funds are targeted to support research, education and extension activities to support schools in American Indian communities. [Link](#)

Grant funds UGA research on salmonella in ready-to-eat and dry foods (Athens Banner-Herald 12/03). University of Georgia food scientist Joseph Frank has been awarded a \$499,998 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to determine the risks associated with salmonella in dry and ready-to-eat foods. Frank's grant is one of 17 research projects funded by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Each project aims to improve food safety by helping control microbial and chemical contamination in various foods. [Link](#)

USDA Invests in Pest Management to Protect Food Supply (Wisconsin Ag Connection 12/4). The U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded more than \$33 million to support research and extension activities addressing pest management issues that have human health, environmental and economic consequences across the nation. The awards were made by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

Wheat genome sequenced (Southwest Farm Press 12/04). U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists working as part of an international team have completed a shotgun sequencing of the wheat genome, a paper published in the journal Nature reported Nov. 28. The achievement is expected to increase wheat yields, help feed the world and speed up development of wheat varieties with enhanced nutritional value, USDA said. [Link](#)

UGA food scientist gets grant to study salmonella (WTVM 12/5). A University of Georgia food scientist has been awarded a federal grant worth nearly half a million dollars. UGA says the U.S. Department of Agriculture gave Joseph Frank the money for a project to determine risks associated with salmonella in dry and ready-to-eat foods. The grant is 1 of 17 research grants funded by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The projects are meant to improve food safety. [Link](#)

Scientist Studying Salmonella In Dry, Ready-To-Eat Foods (GPB News 12/5). A University of Georgia food scientist has been awarded a federal grant worth nearly half a million dollars. UGA says the U.S. Department of Agriculture gave Joseph Frank the money for a project to determine risks associated with salmonella in dry and ready-to-eat foods. The grant is 1 of 17 research grants funded by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The projects are meant to improve food safety. [Link](#)

UGA To Study Salmonella In Peanut Butter, Other Foods (Food Poisoning Bulletin 12/5). On the heels of a multi-state Salmonella outbreak linked to peanut butter, Joseph Frank, a food scientist at the University of Georgia, has been awarded a \$499,998 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), to study risks associated with Salmonella in dry and ready-to-eat foods, such as peanut butter. The study is one of 17 research projects funded by USDA's National Institute of Food and

Agriculture. The projects have the shared goal of improving food safety by controlling contamination. [Link](#)

Minnesota: National Leader in Helping New Farmers in the Field (Public News Service 12/5). How to help new farmers and ranchers get a start and succeed in agriculture will be the focus for the next few days as experts from around the nation converge on Rochester. Amy Bacigalupo, director of the Land Stewardship Project's Farm Beginnings Program, says getting into the field comes with many hurdles, including the rising cost of land. Bacigalupo says the program has proved to be money well spent, but it could see cuts under the new Farm Bill, currently stalled in Congress. "This program, the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development program, is an example of a good public investment that's already having a meaningful impact - a positive impact on rural communities, on the land and for the future of our food and farming system." [Link](#)

Researchers rally to fight wheat virus (Capital Press 12/6). Researchers are teaming up to fight wheat streak mosaic virus. USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture recently awarded a \$3.4 million grant to researchers. Montana State University Extension plant pathology specialist Mary Burrows is leading the Montana team, alongside researchers from universities in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas and the USDA Agricultural Research Service. [Link](#)

UGA food scientist, Joseph Frank, awarded \$500,000 USDA grant to study salmonella risks (The Global Dispatch 12/6). A University of Georgia food scientist received one of 17 research grants funded by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture to study the risks associated with salmonella in dry and ready-to-eat foods, according to a University news release Monday. [Link](#)

Published on December 7, 2012 / Jennifer Martin