

NIFA in the News – Week of April 4, 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 April 4, 2011.

In the News

Fresh vs. fast Chico State works to introduce kids to healthful eats, including ethnic produce (Chico News and Review 3/24). With a two-year seed grant of \$150,000 from the USDA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, Chico State will bring cooking demonstrations to local low-income elementary schools in Gridley, Thermalito and Chico. The hope is for students to take home newfound enthusiasm to their own families' kitchens. If subsequent surveys and focus groups show it to be successful, the program may be applied at a broader scale. [Link](#)

OJC Soil and Crop Science scholarships offer great opportunities for students (Bent County Democrat 4/1). Otero Junior College in La Junta, Colo., will begin a new Soil and Crop Science program of study, starting Fall Semester 2011. The new program is being made possible through a grant from USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). OJC was one of 31 Hispanic-serving institutions (HSI) to be awarded a grant in 2010 to develop programming that would serve underserved students and develop a skilled work force. [Link](#)

Possible budget cuts for Extension (Paragould Daily Press 4/1). Just as food prices are taking a steep climb, Congress is looking at passing budget legislation that could result in reduced funding for the Cooperative Extension Service, which has a number of people wondering about the future of many programs and research that have helped the nation's farmers feed the world. At that meeting state officials expressed their concern that National Institute of Food and Agriculture funding for the Extension Service in Arkansas could be rolled back to 2008, which would result in the Division of Agriculture, under which the service is operated, receiving some \$1.6 million less. That could, it was noted, result in elimination of congressionally designated projects and a loss of nearly 100 jobs within the Division of Agriculture (Extension) in Arkansas. [Link](#)

\$9 Million Grant to Virginia Tech To Improve Soybean Production and Sustainability (Ag Professional 4/2). USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), announced a grant to Virginia Tech to address global food security concerns through improved soybean production. [Link](#)

Virginia Tech wins \$9.2M soybean study grant (WTOP 4/2). Virginia Tech has won a \$9.28 million federal grant to improve soybean production to ensure the vital food source continues to satisfy an ever-expanding global hunger. The funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture was announced in late March. It was awarded to scientists at the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute and Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. [Link](#)

Virginia Tech researchers win \$9.2m grant to improve soybean production, sustainability (Greenfield Daily Reporter 4/2). Virginia Tech has won a \$9.28 million federal grant to improve soybean production to ensure the vital food source continues to satisfy an ever-expanding global hunger. The funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture was announced in late March. It was awarded to scientists at the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute and Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. [Link](#)

Boy Toddlers Need Extra Help Dealing With Negative Emotions, Experts Urge (Science Daily 4/5). Young children, especially boys, may need their parents' help working through angry or fearful emotions. If you punish toddlers for their anger and frustration or act as if their fears are silly or shameful, they may internalize those negative emotions, and that may lead to behavior problems as they get older. Funding was provided by the U of I Research Board and the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

Root2Fruit Part 2 (Ag Infonet 4/8). Rootstocks are the heart and soul of any orchard and without continual research to find better rootstocks an orchard will soon cease to be productive. Gennaro Fazio, Apple Rootstock Breeder and Geneticist with Cornell University says their program called Root2Fruit hopes to bring together fruit industry players to help ramp up research. They will be submitting a proposal to the Specialty Crop Research Initiative of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)



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