

NIFA in the News – Week of December 31, 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 31, 2012.

In the News

Universities Receive \$10 Million from USDA for Bioenergy Research (Machine Finder 12/28). According to a news release from the USDA, \$10 million has been awarded in research grants to 29 U.S. university bioenergy research programs. The grants are reportedly intended to spur the production and use of biobased products in an effort to create jobs, sustain natural resources, and reduce U.S. dependence on foreign resources. [Link](#)

Veterinarian comes to Pee Dee to pay off debt (Charlotte Observer, Enquirer Herald, Florence Morning News 12/30). Because of a growing need in rural counties for veterinarians, and in particular nutritional vets, a subspecialty of the field, the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture created the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment program several years ago. In exchange for repaying student loans to qualified veterinarians like Martin, the USDA guarantees that certain underserved areas get veterinary expertise they'd have trouble obtaining through the free market. [Link](#)

Increasing Food Production to Feed Nine Billion People in 2050 (NTD Television 1/1). By the year 2050, planet earth will probably be flatter, hotter and more crowded than even. Worldwide acclaimed scientists gathered at the Israeli Vulkani Agricultural Research Organization (ARO) to discuss challenges and opportunities of producing and delivering food for feeding a projected population of 9 billion. Sonny Ramaswamy, director at the US National Institute of food and agriculture (NIFA), stated that post-harvest science and technology are essential for future food security. [Link](#)

'beefSD' Educational Program Offered For Beginning Ranchers (Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan 1/2). SDSU Extension is now accepting applications for the second class of "beefSD," a two-year educational program designed specifically for beginning beef producers. The program is made possible in part by a grant received by SDSU Extension, in partnership with the South Dakota Farm Bureau, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). [Link](#)

Ramaswamy to Talk Food Security, Public Health at Bush Library and Museum

Issues Forum (SysCon Media 1/3). The George Bush Presidential Library and Museum presents the free Issues Forum "Role of Land-grant Universities in Addressing Food as a Public Health Issue" Jan. 8, 7 p.m. CST at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum at Texas A&M University. Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy, director of the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), will focus on how societal challenges such as food security have become a public health issue, and the roles land-grant universities have to play in addressing the same. [Link](#)

13 Moons Launches First Pow Wow With Environmental Theme (Indian Country 1/3). The 13 Moons Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College Extension program in Minnesota is launching its first powwow this month as the tribe renews its commitment to its community and environment. Already, the 13 Moons, a program run by the tribe through a grant funded by the US Department of Agriculture, has been holding educational workshops on gardening, farming, canning, traditional plants, among others. The powwow is made possible by the sponsorship of USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Minnesota Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education. [Link](#)

U.N.: Tiny crop has big potential (Capital Press 1/3). Quinoa -- pronounced KEEN-wah -- is a staple in countries like Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador and Chile and demand for it is growing among U.S. consumers looking for a gluten-free substitute for wheat. To promote it, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has declared 2013 the International Year of Quinoa. Murphy is leading the research effort to breed quinoa varieties for production in the Pacific Northwest. In 2012, Murphy received \$1.6 million from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The team of researchers includes WSU Extension, Oregon State University, Brigham Young University and Utah State University, as well as international members. [Link](#)

Forum held at Bush Presidential library to address public health issues (Bryan-College Station The Eagle 1/4). The George Bush Presidential Library and Museum will host a forum at 7 p.m. Tuesday to discuss the capacity that land-grant universities, such as Texas A&M, have in addressing public health issues through discoveries in breeding and genetics, food security, food safety and nutrition. Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy, the director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, will lead the discussion. [Link](#)

St. Gabriel biofuels plant near completion (The Advocate 1/4). The LSU AgCenter Audubon Sugar Institute is nearing the completion of a pilot plant in St. Gabriel that will be used to make biofuels and biochemicals from agricultural crops and byproducts. The pilot plant, located at the Audubon Sugar Institute at 3845 La. 75 in St. Gabriel, is the centerpiece of the AgCenter's Sustainable Bioproducts Initiative. The pilot plant is part of a larger project funded by a five-year, \$17.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The department announced the grant — one of five awarded nationwide — in September 2011. [Link](#)

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