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From the NIFA Communications Office

NIFA in the News – Week of September 24, 2012

Curious as to what happens to all the news releases you see in the NIFA newsroom? Here's the weekly summary of NIFA's mentions in the news media for the week of September 24, 2012.

In the News

Sonny Ramaswamy to speak at Entomology 2012 (EurekAlert 9/23). The Entomological Society of America (ESA) is honored to announce that Sonny Ramaswamy, Director of the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), will be speaking twice at Entomology 2012, ESA's 60th Annual Meeting to be held November 11-14, 2012 in Knoxville, Tennessee. Link

Unique Training Program Will Support New and Beginning Urban Farmers (Digital Journal 9/24). The Recirculating Farms Coalition and the New Orleans Food and Farm Network are jointly hosting a sustainable urban farmer training program in New Orleans, Louisiana in November and again in Spring 2013. With the goals of ramping up a local food economy and bringing affordable healthy food and green jobs to areas most in need, the program is designed to support new and beginning farmers by providing mentoring from experienced farmers, best growing practices, business plans and other critical information. Funding for the training program was supported by the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Link

Angus Foundation to fund genomic sequencing of Angus sires (Cattle Network 9/25). At its September 2012 meeting, the Angus Foundation Board of Directors approved funding for a research project at the University of Missouri, Columbia, for genomic sequencing of Angus bulls. This sequencing is meant to enhance the understanding and genetic prediction of Angus cattle performance. Taylor says the Angus Foundation dollars will be used in tandem with funding provided by the United States Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA NIFA), to deep sequence the genomes of high-impact Angus bulls to identify variation in growth, carcass quality, feed intake, disease resistance and early embryonic loss. Link

Earth's Water System Relationship with Land Use, Climate Change and Ecosystems (Kansas City InfoZine 9/25). To better understand how planet Earth's water cycle works, the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the United States Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) awarded grants totaling almost $27 million through the Water Sustainability and Climate program. Link

Earth's Water System Could Be Affected By Land Use, Climate Change And Ecosystems (Red Orbit 9/26). We don't yet understand the how the connections between water sustainability and hydrologic processes will be affected by climate change, but to better this understanding, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has teamed up with the United States Departments of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The collaboration has awarded grants totaling almost $27 million through the Water Sustainability and Climate (WSC) program. Link

Cover crops as forage: Heed herbicide labels (Agri-View 9/27). Cover crops have garnered a lot of new attention from growers this year. Many are going with rye, wheat, even buckwheat as emergency forage. USDA is interested in cover crops, too. Using a grant from USDA's National Institute of Food and agriculture, Purdue University is showing that cover crops left on the soil surface after germination in spring will conserve soil moisture acting as a soil cover. This can increase crop yields in dry years and reduce year-to-year variability in yields. USDA's Agricultural Research Service estimates that when farmers combine cover crops and no-till, they can save an estimated 4 to 14 percent on water than over conventional tilling practices. Link

$599K grant help turn unused wastewater plant into a fish farm (KY Post 9/27). When Steve Mims looks at an outdated and unused wastewater treatment plant, he envisions a bustling - and profitable - fish farm. The Kentucky State University researcher and his colleagues will spend the next three years trying to turn Winchester's former plant into a "model farm" full of paddlefish, hybrid striped bass and channel catfish. KSU received $599,751 last month from the United States Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. That funding will allow the researchers to focus on the Winchester project for three years, studying the ins and outs of turning a former wastewater treatment plant into a working aquaculture farm. Link

WVSU getting $1.6M agricultural grant (WOWKTV 9/27). West Virginia State University is receiving more than $1.6 million in federal grants focusing on agriculture production and science, technology, engineering and math education. The Institute school says the money from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture will fund seven proposed research projects. Link

West Virginia State University receives $1.6 million in federal research grants (Charleston Gazette 9/27). West Virginia State University will receive more than $1.6 million in federal research grants from the US Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. WVSU was awarded $1.63 million out of $18 million available in federal funding, the largest amount the school has received in one funding cycle from the grant program. Link

WVSU getting $1.6M agricultural grant (NorthJersey.com 9/27). West Virginia State University is receiving more than $1.6 million in federal grants focusing on agriculture production and science, technology, engineering and math education. The Institute school says the money from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture will fund seven proposed research projects. Link

NSF, NIH Award Grants To Study Spread Of Diseases (Red Orbit 9/29). The NSF, the NIH's

Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases (EEID) program, the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and the UK's Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) are among the organizations studying the possible ecological and biological mechanisms that could be at least partially responsible for the increased number of cases of infectious diseases spreading in both people and animals. Link

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