Spring Time Edition

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WASHINGTON, April 7, 2015 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) today announced 21 grants totaling more than $10 million have been awarded to universities to support critical water problems in rural and agricultural watersheds across the United States. The awards were made through NIFA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Water for Agriculture challenge area and the National Integrated Water Quality Program.

"Water is our most precious resource, one that is essential for both human survival and well-being and for our ability to grow our crops and livestock," said Sonny Ramaswamy, NIFA director. "By funding research, extension, and education for citizens and the agriculture community, we are able to proactively create solutions to water-related issues like drought and its impact on food security."

The AFRI Water for Agriculture challenge area was first introduced in fiscal year (FY) 2014, and these grants represent the first year of funding for the program. Funded projects link social, economic, and behavioral sciences with traditional biophysical sciences and engineering to address regional scale issues with shared hydrological processes, and meteorological and basin characteristics. Fiscal year 2014 Water for Agriculture grants recipients are:

- University of California, Riverside, Calif., $149,990
- Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville, Ga., $56,943
- Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind., $999,438
- Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich., $900,000
- University of Missouri, Kansas City, Mo., $148,995
- University of Nevada, Reno, Nev., $500,000
- State University of New York's College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, N.Y., $128,511
- Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, $49,968
- Clemson University, Clemson, S.C., $150,000
- University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn., $900,000
- West Texas A&M University, Canyon, Texas, $149,777
- University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas, $900,000
- Utah State University, Logan, Utah, $49,534
- University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisc., $900,000

This year’s projects include the University of Nevada's Coordinated Agricultural Program designed to increase research and participatory engagement with American Indians and assess the impacts of climate change on future water supplies and enhance the climate resiliency of tribal agriculture. Another project from Clemson University will integrate remote sensing products and weather forecast information for farmers and growers to address the best products, increase agricultural drought indices, and develop an agricultural drought forecasting model to provide near real-time feedback.

NIFA is expected to make $30 million available over the next five years for the AFRI Water for Agriculture challenge area, with the expectation that the new projects awarded this fiscal year would receive additional funds (based on available funding) if they achievement project objectives and milestones.

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Extension and Education Material for Mastitis Control and Antibiotics Use Reduction in Dairy Operations in Florida

Contributors: By: Aliyar Fouladkhah¹, Ray Mobley¹, and Ron Erskine²

1. Florida A&M University, Cooperative Extension Program, Tallahassee, FL.
2. Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.

Are you concerned about mastitis and antibiotic residue in your dairy operation? You are not alone. Mastitis continues to be the most dominant disease and leading cause of antimicrobial use in adult dairy cattle in the United States. With a diverse team of veterinarians and extension specialists, Florida A&M University has partnered with Michigan State University and The Pennsylvania State University to work on a USDA funded project aimed at developing and implementing tools to assist dairy farmers to reduce mastitis and antibiotic use. We are excited about entering the third year of the project. Together with collaborators, we were able to conduct need assessments through comprehensive surveys in Michigan, Florida, and Pennsylvania with participation of over 1,500 dairy farms. Based on concerns and needs of producers, the project has updated educational material on the Quality Milk Alliance website. We would like to cordially invite you to visit the website where you can find bilingual documents and videos about the project and best practices in dairy operations. You can access the information at no cost by visiting the project website at: http://qualitymilkalliance.com/

The Quality Milk Alliance, a five-year project funded by USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, is dedicated to reducing mastitis and antibiotic use in dairy operations. The study is in progress at Michigan State University, The Pennsylvania State University, and Florida A&M University. The project is awarded to Dr. Ron Erskine at Michigan State University and Dr. Ray Mobley at Florida A&M University. Dr. Mobley and Dr. Mary Sowerby, at University of Florida, Dairy Extension program are directing the Florida section of the project. Based on input and feedback from over 1,500 dairy stakeholders, the project is developing the Quality Milk Audit (QMA) program. This year the QMA will be validated through on farm implementations and will be provided to dairy farmers. The QMA will also be incorporated into education and extension programs at Michigan State, The Pennsylvania State, and Florida A&M Universities for training of the future generation of dairy students and scientists. In Florida, QMA will be incorporated into Veterinary Technology training Program at Florida A&M University to prepare students for dynamic and challenging careers in dairy industry. In addition to this ongoing project, Florida A&M University has extensive extension and outreach material for herd health that can be accessed by visiting the university website at http://www.famu.edu/herds.
CONGRATULATIONS DR. GLEN WRIGHT

2015 Distinguished Award Winners

The University of Florida
College of Veterinary Medicine
Distinguished Awards in each category are:

Alumni Achievement Award  Dr. Natalie Isaza, ‘94

Distinguished Service Award  Dr. Lauren Davidson, ‘99

Outstanding Young Alumni Award  Dr. Johanna Elfenbein, ‘07
                                 Dr. Glen Wright, ‘06

Special Service Award  Dr. Pamela E. Ginn

The Distinguished Awards will be presented at the Class of 2015 Commencement Ceremony Saturday, May 23, 2015 beginning at 2 PM in the Curtis H. Phillips Center for Performing Arts.
I am pleased to announce that the animal science program in CAFS has 6 students that have been admitted to colleges of veterinary medicine. These schools include Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine, Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, and University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine. Please let us congratulate:

- Dianna Brown
- Nohely Gonzalez
- Aaron Judson
- Danielle Lewin
- Dianna Smith
- Jasmine Smith

These students have gained admittance into an extremely competitive pool. The average GPA of students admitted to veterinary school is 3.59. These students will be excellent representatives of CAFS and Florida A&M University.

Also to note, in the last 2 years students have been admitted to the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, and Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine.

- Kamilliyah Miller
- Harlem Motley
- Miranda Shaw
- Mary Alice Teague

Great things happening in CAFS everyday!
JUMPING INTO SPRING: GROWING INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOT PEPPERS

So its spring time and you have decided that you are going to make some money on the hot pepper market or on a smaller scale, grow some of those ‘spicy’ devils for personal consumption. As a beginner, you have decided to:

* grow about 0.33 acres of Scotch Bonnet hot pepper for sale OR grow about 30 potted hot pepper plants in 2 gallon pots
* make some delicious hot pepper jellies and pickle some hot peppers for future use
* experiment with various types of hot sauce
* experiment with making that famous Caribbean jerk seasoning
* experiment with some Caribbean recipes like curried goat and chicken

But alas! You have no idea how to grow hot peppers. Well here’s the good news: whether you are interested in growing hot peppers commercially or simply as a hobby, the procedures for growing the plants are similar. The only difference is in the scale of your project. Here are some basic guidelines for growing the plants in small garden plots or in 2 – gallon pots if garden space is a limitation.

**Site selection:** First of all, the statement that hot peppers should only be grown in ‘full sunlight’ is only partially true. Although a nice well drained sunny area is preferable, hot peppers can tolerate up to 35 % shade and still grow well. In fact, some of our better yields came from controlled experiments with 25 % shade. Bear in mind however, that shade reduces the time to fruit formation.

**Tools & Equipment:** Tools and equipment include: rotary tillers, garden rakes, garden hoes, shovels, hand spades, watering hoses, sprinklers, a complete fertilizer such as a 10:10:10 compound fertilizer, and a roll of string for lining out your plots and planting in straight rows. For container gardens, you will need potting soil or mushroom compost, and 2 or 3 gallon pots. You may consider getting your soil tested at one of the local agricultural extension offices before deciding on a fertilizer plan. Furthermore, after a soil test, you may find that fertilizer is not a requirement at all for your first crop. For outdoor gardens less than 0.5 acres, small rotary tillers are a great choice for initial land preparation. However, these can cost up to $3000.00. My number one choice is a firm garden fork to break and invert the soil, followed by a garden hoe to break the clods. This combination of tools does a great job on small plots (approximately 20 ft. x 20 ft.) and gives you a great workout. A WORD OF CAUTION! If you have never used a garden fork before, PLEASE ask for a demonstration. The spikes can cost you a leg or even your life if you drive them into your foot instead of the ground.

**PLANTING AND SPACING**

**Outdoor gardens:** Raised beds (approximately 12 to 18 inches from ground level) are preferable. However, if flooding is not an issue, you may simply break and pulverize the soil, establish your plot boundaries with your lining material then you are ready to plant. Make holes about 3 to 4 inches deep with spaces of 2ft. to 3 ft. apart. Pull the soil around the roots and press or tap lightly to ensure that the entire root of the plant is buried and that the plants are firmly in the ground.

**Potted plants:** With proper care, hot peppers do just as well in potted plants as they do outdoors. However, there are several areas of concern to be addressed: by adhering to these guidelines, you should be able to grow potted hot peppers successfully:

- Use pots that provide sufficient space for root development. Two or 3 gallon pots are perfect. Smaller pots can be used but can have conflicting results.
- Ensure that the pots allow excess water to drain and air to circulate freely
- Ensure that the potting medium is free of weed seeds and in the case of mushroom compost, fully cured. Heat from uncured compost will kill your plants.
- Plant towards the center of the pot using the same depth and planting procedures for outdoor garden plants discussed above.
- Place your potted plants in an area where they will receive at least 4 to 5 hours of full sunlight. Areas of total darkness are strictly forbidden.

Do not place on back porches where the plants are exposed to the merciless heat of the afternoon sun, or are unable to receive light cooling breezes and cooling rain showers. This is perhaps the number one reason why many potted plants fail.

The information provided in this article will help you get on your way to becoming a successful hot pepper grower and to produce hot peppers for personal use. However, due to space limitations, important information on after care, such as mitigating the threat of pests and diseases has been omitted. This information will be provided in a subsequent issue. The timing will be perfect since by then, your plants should be either blooming or even producing fruit. Hopefully you will have no problems from pests or diseases. If you need additional information on growing hot peppers, please contact the author. Best of luck with your spring garden!
Scented geranium plants are a sensual delight in any home or garden. Their varied and textured leaves, the bright colors of their flowers, the scented oils they produce and the flavor they can add to food and drinks appeal to almost all of our senses. Scented geranium plants are not true geraniums, but members of the Pelargonium genus and are considered to be tender perennials. In colder regions of the United States they are treated as annuals.

Scented geranium originated in Africa and was brought to Holland by early explorers. From Holland, the popular houseplant migrated to England in the 1600s. They were preferred during the Victorian era when the fragrant leaves were added to fingerbowls for guests to rinse their hands between courses at dinner.

There are now over a hundred varieties with different shaped and textured leaves, flower colors and aromas; mint, rose, citrus and chocolate is a few of the more popular scents available. Unlike other garden plants that are fragrant only when blooming, scented geraniums are fragranced all year long. Caring for scented geranium is very easy; they can be grown in pots, indoors or out, or in the ground. They prefer a sunny location, but may need some protection when the sun is at its strongest. They will thrive in just about any soil type as long as it drains well.

Fertilize them lightly and cautiously while they’re actively growing. Scented geranium’s biggest downside is they tend to get leggy and need to be trimmed back to promote bushiness. Over fertilization will only increase this problem. Before the first frost, dig up your plants and bring them indoors or take cuttings for winter growing. Keep them in a sunny window, water regularly and fertilize sparingly.

Whether in containers or in the ground, grow scented geraniums where they will be touched as the leaves need to be brushed or crushed to release the aromatic oils which are located in the glands at the base of their leaf hairs. Not only do they offer fragrant leaves, lovely flowers and exquisite scent, they’re edible! The leaves can be used to flavor teas, jellies, or baked goods and the aroma therapy is free for the taking. So remember to stop and smell the scented geranium.
# 2015 FAMU CEP Calendar of Events

## January

**January 15th** – Master Goat/Sheep Program and Master Farmer Online Registration starts – [http://www.famu.edu/goats](http://www.famu.edu/goats)

Contacts: Mr. Gilbert Queeley – 850-412-5255
Mrs. Angela McKenzie-Jakes - 850-875-8552

## February

**Aquaponic Seminar**
February 23rd, 6– 8: 00 pm- Fee: $20 early reg./ $25 day of Event
Sponsored by Gadsden County Extension Office at the FAMU Teleconference Center

**Vineyard Management & Pesticide Safety Workshop**
February 11th– 1—4:30 pm at Center for Viticulture & Small Fruit Research. Call (850) 599-3996 to register.

**Feral Swine Workshop** - February 13th in Ocala, FL; Feb 27th, Quincy

## March

**FAMU CEP Master Farmer Program**
March 13-14 and March 24-28

**Feral Swine Workshop** - March 6th – Lake City, FL; March 9th, Monticello, FL; March 26th – Marianna, FL

## April

**FAMU CEP Master Farmer Program**
April 10-11 – POSTPONED

**CROP Block Party** – FAMU Teleconference Center
Date : April 15th - 9-3:00 pm. FAMU Teleconference Center

## May

**FAMU CEP Master Goat and Sheep Certification Program**
May 1-2
May 15-16
May 29-30

## June

**FAMU CEP Spring Agri-Showcase** – Date: June 6th
*Master Goat/Sheep & Master Farmer Programs Graduation*

**Ag Discovery Summer Program** – June 7-20, 2015
Contacts: Dr. Mobley, Dr. Wright, Mrs. Lyttle-N’Guessan

**2015 Master Goat and Sheep Certification Program**
*Bonus Session* June 20th: 9 – 4 pm

## July

**2015 Master Goat and Sheep Certification Program**
*Bonus Session* July 25th: 9 – 4 pm

**USDA NIFA Ag Tech Century 21 Program** – July 12-17, 2015
Contacts: Dr. Mobley, Dr. Wright, Mrs. Lyttle-N’Guessan

## August

**FAMU CEP Open House**– Perry Paige Courtyard/ Date: TBA

**2015 Master Goat and Sheep Certification Program**
*Bonus Session* August 15th : 9 – 4 pm

## September

**EVENTS COMING SOON**

## October

**FAMU CEP Fall Agri-Showcase** – Date: October 24th
FAMU Research & Extension Center, Quincy, FL

## November

**EVENTS COMING SOON**

## December

**EVENTS COMING SOON**
Upcoming Events

PINDER ST

OSECOLA ST

CROP BLOCK PARTY

Highlighting Agriculture Awareness

FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY

College of Agriculture and Food Sciences
Cooperative Extension Program

Join us for a day of Food, Fun and Learning. Visit our Extension Professionals in:
- Gardening
- Hydroponics
- Tree Safety
- Food Science
- Farm to School
- Veterinary Technology
- Much more...

APRIL 15, 2015
9 A.M. – 3 P.M.
FREE
FAMU TELECONFERENCE CENTER
2010 PINDER DRIVE
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32307

For more information contact Cooperative Extension at (850) 599-3546

Free Event!
Free Food and Giveaways!
FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY

College of Agriculture and Food Sciences
Cooperative Extension Program

TRAINERS’ TRAINING IN AGROFORESTRY
PRACTICES IN THE SOUTHEASTERN REGION

Friday, April 24, 2015
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
FAMU Research and Extension Center
4259 Bainbridge Hwy.
Quincy, Florida 32352

Contact persons:
Dr. Kome Onokpise (850) 561-2217
Mrs. Angela McKenzie-Jakes (850) 875-8552

For more information, contact FAMU Cooperative Extension at (850) 599-3546.

For more information, please contact Dr. Kome Onokpise at (85) 561-2217
or Mrs. Angela McKenzie-Jakes at (850) 875-8552
YOUTH ENTREPRENEURS SUCCEED
(Y.E.S.) PROGRAM

Workshops (Ages 14—21)

April 8th—May 30th

Tuesdays (3:00pm —4:30pm) / Saturdays (8:30a.m. —10:00 a.m.)
Havana Library @ 203 E 5th Avenue, Havana FL
Contact: Elizabeth Jenkins, 850.345.4476 / email—mizlizz_15@hotmail.com
Classes are taught by Network for Teaching Entrepreneurs (NFTE) Certified Instructor,
Donna Salters, Business Development Coordinator, FAMU Cooperative Extension

Are you looking to....:

❖ Turn your dream of owning a business into a REALITY?
❖ Expand you career opportunity and become a business owner?
❖ Learn how to write a Business Plan?
❖ Build credentials from a Certificate of Completion and a monetary scholarship?
❖ Learn how to present your idea for a business loan or investors?
FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY

SAVE THE DATE
July 12-17, 2015
AG-TECH Century 21
Summer Enrichment Program
For Teens - Ages 13-17

Applications are being accepted.
Please visit for forms: www.famu.edu/herds

College of Agriculture and Food Sciences
Cooperative Extension Program

Contact: Carmen Lyttle N'Guessan at: 412-5363
Linda Sapp at: 412-5258
Main Office (850) 599-3546

(Deadline date 6/03/2015)
An intensive week long program developed to provide a better understanding of science through experiential activities in Food Science that are linked to the Sunshine Standards.

**Ages 12-14**

**Hands-on Experiments**

**Educational Field Trips**

**Product Development**

June 8 -12, 2015

“By obtaining information on Food Science and know that it is a career choice, it has helped me shape the studies I plan to pursue and gives me more options”

--- Student Participant

Contact: Conchita Newman
(850) 599-3440
conchita.newman@famu.edu

2015 Food Science Summer Program
The FY 2015 request for applications for the AFRI Water for Agriculture challenge was released on February 18, 2015. Applications are due July 16, 2015.

NIFA also funded projects through the National Integrated Water Quality Program (NIWQP) for science-based decision making and management practices that improve the quality and quantity of the Nation's water resources in agricultural, rural, and urbanizing watersheds. Applicants were asked to develop the science behind the most appropriate drought triggers and provide an understanding of the connection between trigger levels and drought management responses or decisions; or provide estimates of the economic value of water across different uses. The approaches to estimating water values will reflect uncertainties associated with future weather and climate conditions. Quantifying the value of water will provide valuable signals to agricultural producers, rural communities, and policy makers to aid decision-making for allocating agricultural water use across consumptive or non-consumptive uses.

Fiscal Year 2014 NIWQP grant recipients are:

- Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, Colo., $659,954
- University of Connecticut, Storrs, Conn., $750,000
- University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla., $659,676
- Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind., $659,839
- Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, $660,000
- South Dakota State University, Brookings, S.D., $227,135
- University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn., $659,926

This year's projects include South Dakota State University's research to identify drought triggers, develop mitigation plans, investigate socio-economic factors associated with new technology adoption, and educate different age groups of students about drought issues. The University of Tennessee will execute a long-term plan to assist agricultural producers, policymakers, and communities throughout the Southeastern United States as they adapt to water scarcity by efficiently allocating water and adopting water-conserving practices and technologies.

Find a complete list of this year's project descriptions on the NIFA Website.

Through federal funding and leadership for research, education and extension programs, NIFA focuses on investing in science and solving critical issues impacting people's daily lives and the nation's future. For more information, visit www.nifa.usda.gov.

USDA News Release No. 0088.15

To get info on the 2014 Farm Bill and news of upcoming events, please log onto http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/
Florida A&M University Celebrates the 125th Anniversary of the Signing of the 2nd Morrill Act 1890-2015

Shortly after its founding, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) became the beneficiary of educational provisions for African Americans made possible through the passage of the Second Morrill Act of 1890. Through this important federal legislation, FAMU, formerly known as the “State Normal College for Colored Students,” was designated to receive a land grant “to the endowment and support of branches of learning as related to agriculture and mechanic arts, including military tactics.”

For more information, please log onto: http://1890universities.org/
The Florida A&M University Cooperative Extension Program is an equal employment/educational opportunity access organization which provides research-based educational information and other services only to eligible individuals and institutions regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, martial or veteran status.