



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE'S 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

- NIFA awarded 26 grants (\$13.4 million) for research, education, and Extension efforts to inform science-based decision-making on water-related issues in communities across the United States.
- \$25 million Food Safety CAP awarded to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
- NIFA awarded 23 grants to organizations that help thousands of people with disabilities continue their chosen agricultural professions. The grants, totaling \$4.1 million, were funded through the NIFA's AgrAbility program.
- NIFA and the Department of Energy are jointly funding projects through the Biomass Research and Development Initiative program that has up to \$35 million over the next 3 years to support research and development in advanced biofuels, bioenergy, and high-value biobased products.
- More than 200 4-H members from across the country came to the nation's capital to make their voice heard on what issues are affecting youth as part of the 2012 National 4-H Conference, sponsored by NIFA. Dr. Jill Biden, Second Lady of the United States, and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack addressed the delegates during the general session.
- A consortium of scientists with funding from NIFA and ARS, have discovered a genetic marker in pigs that identifies whether or not a pig has reduced susceptibility to porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome. The disease costs the U.S. pork industry an estimated \$644 million a year. These genetic markers are a breakthrough in research efforts to curb the disease.
- NIFA released requests for applications for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Childhood Obesity Prevention funding opportunity to support research, education, and Extension aimed at reducing the prevalence of childhood obesity across the nation. NIFA plans to release \$5 million in grants for this challenge area in FY 2012.
- Hawaiian teachers are using gardening to boost their science, technology, and math classes, while placing an emphasis on Hawaii's need for more experiential science learning related to agriculture and sustainability. NIFA is funding the Kohala Center through the Secondary Higher Education and Ag in the Classroom Challenge grants program to organize the Hawai'i Island School Garden Network.
- More than \$18 million in grants to organizations across 24 states will help beginning farmers and ranchers with the training and resources needed to run productive, sustainable farms. NIFA awarded the grants through its Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) established through the 2008 Farm Bill.
- USDA announced \$101 million in funding through the Specialty Crop Research Initiative to support America's specialty crop producers, who provide nutritious foods for millions of healthy Americans. Approximately \$55 million will be invested in 56 specialty crop block grants to states that fund 748 initiatives across the country to strengthen and expand economic opportunities for local and regional producers. An additional \$46 million will support new and continuing research and Extension activities addressing challenges and opportunities for growers and businesses that rely on a sustainable, profitable specialty crops industry.

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE'S 2012 HIGHLIGHTS (CONT'D)

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- NIFA awarded \$19 million to research and Extension programs to help organic producers and processors grow and market high-quality organic agricultural products. The grants include more than \$14 million for the 2012 Organic Research and Extension Initiative.
- Pennsylvania State University received a 5-year research grant valued at roughly \$10 million to take leadership in developing biomass supply chains for the production of liquid transportation and aviation biofuels in the Northeast. This is the sixth such award made through NIFA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative. Also USDA, Department of Energy, and U.S. Navy are investing up to \$510 million in partnership with the private sector to produce aviation and marine biofuels to power military and commercial transportation.
- Research conducted and supported by NIFA has led to a new analysis of the pig genome, revealing new similarities between pigs and humans that could potentially advance biomedical research significantly. Additional findings from the study may also lead to better breeding strategies, improved pork production, and improvements to human health.
- NIFA awarded more than \$33 million to support research and Extension activities addressing pest management issues that have human health, environmental, and economic consequences across the nation.
- NIFA announced nearly \$17 million in grants to tribal colleges and universities to support research, education, and Extension activities to support schools in American Indian communities focused on bolstering their students' learning in the areas of science and mathematics.
- NIFA announced \$10 million in research grants to spur production of bioenergy and biobased products that will lead to the development of sustainable regional systems and help create jobs. NIFA awarded the grants through the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI).



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