

NIFA in the News – Week of November 19, 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 November 19, 2012.

In the News

MSU sets schedule for food defense workshops (Delta Farm Press 11/15). The Mississippi State University Extension Service will focus on food supply safety in free workshops for individuals and businesses in the food industry. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture is funding the workshops through the Southern Risk Management Education Center. [Link](#)

Why your next set of tires may be made from weeds (Autoguide.com 11/15). When it comes to the auto industry, oil isn't the only thing imported from foreign countries and subject to supply issues and price spikes. The same is true of the rubber in your car's tires, though a solution could lie in a simple, resilient weed that grows freely across the American southwest. The guayule plant is a scraggly bush that thrives on marginal land in desert areas. This unassuming perennial shows amazing promise as a source of natural rubber. Guayule shows enormous promise and Cooper Tire & Rubber Company is running at redline trying to figure out how to bring it to market. To help fund their research and development efforts they, along with some partners, were awarded a \$6.9 million grant jointly provided by USDA and DOE. The company is also working with USDA's Agricultural Research Service, which has been conducting ongoing studies of guayule's potential. [Link](#)

Study to monitor feedyard emissions (High Plains Journal 11/16). An accurate estimation of nitrous oxide and methane emissions from beef cattle feedlots is an increasing concern given the current and potential future reporting requirements for greenhouse gas emissions. Ken Casey, Ph.D., Texas A&M AgriLife Research air quality engineer in Amarillo, is working on an ongoing study to quantify the nitrous oxide and methane emission rates from pen surfaces at two commercial beef cattle feedlots in Texas. This research is supported in part by Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture, AgriLife Research and Texas Cattle Feeders Association. [Link](#)

USDA funded research leads to key discoveries in the pig genome (Science Codex 11/16). Research conducted and supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) 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, reported today in the journal Nature, may also lead to better breeding strategies, improved pork production and improvements to human health. [Link](#)

Obama inducts record number of Indian-Americans into his administration (The Economic Times 11/19). The small Indian-American community - constituting just about one per cent of the US population - never had it so good as under the Obama Administration, with a record number of community members being roped in to head top administrative positions. Early this year Obama appointed Paula Gangopadhyay Member of the prestigious National Museum and Library Services Board, and Sonny Ramaswamy; Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). [Link](#)

USDA Funded Research Leads to Key Discoveries in the Pig Genome (CropLife 11/16). Research conducted and supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) 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, reported today in the journal Nature, may also lead to better breeding strategies, improved pork production and improvements to human health. [Link](#)

Organic management of brown marmorated stink bugs? (Ag Professional 11/20). The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture is joining a multistate effort to develop new methods for organic farmers to contend with invasive brown marmorated stink bugs. The UT Organic and Sustainable Crop Production Program has been awarded \$120,550 in federal funding to pursue two objectives. The first is to determine the importance of natural enemies on stink bugs and their impact on populations. The second is to determine the effectiveness of barrier fabrics as cultural control tactics. The research effort is part of a nine-university collaboration focused on organic management of the brown marmorated stink bug and funded with \$2.7 million by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The three-year initiative has the support or involvement of 25 researchers, three organic production organizations and 12 organic farmers. [Link](#)

3-year federal grant to ASU will fund bioenergy research on oil-seed Camelina (Today's THV 11/21). Faculty in the College of Agriculture and Technology at Arkansas State University have been awarded a \$276,877 research grant from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and will work with Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas. The project is focused on building capacity for bioenergy research and outreach in East Arkansas and the Delta region. [Link](#)

Texas A&M, Mizzou vet schools seeking ways to stop BRD ASAP (Cattle Network 11/21). Both Texas A&M and the University of Missouri have acclaimed veterinary colleges, and the two schools have frequently collaborated on work involving animals. A current project could have a huge impact on the beef industry.

James Womack, the W.P. Luse Endowed and Distinguished Professor in Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, has partnered with Missouri colleague Jerry Taylor to work on a five-year grant to study bovine respiratory disease, commonly called BRD. It is a \$9.2 million project to find ways to prevent the disease and funding comes from the Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

Primus Green Energy Joins NEWBio Consortium as Industry Collaborator (Just Means 11/21). Primus Green Energy, a New Jersey alternative energy company based in Hillsborough, New Jersey, has signed on to the Northeast Woody/Warm-season Biomass Consortium (NEWBio) as an industry collaborator. The company will provide technical insight to the group as it develops perennial feedstock production systems and supply chains for biomass feedstocks. The consortium is led by Penn State's College of Agricultural Science and supported by a nearly \$10 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

Aquaculture research program looking to recruit fish farmers (Farm and Dairy 11/22). The Ohio Center for Aquaculture Research and Development at the Ohio State University South Centers is looking for a few good fish farmers. The center is offering 25 new and beginning fish farmers a hands-on approach to aquaculture and the business of fish farming through a year-long program that offers participants the opportunity to study the issue at the Piketon facility. And thanks to a grant from the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the Aquaculture Boot Camp program is offered at no cost, said Laura Tiu, of the OSU South Centers. [Link](#)

Published on November 26, 2012 / Jennifer Martin