

NIFA in the News – Week of April 30, 2012

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In the News

Lower food and fuel costs could result from MU researcher's battle against soy pest (PhysOrg 4/26). Americans rarely see soybeans on their plates, but soybeans account for two-thirds of the world's animal feed and more than half the edible oil consumed in the U.S., according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). To guard the productivity of this important crop, University of Missouri plant pathologist Melissa Mitchum and colleagues at Iowa State University and North Carolina State University recently received a \$466,000 grant from the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture to continue their research on protecting soybeans from nematode parasites, which cause \$1.3 billion annually in soybean crop losses in the U.S. [Link](#)

Modern hybrid corn makes better use of nitrogen (Pork Magazine, Crop Life 4/30). Today's hybrid corn varieties more efficiently use nitrogen to create more grain, according to 72 years of public-sector research data reviewed by Purdue University researchers. Tony Vyn, a professor of agronomy, and doctoral student Ignacio Ciampitti looked at nitrogen use studies for corn from two periods – 1940-1990 and 1991-2011. They wanted to see whether increased yields were due to better nitrogen efficiency or whether new plants were simply given additional nitrogen to produce more grain. Dow AgroSciences, PotashCorp and the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture funded their work. [Link](#)

FY '13 Agriculture Appropriations Passes Committee (National Hog Farmer 4/30). The Senate Appropriations Committee passed its fiscal year 2013 agriculture appropriations bill. The bill provides \$20.785 billion in discretionary spending. Highlights of the bill include: Research – Provides \$1.239 billion for the National Institute on Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and \$1.101 billion for the Agricultural Research Service (ARS). [Link](#)

Breastfed Babies Get All the Good Germs (DailyRX 5/1). A recent study found that the bacteria that grows in the guts of breastfed babies and formula-fed babies is

significantly more diverse and may play a part in beefing up breastfed babies' ability to fight bad germs. The research was funded by the National Institute of Health, the Hatch project through the Division of Nutritional Sciences Vision 20/20 program and USDA-NIFA Grant Designing Foods for Health. [Link](#)

Garlic compound fights source of food-borne illness better than antibiotics (EurekAlert 5/1). Researchers at Washington State University have found that a compound in garlic is 100 times more effective than two popular antibiotics at fighting the Campylobacter bacterium, one of the most common causes of intestinal illness. Their work was recently published in the Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy. The research was funded by the National Institutes of Health ((R56 AI088518-01A1) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (AFRI 2011-68003-20096). [Link](#)

Hands off IR-4 funding, groups tell USDA in comments (Pesticide and Chemical Policy 5/1). In written comments and a final public listening session held today, various stakeholders have asked USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture to maintain net funding levels for the IR-4 project at \$11.9 million and to keep its funding separate from five Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs. [Link](#)

A little green helps gardens grow (Homer News 5/2). Micro-grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 have been awarded to 22 projects from Ninilchik to Nanwalek to launch new garden projects or strengthen existing ones. The money comes from a \$110,500 People's Garden grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture. In November, the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District, in partnership with MAPP (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership), received that garden grant and solicited community garden proposals. [Link](#)

USDA-NIFA host Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program webinars (AVMA at Work 5/2). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) will hold four live webinar sessions for veterinarians who are considering applying to the USDA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP). Each session will provide an in-depth explanation of the VMLRP application process. [Link](#)

UNL ag policy research gets USDA grant (Gothenburg Times 5/4). All consumers are not the same. Neither are all agricultural producers. Yet ag policy analysis typically has assumed they are, which can result in ineffective or inefficient policies. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is leading a new research effort to change that approach. UNL received a two-year \$766,166 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to establish a new policy research group within its Center for Agricultural and Food Industrial Organization. [Link](#)

ENERGY: Building on bioprocessing (Prairie Journal 5/4). Researchers at South Dakota State University in Brookings, S.D., are working with the U. S. Department of

Agriculture to look at receiving, sorting and pre-processing feedstocks to break them down into bio-oil, syngas and biochar. The research group is using funds from the South Dakota Agriculture Experiment Station, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Sun Grant Initiative through the U.S. Department of Energy. [Link](#)

BLM OKs Rangeland Cheatgrass Research Project (Lahontan Valley News 5/6).

The Bureau of Land Management Winnemucca District has issued an authorization to Dr. Jeremy James, Research Ecologist, Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center, Burns, Ore., to conduct a four-year study on seedling establishment within cheatgrass dominated areas of the District. The research is funded through a grant provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The broad objective of this research is to evaluate seeding success based on precipitation and soil texture gradients. The research will be conducted at five study plots in previously burned areas which are now dominated by cheatgrass. [Link](#)

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