

NIFA in the News – Week of February 21, 2011

Curious as to what happens to all the news releases you see in the NIFA Newsroom? Here's the weekly summary of NIFA in the news for the week of February 21, 2011.

In the News

UF-led group lands \$20M grant for pine tree study (Gainesville Sun 2/18). A University of Florida-led consortium has been awarded a \$20 million federal grant to develop ways for pine forests to deal with climate change while surviving its consequences. The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the awarding of the five-year grant Friday. [Link](#)

Iowa State wins grant for corn and climate study (Chicago Tribune 2/18). Iowa State University has won a \$20 million grant to conduct and oversee research on how climate affects corn crops. Iowa State says it will coordinate the work of 42 scientists from 10 universities and two U.S. Department of Agriculture research institutions in nine north-central states. [Link](#)

Feds give \$20M grant to study winter wheat (Forbes 2/18). The federal government has awarded a \$20 million grant to universities in Washington, Oregon and Idaho that is designed to ensure that wheat farming in the Pacific Northwest will survive climate change. The five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture will study the relationship between climate change and cereal crops, primarily winter wheat. Wheat is the No. 1 export through the Port of Portland, the largest wheat-export harbor in the United States. [Link](#)

NIFA announces grants to study the effects of climate change on agricultural and forest production (Scientific Computing 2/18). USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) today awarded three Coordinated Agriculture Projects (CAP) representing a major scientific investment in studying the effects of climate change on agriculture and forest production. NIFA Director Roger Beachy made the announcement today at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington, D.C. [Link](#)

ISU wins \$20 million grant from USDA (Ames Tribune 2/18). Iowa State University has won a \$20 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to study the effect of climate change on corn crops and crop management systems. The grant, announced today in Washington, D.C., by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture Director Roger Beachy, is one of three Coordinated Agriculture Projects. [Link](#)

UI to share in \$20 million USDA research grant (Moscow-Pullman Daily News 2/18). University of Idaho officials announced today the school will lead research to better understand and plan for a changing climate in the Pacific Northwest. The research is being funded by a five-year, \$20 million grant from the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

Feds give \$20M grant to study winter wheat (Bloomberg 2/18). The federal government has awarded a \$20 million grant to universities in Washington, Oregon and Idaho that is designed to ensure that wheat farming in the Pacific Northwest will survive climate change. The five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture will study the relationship between climate change and cereal crops, primarily winter wheat. [Link](#)

OSU lands \$4M to study ag and climate change (Sustainable Business Oregon 2/18). Oregon State University will receive \$4 million of a \$20 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a research project designed to preserve the viability of wheat farming in the Pacific Northwest, despite potential effects of climate change. The USDA announced the grant award Friday in Washington. Other recipients include the University of Idaho, Washington State University and the USDA's Agricultural Research Service. [Link](#)

\$20 million funds study to ensure NW wheat survives climate change (Seattle Times 2/18). The federal government has awarded a \$20 million grant to universities in Washington, Oregon and Idaho that is designed to ensure that wheat farming in the Pacific Northwest will survive climate change. The five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture will study the relationship between climate change and cereal crops, primarily winter wheat. Wheat is the No. 1 export through the Port of Portland, the largest wheat-export harbor in the U.S. [Link](#)

Feds give \$20M grant to study winter wheat (KIVI TV 2/18). The federal government has awarded a \$20 million grant to universities in Washington, Oregon and Idaho that is designed to ensure that wheat farming in the Pacific Northwest will survive climate change. The five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture will study the relationship between climate change and cereal crops, primarily winter wheat. Wheat is the No. 1 export through the Port of Portland, the largest wheat-export harbor in the U.S. [Link](#)

UI to receive part of \$20 million grant for corn research (Central Illinois News Gazette 2/18). The University of Illinois' Urbana campus will share in a \$20 million USDA grant to study how to grow corn in a changing climate. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture has awarded a \$20 million grant to nine Midwestern land-grant universities and two USDA Agricultural Research Service institutions. [Link](#)

ISU to lead study of corn's climate impact (Des Moines Register Blog 2/18). Iowa

State University will lead a five-year, \$20 million study of corn production and climate change. The goal is to find out how various cropping methods affect greenhouse gas emissions or aid in adapting to climate change and evaluate farmers' willingness to adopt new cropping systems. The project is one of three multi-state research programs related to climate change that the Agriculture Department announced today. The others will focus on forestry in the Southeast and wheat production in the Pacific Northwest. Roger Beachy, director of the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, said data from the three studies can be used to study impacts of climate change on other crops that are not included in the project. [Link](#)

CSU researchers to collaborate on USDA wheat project (Northern Colorado Business Report 2/18). Researchers at Colorado State University will take part in a five-year, \$25 million USDA project to develop climate change-resistant wheat and barley strains. The award was made through the 2008 Farm Bill, which established an Agriculture and Food Research Initiative. [Link](#)

ISU to study climate effect on growing corn (Des Moines Register 2/19). Iowa State University will lead a five-year, federally funded study into corn production and climate change. The project is one of three multistate research programs related to climate change that the USDA said Friday it would fund, each with a \$20 million grant. The other projects will focus on forestry in the Southeast and wheat production in the Pacific Northwest. Roger Beachy, director of the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, said data from the three studies can be used to study impacts of climate change on other crops that are not included in the project. [Link](#)

\$20M federal grant to support Minnesota research (Washington Examiner 2/19). Scientists at the University of Minnesota and other schools will studying how to keep Midwest corn-based cropping systems resilient amid climate uncertainties. The work is funded by a \$20 million grant announced Friday by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. [Link](#)

In brief: UI to study climate change (Spokesman Review 2/19). The University of Idaho will lead a \$20 million research project to help Northwest wheat and barley growers adapt to climate change. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is funding the five-year, \$20 million project. [Link](#)

UI gets grant to study climate change (TechZone360 2/19). The University of Idaho announced the largest single grant in its history Friday, a \$20 million award to study and plan for how climate change will affect cereal grain production in the Pacific Northwest. The five-year U.S. Department of Agriculture grant will be administered by the UI and shared with Washington State University and the University of Oregon. [Link](#)

\$20M federal grant to support Minnesota research (Valley News Live 2/19). Scientists at the University of Minnesota and other schools will studying how to keep Midwest corn-based cropping systems resilient amid climate uncertainties. The work

is funded by a \$20 million grant announced Friday by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. [Link](#)

ISU Wins \$20M Grant (Wallaces Farmer 2/19). USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture has awarded a \$20 million grant to Iowa State University for regional research on keeping Midwest cornfields resilient in the face of future climate uncertainties. The USDA-NIFA program is focused on decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing carbon sequestration. The long-term national outcome is to reduce the use of energy, nitrogen and water by 10% and increase carbon sequestration by 15% through resilient agriculture and forest production systems. The grant is part of the USDA-NIFA Coordinated Agricultural Program. This project's researchers include agronomists, agricultural engineers, environmental scientists, hydrologists, soil scientists, sociologists, watershed engineers and natural resource scientists. The ISU grant is one of three grants to be awarded nationally. The grant awards were announced on Feb. 18, 2011. [Link](#)

Wheat researchers get \$20M fed grant (East Oregonian 2/20). Scientists at the Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center near Adams will get part of a \$20 million federal grant for wheat research. The National Institute of Food and Agriculture has awarded the grant to universities in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. It is expected to fund research to ensure that wheat farming in the Pacific Northwest will survive climate change. [Link](#)

Learning opportunities created in STEM fields (DelMarVa Now 2/20). The USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture recently awarded the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, in partnership with Cornell University and three other institutions, a \$4.9 million grant. The grant is funding a project aimed at creating sustainable education opportunities in STEM fields for professional educators interested in bioenergy and bio-based products. [Link](#)

UI takes lead in \$20 million climate change research project (KLEW TV 2/20). The University of Idaho will lead research to better understand and plan for a changing climate in the Pacific Northwest. The five-year, \$20 million USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture award will fund the work of a research team led by University of Idaho entomologist Sanford Eigenbrode. [Link](#)

20-million dollars to study climate change and cereal production in the PNW (AgInfoNet 2/21). The USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture has announced a 20-million dollar grant to the three Pacific Northwest land grant universities to study the effects of climate change on cereal grain production. The research effort will be led by the University of Idaho with partners Washington State University, Oregon State University and the USDA Agricultural Research Service. [Link](#)

US strawberry disease researchers get cash boost (Agra-Net 2/21). Researchers at the US Florida University have received an \$850 000 (€20 000) grant from the

USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to develop a disease forecasting system for US strawberry growers. The system targets Botrytis and anthracnose fruit rots. It analyses air temperature and plant leaf wetness to predict when there is a high risk of infection, and will allow the number of fungicide applications to be drastically reduced, project leader Natália Peres notes. [Link](#)

U.S. Sen. Harkin: Congratulates ISU on \$20 million grant for critical agriculture and climate research (IowaPolitics.com 2/21). Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) today congratulated Iowa State University for winning a \$20 million federal grant for research focused on keeping Midwest cornfields productive in the face of future climate change. Today's funding will be administered over five years and comes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). [Link](#)

Ask MNN: How to get your vegetable garden off to a good start (Miami Herald 2/21). To determine the amount of clay necessary for your backyard, consult a gardening center or your local cooperative extension office, a network of colleges and universities that offers gardening information for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. "The extension service is one of the finest services we have for gardening," she notes. "They are staffed by people who understand local soil and know what vegetables, flowers, shrubs and trees will grow in your area." [Link](#)

Researchers set their sights on maintaining sustainable corn systems (Dairy Herd Network 2/21). The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA) has awarded a \$20 million grant to nine land-grant universities and two USDA Agricultural Research Service institutions. The research will focus on keeping Midwest corn-based cropping systems resilient in the face of future climate uncertainties. [Link](#)

Climate change affecting food safety (Science Blog 2/21). Climate change is already having an effect on the safety of the world's food supplies and unless action is taken it's only going to get worse, a Michigan State University professor told a symposium at this year's meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Speakers at the symposium included Raymond Knighton of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture; Sandra Hoffman of the USDA's Economic Research Service; and Cristina Tirado from the University of California, Los Angeles. [Link](#)

Purdue to Research Climate's Impact on Corn (Inside Indiana Business 2/21). Purdue University will participate in a \$20 million U.S. Department of Agriculture research, education and Extension program aimed at keeping Midwest corn-based cropping systems resilient in the face of future climate uncertainties. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture awarded the grant to a team of 10 universities and two USDA Agricultural Research Service institutions Friday (Feb. 18). [Link](#)

Climate change affecting food safety: researchers warn (Xinhua 2/22). Climate change is already having an effect on the safety of the world's food supplies, and unless action is taken, it's only going to get worse, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) reported on Monday. The warning came from several nationally known experts from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture and Economic Research Service, the Michigan State University and the University of California, Los Angeles, according to the release.

[Link](#)

Iowa State receives \$20 million grant from USDA (Iowa State Daily 2/22). Iowa State was awarded a \$20 million grant by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture to research the impact of climate on corn-based cropping systems. The project will work to develop cropping systems that remain productive and resilient in the face of future climate uncertainties. [Link](#)

FY2012 Budget Proposal a Mixed Bag for Agriculture (Wisconsin Ag Connection 2/22). In the midst of intense debate over how to fund the federal government for the remainder of the 2011 fiscal year, the Obama Administration delivered a mixed FY2012 proposal to Capitol Hill last week. However, \$290,000 previously directed for the Cereal Disease Lab in St. Paul, Minn., was eliminated, as was a facilities fund which included money for a building project in Pullman, Wash., and all special research grants in the USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture budget. [Link](#)

USDA Funds Climate Research on Agricultural and Forest Production (Sustainable Business 2/22). The US Department of Agriculture announced three major scientific investments to study the effects of climate change on agriculture and forest production. The Coordinated Agriculture Projects (CAP) fall under USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). [Link](#)

Study will look at corn production and weather impacts (Radio Iowa 2/22). A \$20-million research project funded by the U.S.D.A.'s National Institute of Food plans to examine climate impacts on the U.S. corn crop. Iowa State University sociology professor, Lois Wright, is overseeing the effort of 42 scientists from 10 universities. She says they are looking at several factors that impact the growing of corn. [Link](#)

House budget cuts: land-grants, Extension, research (Delta Farm Press 2/22). Growers and rural communities are being alerted to budget cuts made by the House that will affect Extension programs and agricultural research. Last week, the House passed a continuing resolution for the 2011 fiscal year that included a \$217 million cut for the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Smith-Lever funds – used, among other things, to run 4-H clubs – were cut by \$30 million. [Link](#)

Ag spending targeted for cuts (Ag Week 2/22). In a confusing but important development for agriculture, House Republicans and President Obama each have made a budget proposal that would cut some key farm programs. USDA's National

Institute for Food and Agriculture — formerly the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service — also would take a big hit under the bill, Hoefner said. “Formula funds” to land-grant colleges and institutions would go up by \$25 million relative to fiscal year 2010, but competitive grant programs would be funded at their 2010 levels rather than at the significant increased levels called for in President Obama’s budget request. The agency’s administrative funds would also be cut. [Link](#)

AG NOTEBOOK: Farm and ranch news (Hermiston Herald 2/22). How wheat it is. A portion of a \$20 million federal grant will go to the Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center near Adams. The money was awarded by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and will fund research on climate change and cereal production. The study is being conducted in Washington, Oregon and Idaho and will specifically look at how projected climate change scenarios will affect wheat and barley production in the Northwest. [Link](#)

Large grant supports collaborative research (Agronaut 2/22). On Friday, it was announced that the University of Idaho, Washington State University and Oregon State University received a "record-breaking" \$20 million grant to support collaborative research on climate change. Howard Grimes, vice president of research at WSU, deeply expressed his appreciation for Eigenbrode and Roger Beachy's involvement. Beachy is the director of the National Institute for Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

NIFA announces grant to study the effects of climate change on agricultural and forest production (Ag Professional 2/22). USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) today awarded three Coordinated Agriculture Projects (CAP) representing a major scientific investment in studying the effects of climate change on agriculture and forest production. NIFA Director Roger Beachy made the announcement today at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington, D.C. [Link](#)

University of Illinois Researcher Receives USDA Grant to Study Soybean Flowering Response (GrainNet 2/23). Advanced genomic techniques and a USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) grant of almost a half-million dollars will allow University of Illinois researchers to advance fundamental knowledge in plant science that will lead to healthier, more productive crops that play a key role in keeping American agriculture sustainable and competitive. Yoshie Hanzawa, U of I assistant professor of crop sciences, will study flowering response to seasonal photoperiod changes in soybean. [Link](#)

UF Awarded Grant to Improve Pine Management for Climate Change (Southeast AgNet 2/23). A consortium led by University of Florida personnel has been awarded a five-year, \$20 million federal grant to help landowners and foresters throughout the region adapt to and mitigate global climate change in coming decades. The award was announced Friday, Feb. 18 in Washington, D.C., by the U.S.

Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

USDA, others invest \$5M to grow broccoli in East (Ag Week 2/23). A team of researchers and agricultural agents hopes to take a bite out of the West Coast's \$1 billion broccoli monopoly with new strains of the vegetable designed to withstand the East Coast's heat and humidity. They've received a \$3.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and \$1.7 million in matching private contributions to create a broccoli corridor running from northern Florida to Maine. [Link](#)

LSP members gather in St. Paul (AgriNews 2/24). The U.S. House has proposed cutting USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture spending in its House File 1. NIFA works primarily with land grant institutions. It funds research and education. The proposed cuts would impact Extension and 4-H. [Link](#)

USDA research priorities (AgInfoNet 2/24). The emphasis on climate change was evident this past week when the USDA announced three separate 20-million dollar grants to study climate change and agriculture, which included a grant to the three Pacific Northwest land grant universities to study cereal grain production and climate change. [Link](#)



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