

NIFA in the News – Week of July 4, 2011

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In the News

Climate Keeps USDA Adapting (DTN 6/30). Despite a rebuke earlier this month from the House of Representatives, USDA continues to emphasize research on how farmers and livestock producers can deal with extensive production challenges stemming from climate change. Thursday, USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture will announce 24 grants totaling \$56 million to study ways agriculture and forestry can adapt to climate change and take advantage of variable climate patterns. The projects were selected from 113 research proposals pitched to NIFA by research institutions from across the country. [\(Email for full story\)](#)

USDA Awards Grants to Help Agriculture Producers Adapt to Global Climate Change Effects (GardenBiz 7/2). The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has awarded 13 grants to research possibilities for agriculture and forestry producers to adapt to climate change and to best take advantage of variable climate patterns. [Link](#)

CU team tackles salmonella (Ithaca Journal 7/3). Two Cornell University faculty members will work to stop the spread of salmonella in tomatoes. Cornell received a \$500,000 grant from the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative through the U.S. Department of Agriculture to do this research. Cornell was one of 24 institutions to receive grants to reduce food-borne illnesses and deaths from microbial contamination. [Link](#)

UAF joins research on childhood obesity in indigenous groups (The News Minor-AK 7/3). Researchers at the University of Alaska Fairbanks are joining a 5-year, \$23.7 million collaboration to study childhood obesity. The new project, funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, will pair a UAF team with researchers from Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa and other Pacific islands. They plan to examine the factors that cause obesity among 2-8 year old children, and what approaches will best combat the problem. The research will focus mainly on indigenous people in the Pacific Islands and Alaska, who more frequently struggle with childhood obesity. Bret Luick, a food and nutrition specialist with the UAF Cooperative

Extension Service, said it's a group that seems to be especially at risk. [Link](#)

UAF joins research on tribal childhood obesity (AP 7/4). University of Alaska Fairbanks researchers are participating in a study of childhood obesity among indigenous people. The 5-year, \$23.7 million project is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The study will pair a UAF team with researchers from Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam and other Pacific islands. Researchers will look at factors that cause obesity among native children, and what approaches to combat the problem. [Link](#)

Local farms prepped for emergencies (Addison County Independent 7/4). In the past 10 years, national security threats have come to be almost synonymous with terrorism. But the security threats that top the list of Julie Smith of the University of Vermont Extension are of a different nature: They include foot and mouth disease, dangerous weather in livestock production centers, and anything that could disrupt U.S. agricultural systems. Smith is midway through a three-year project funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that aims to educate and develop strategies to combat possible hazards to the Vermont agricultural system — more specifically, dairy. [Link](#)

U of M project will help corn and soybean farmers prepare for climate change (PhysOrg 7/6). New research led by the University of Minnesota will help corn and soybean farmers across the country modify farming techniques to deal with climate change. The project is funded by a five-year, \$4.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The aim is to take farmers' already successful practices and find ways to refine them in anticipation of climatic changes such as stronger storms and longer droughts, said Nick Jordan, the U of M agronomy professor who is the project's principal investigator. [Link](#)

U of M Research Helps Farmers Adjust to Climate Change (KSTP Channel 5 7/7). A \$4.1 million grant is being used to help farmers learn to deal with climate change. The five-year grant is provided to the University of Minnesota by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The project aims to give corn and soybean farmers new techniques to adjust to changing weather patterns. The project will build on successful techniques already used by the farmers. [Link](#)

