

NIFA in the News – Week of January 9, 2012

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In the News

Colleges Partner to Help Southern NV Farmers (Insurance News 1/7).

Community colleges in Northern and Southern Nevada are collaborating to bring innovative agricultural training to small farms and ranches and to expand the local food movement in Southern Nevada. Western Nevada College Specialty Crop Institute and College of Southern Nevada present a Direct Marketing for Small Farms Workshop. 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 (NIFA). [Link](#)

Universities aid Afghanistan ag (Capital Press 1/11). A consortium of U.S. universities has received more money to continue the effort to help rebuild Afghanistan's agriculture. Washington State University, part of a consortium led by the University of California-Davis, will receive \$3.12 million to help strengthen the Afghani extension system. The USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and U.S. Agency for International Development are providing the money. [Link](#)

Honeybee Deaths Linked to Seed Insecticide Exposure (Scientific Frontier 1/11).

Honeybee populations have been in serious decline for years, and Purdue University scientists may have identified one of the factors that cause bee deaths around agricultural fields. Analyses of bees found dead in and around hives from several apiaries over two years in Indiana showed the presence of neonicotinoid insecticides, which are commonly used to coat corn and soybean seeds before planting. The research showed that those insecticides were present at high concentrations in waste talc that is exhausted from farm machinery during planting. The North American Pollinator Protection Campaign and the USDA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative funded the research. [Link](#)

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