

NIFA in the News – Week of March 14, 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 March 14, 2011.

In the News

In New Food Culture, a Young Generation of Farmers Emerges (New York Times 3/5). Though the number of young farmers is increasing, the average age of farmers nationwide continues to creep toward 60, according to the 2007 Census of Agriculture. That census, administered by the Department of Agriculture, found that farmers over 55 own more than half of the country's farmland. In response, the 2008 Farm Bill included a program for new farmers and ranchers. Last year, the department distributed \$18 million to educate young growers across the country. [Link](#)

Boy Toddlers Need Extra Help Dealing With Negative Emotions, Experts Urge (Science Daily 3/8). The way you react to your two-year-old's temper tantrums or clinginess may lead to anxiety, withdrawal and behavior problems down the road, and the effect is more pronounced if the child is a boy who often displays such negative emotions as anger and social fearfulness, reports a new University of Illinois study. Funding was provided by the U of I Research Board and the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

Department of Agriculture receives \$20 million grant (Iowa State Daily 3/8). Grants are offered to universities throughout every year, helping fund different types of research that can one day better educate students and professors. The Department of Agriculture received a \$20 million grant Feb. 1 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

Connecting Women Farmland Owners With Beginning Farmers (Wallaces Farmer 3/9). An effort is being made in the Linn County area in eastern Iowa to connect women who own or manage farmland with beginning farmers. Women now own or co-own about half of the farmland in Iowa. The project is funded by the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

US to launch poultry handling and transportation program (World Poultry 3/11). A new program centered at The Pennsylvania State University will soon be the first in the US to provide third-party training, proficiency testing and certification on the correct techniques for handling and transporting poultry. It will also provide a number of additional important benefits not typically found in poultry companies' in-

house programs, according to The Poultry Science Association (PSA). The program is partially funded under the umbrella of the Avian Influenza Cooperative Agricultural Project (AICAP), which is supported by the USDA-NIFA AFRI Animal Biosecurity Competitive Program to the University of Maryland and The Pennsylvania State University. [Link](#)

Bioenergy, bioproducts project offers opportunities for Ohio teachers (Farm and Dairy 3/11). Ohio State University is taking part in a multi-state project offering teachers training and toolkits to prepare students for careers in bioenergy and bioproducts. The five-year project is based at Cornell University and is funded by a \$5 million grant from the Agriculture and Food Initiative of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

Students help teens with college path at 4-H event (The Lantern 3/13). Pledging to "Accept the Challenge," more than 1,700 teenage 4-H members and adult volunteers visited Columbus Saturday for what officials said was the largest 4-H conference in the country. 4-H is the youth development program of Ohio State University Extension and the United States Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

Think Tank for Corn's Future (Missouri Ruralist 3/14). The University of Missouri is one of nine land-grant universities participating in a five-year research program focused on keeping Midwest corn-based cropping systems resilient in the face of future climate uncertainties. The project is funded by a \$20-million grant from the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The grant is part of the USDA-NIFA Coordinated Agricultural Program. The program focuses on decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing carbon sequestration. The long-term national goal 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. [Link](#)

\$5M Goes to Teaching Teachers about Bioproducts (Ohio Farmer 3/14). Ohio State University is taking part in a multi-state project offering teachers with training and toolkits to prepare students for careers in this growing field. Denny Hall is Ohio's representative on the five-year project, which is based at Cornell University and is funded by a \$5 million grant from the Agriculture and Food Initiative of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

GOP targets Dem-supported cuts in three-week spending bill (The Hill 3/14). House Republicans have written another short-term spending bill that includes many cuts supported by the Obama administration, although nearly half of the \$6 billion in proposed cuts come from earmark terminations that are likely to draw opposition from Democrats as early as today. The GOP budget cuts \$358 million in funding for agriculture programs, including \$133 million in cuts to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and a \$115 million cut to the Agriculture Research Service. [Link](#)

USDA food institute awards U-M \$5M grant to study obesity in preschool

children (Detroit Free Press 3/14). University of Michigan researchers have been awarded a five-year \$4.9 million federal grant to study reducing obesity rates among preschool children. The project, which will include faculty from Michigan State University, is funded by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Its director, Roger Beachy, calls the obesity may be the most pressing nutritional problem in America. [Link](#)

Researchers to study soybean flowering response (High Plains Journal 3/14).

Advanced genomic techniques and a USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture 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. [Link](#)

USDA announces more than \$10M in grants for Mich. (9&10 News 3/14). The U.S. Department of Agriculture is announcing a total of more than \$10 million in grants to Michigan State University and the University of Michigan. Director Roger Beachy of the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture announced more than \$5.5 million for food safety and bioenergy work at Michigan State University on Monday. He also announced \$4.9 million for childhood obesity research at the University of Michigan. [Link](#)

University of Michigan awarded \$4.9 million to help reduce obesity in preschool children (PhysOrg 3/14). The USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture has awarded \$4.9 million to the University of Michigan to reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity among Head Start preschoolers in Michigan.

"Obesity is perhaps the most pressing nutritional problem in America, with childhood and adolescent obesity rates tripling in the past 30 years," says NIFA director Roger Beachy, Ph.D., who made the award announcement. [Link](#)

USDA announces more than \$10M in grants for Mich. (NECN 3/14). Michigan State University and the University of Michigan are getting a total of more than \$10 million in grants for research related to food safety, bioenergy issues and childhood obesity, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Monday. The grants fit with the USDA's research priorities that were outlined in 2009, Roger Beachy, director of the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, said. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack offered a sharpened research focus for the USDA when the National Institute of Food and Agriculture was launched in 2009. Other priorities include helping keep U.S. agriculture competitive and supporting biofuel research. [Link](#)

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Usda Announces More Than \$10M in Grants For Mich. (WSLS NBC 10 3/14). Michigan State University and the University of Michigan are getting a total of more than \$10 million in grants for research related to food safety, bioenergy issues and childhood obesity, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Monday. "It's clear that the University of Michigan and Michigan State have a lot to offer in support of the goals of research for USDA," Beachy said. [Link](#)

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USDA announces more than \$10M in grants for Michigan State, the University of Michigan (The Republic 3/14). Michigan State University and the University of Michigan are getting a total of more than \$10 million in grants for research related to food safety, bioenergy issues and childhood obesity, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Monday. "We know that if our kids are going to grow up and win the future, they have to be healthy and receive the right nutrition," said Roger Beachy, director of the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, who announced the grants, in a statement. [Link](#)

University of Michigan receives \$4.9 million grant to develop obesity prevention program for preschool-age children (AnnArbor.com 3/14). Children feel stress just like adults, and like them, reach for food to feel better, as early the preschool years. The University of Michigan has received a \$4.9 million grant from the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture it will use to try to figure out how to snuff out those behaviors before the pattern takes hold. [Link](#)

USDA announces more than \$10M in grants for Mich. (Washington Examiner

3/14). Michigan State University and the University of Michigan are getting a total of more than \$10 million in grants for research related to food safety, bioenergy issues and childhood obesity, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Monday. "We know that if our kids are going to grow up and win the future, they have to be healthy and receive the right nutrition," said Roger Beachy, director of the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, who announced the grants, in a statement. [Link](#)

Temple obesity center wins \$3.7 million U.S. grant (Philadelphia Business Journal 3/14). Temple University said Monday that its Center for Obesity Research and Education has gotten a five-year \$3.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture to fund a project aimed at preventing obesity among low-income pre-schoolers. [Link](#)

USDA announces more than \$10M in grants for Mich. (R&D Magazine 3/14). Michigan State University and the University of Michigan are getting a total of more than \$10 million in grants for research related to food safety, bioenergy issues and childhood obesity, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Monday. The grants fit with the USDA's research priorities that were outlined in 2009, Roger Beachy, director of the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. Those include improving nutrition and food safety. [Link](#)

University Of Michigan Receives \$4.9 Million To Fight Childhood Obesity (Gov Monitor 3/14). The USDA announced today that the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is awarding Dr. Julie Lumeng of the University of Michigan a grant to explore steps to reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity among Head Start preschoolers in Michigan. Beachy also highlighted USDA's work in recognition of National Nutrition Month (March) and emphasized the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. [Link](#)

\$2.5 million to go toward E. coli research at MSU (Lansing State Journal 3/14). But when someone gives you \$2.5 million, it's hard to argue about sitting front and center. And so she was, right next to Roger Beachy, director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, who had made the trip to Michigan State University on Monday to announce the grant in person. Manning is a molecular biologist and epidemiologist at MSU. The \$2.5 million is for a project to study shiga toxin producing E. coli - the acronym is STEC - in Michigan dairy and feedlot cattle. [Link](#)

USDA announces more than \$10M in grants for Mich. (CNBC 3/14). Michigan State University and the University of Michigan are getting a total of more than \$10 million in grants for research related to food safety, bioenergy issues and childhood obesity, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Monday. The grants fit with the USDA's research priorities that were outlined in 2009, Roger Beachy, director of the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, said. [Link](#)

\$4.9 million awarded to U-M to help reduce obesity in preschool children (Grand Rapids Examiner 3/14). The USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture has awarded a \$4.9 million grant to the University of Michigan to reduce obesity in preschool children. The grant will support childhood obesity prevention programs for Head Start preschoolers. [Link](#)

Ag Department Awards Grants To MI Universities (WSJM 3/14). The US Department of Agriculture is announcing a total of more than 10 million dollars in grants to Michigan State University and the University of Michigan. Director Roger Beachy of the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture announced more than \$5.5 million for food safety and bioenergy work at Michigan State University on Monday. He also announced \$4.9 million for childhood obesity research at the University of Michigan. [Link](#)

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USDA announces more than \$10 million for MSU, U-M (The Detroit News 3/14). The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced more than \$10 million in grants to Michigan State University and the University of Michigan. Director Roger Beachy of the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture announced more than \$5.5 million for food safety and bioenergy work at Michigan State University. He also announced \$4.9 million for childhood obesity research at the University of Michigan. [Link](#)

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USDA announces \$10M in grants (Traverse City Record-Eagle 3/14). The U.S. Department of Agriculture is announcing a total of more than \$10 million in grants to Michigan State University and the University of Michigan. Director Roger Beachy of the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture announced more than \$5.5 million for food safety and bioenergy work at Michigan State University on Monday. He also announced \$4.9 million for childhood obesity research at the University of Michigan. [Link](#)

USDA announces more than \$10M in grants for Michigan (WZZM 3/14). The U.S. Department of Agriculture is announcing a total of more than \$10 million in grants to Michigan State University and the University of Michigan. Director Roger Beachy of the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture announced more than \$5.5 million for food safety and bioenergy work at Michigan State University on Monday. He also announced \$4.9 million for childhood obesity research at the University of Michigan. [Link](#)

U-M researchers receive \$4.9 million grant to develop obesity-prevention program for preschoolers (MLive 3/14). University of Michigan researchers aiming to reduce obesity rates are starting young -- with preschoolers. The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced a \$4.9 million grant for an obesity prevention program that will help Head Start preschoolers develop healthy eating behaviors. Among 4-year-olds, 1 in 5 is obese, and low-income children are 1.5 to 2 times more likely to be overweight than middle- or upper-income children, according to U-M. [Link](#)

USDA announces more than \$10M in grants for Mich. (Argus Free-Press 3/14). Michigan State University and the University of Michigan are getting a total of more than \$10 million in grants for research related to food safety, bioenergy issues and childhood obesity, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Monday. "We know that if our kids are going to grow up and win the future, they have to be healthy and receive the right nutrition," said Roger Beachy, director of the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, who announced the grants, in a statement. [Link](#)

Michigan Universities Given Millions In Grants (Click On Detroit 3/14). Michigan State University and the University of Michigan are getting a total of more than \$10 million in grants for research related to food safety, bioenergy issues and childhood obesity, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Monday. "We know that if our kids are going to grow up and win the future, they have to be healthy and receive the right nutrition," said Roger Beachy, director of the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, who announced the grants, in a statement. [Link](#)

UM, MSU getting more than \$10M in grants, USDA announces (Crain's Detroit Business 3/14). The University of Michigan and Michigan State University are getting a total of more than \$10 million in grants for research related to food safety, bioenergy issues and childhood obesity, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today. [Link](#)

Michigan News -- USDA announces more than \$10M in grants for Mich. (ABC News 12 3/15). The U.S. Department of Agriculture is announcing a total of more than \$10 million in grants to Michigan State University and the University of Michigan. Director Roger Beachy of the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture announced more than \$5.5 million for food safety and bioenergy work at Michigan State University on Monday. He also announced \$4.9 million for childhood obesity research at the University of Michigan. [Link](#)

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MSU Receives Grant For Research (WLNS 3/15). Two Michigan universities receive millions of dollars in federal grant money. More than 5.5 million dollars is heading to Michigan State University for food safety and bio-energy research. The money comes from the US Department of Agriculture. Part of the funds will go to develop strategies to reduce the amount of e-coli released by cattle. The University of Michigan will get more than 5 million dollars. U of M researchers will use the money to study and reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity among head start preschoolers in our state. [Link](#)

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Research Aims to Reduce E. coli Shed by Cattle (Food Safety News 3/15).

Michigan State University has received a \$2.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to find ways to reduce the amount of E. coli released by cattle, and in effect, decrease the number of foodborne illness in humans. "More than 70,000 people become ill due to shiga toxin-producing E. coli every year," said Roger Beachy, director of USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, in a news release. Beachy, who visited MSU to make the announcement, added that "understanding how the bacteria contaminate water and food supplies will help prevent thousands of illnesses and improve the safety of the nation's food." [Link](#)

Researchers to Look at Contamination (Kansas Farmer 3/15). Roger Beachy, Director of USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, has announced a research grant award to Michigan State University to reduce "shedding," or the release

of E. coli from the digestive tract, of shiga toxin-producing E. coli from cattle. The project, led by Dr. Shannon Manning, will study shedding from cattle and develop strategies to reduce the shedding, with the intent of decreasing the number of illnesses.

[Link](#)

University Of Michigan Awarded \$4.9 Million To Help Reduce Obesity In Preschool Children (Medical News Today 3/15). The USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture has awarded \$4.9 million to the University of Michigan to reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity among Head Start preschoolers in Michigan. [Link](#)

5th Annual Southwest AG Summit Takes Place in Yuma (NPR 3/15). The spotlight was on agriculture in Southwestern Arizona as the 5th annual Southwest AG Summit was held recently in Yuma. Kim Johnson covered the summit to find out the latest for the most important industry in Southwest Arizona. Keynote speaker Jeanette Thurston was interviewed. [Link](#)

W. Mich kids part of obesity study (WOOD TV – MI 3/17). Over the next four years, children in Kent County, Greenville and Jackson will be part of a study on childhood obesity being conducted by University of Michigan researchers. A \$4.9 million grant from the US Department of Agriculture will fund the study and look at children in the Head Start programs in Kent County, Greenville and Jackson. The study will look at the ability of children to control certain emotions and behaviors in eating. In a release, the director of the Kent County Head Start program, Phillip Hamberg, said 52% of children in their program are overweight, and half of those are considered obese. [Link](#)

'Selling the Seasons' Small Farm Workshop scheduled at Western Nevada College (Reno Gazette Journal 3/18). "You can grow it, now sell it," is the message of Western Nevada College Specialty Crop Institute's workshop for small farms. Funding for this project was provided by the Washington State University Western Center for Risk Management Education and the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)