Thank you to all of the attendees, vendors, volunteers, exhibitors and FAMU Extension staff for another successful Farm Fest. Photos are coming soon...
WASHINGTON, D.C., JUNE 5, 2014 – In response to the significant impact porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDv) and porcine deltacoronavirus (PDCoV) are having on U.S. pork producers, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced $26.2 million in funding to combat these diseases. Additionally, USDA issued a Federal Order requiring the reporting of new detections of these viruses to its Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) or State animal health officials.

These viruses do not pose any risk to human health or food safety, and they are commonly detected in countries around the world.

"In the last year, industry has estimated PEDv has killed some 7 million piglets and caused tremendous hardship for many American pork producers," said Agriculture Secretary Vilsack. "The number of market-ready hogs this summer could fall by more than 10 percent relative to 2013 because of PEDv. Together with industry and our State partners, the steps we will take through the Federal Order will strengthen the response to PEDv and these other viruses and help us lessen the impact to producers, which ultimately benefit the consumers who have seen store pork prices rise by almost 10 percent in the past year."

The $26.2 million will be used for a variety of activities to support producers and combat these diseases, including:

- $3.9 million to be used by USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) to support the development of vaccines
- $2.4 million to cooperative agreement funding for States to support management and control activities
- $500,000 to herd veterinarians to help with development and monitoring of herd management plans and sample collection
- $11.1 million in cost-share funding for producers of infected herds to support biosecurity practices.
- $2.4 million for diagnostic testing
- $1.5 million to National Animal Health Laboratory Network diagnostic laboratories for genomic sequencing for newly positive herds

APHIS' Federal Order requires producers, veterinarians, and diagnostic laboratories to report all cases of PEDv and other new swine enteric coronavirus diseases to USDA or State animal health officials. The industry is already seeing herds previously impacted by the virus become re-infected, and routine and standard disease reporting will help identify the magnitude of the disease in the United States and can help determine whether additional actions are needed.

The Federal Order also requires that operations reporting these viruses work with their veterinarian or USDA or State animal health officials to develop and implement a reasonable management plan to address the detected virus and prevent its spread. Plans will be based on industry-recommended best practices, and include disease monitoring through testing and biosecurity measures. These steps will help to reduce virus shed in affected animals, prevent further spread of the disease, and enable continued movement of animals for production and processing.

The international animal health governing body, the OIE, believes that cases of PEDv and these other swine enteric coronavirus diseases shouldn't be the basis for countries to restrict exports of pork and pork products from the U.S.

For full details of the Federal Order and program requirements, along with a Q&A on this topic, visit the APHIS website at: www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/secd
Sandy Soils: No Problem For Growing Scotch Bonnet (*Capsicum Chinese*) Hot Peppers

Hot Peppers are such hardy plants that they will grow just about anywhere, as long as the right cultural practices are administered. As most of us will agree, sandy soils can be a challenge for growing many plants, mostly because of their poor water retention properties. Not only that, but many sandy soils lack adequate organic matter that provides the natural nutrients required for optimum plant growth. Many of our farmers, especially those in the surrounding counties of Jackson, Jefferson, Suwannee and some parts of Gadsden County, are faced with the above challenges when attempting to grow hot peppers on medium to large scales. This month’s issue is the introductory version of three articles that focus on the use of plastic mulches and drip irrigation for growing Scotch Bonnet hot peppers on sandy soils. Sandy soils are not all bad. One of their advantages is the ease of making beds. The soil structure also facilitates the laying of plastic mulch either manually, or with a mechanical bed layer. The latter is highly preferred due to its accuracy in mulch layout and labor saving qualities. The mechanical bed layer also simultaneously lays the drip irrigation tubing through which your crop is irrigated and “fertigated” simultaneously.

Plastic mulches also provide these additional benefits on sandy soils:
- they slow down the rate of evaporation keeping water available to your plants.
- they reduce weed growth which in turn:
  - makes more nutrients available to your peppers
  - limits the build up of dangerous insect pests and diseases and
  - improves fruit quality by avoiding unsightly dirt particles from accumulating on
  - the fruits through rain splashes

So once your plastic mulch and drip irrigation system combination is in place, all that’s needed is regular maintenance, which is basically weekly surveillance for potential problems with insect pests, diseases and mechanical issues with your irrigation unit.

Be on the lookout for future issues of the hot pepper monthly which will outline:
- the application of fertilizers through drip irrigation tubing (*fertigation*) and
- the costs and benefits associated with the use plastic mulches for growing hot peppers

(Re-print from May edition)
Knowing Your Herbs
Contributors: Linda Sapp and Trevor Hylton

Sage (Salvia officinalis)

Clinical studies indicate that the substance found in sage oil may offer antibacterial, antifungal, and antiviral effects, explaining much of its medicinal activity. As a tea, sage has been administered for sore throats and coughs.

This herb is also used for rheumatism, menstrual bleeding, strengthening the nervous system, improving memory, and sharpening the senses.

Sage is considered to have a slight peppery flavor. In Western cooking, it is used for flavoring fatty meats (especially as a marinade), cheeses, and some drinks. Sage is easily grown from cutting and does well in sunny location. The plant will not survive freezing temperatures and must be well protected in cold winter temperatures.
EIPM Spring Field Day 2014

Tallahassee, FL—On May 20, 2014, a total of 30 participants, including students from FAMU DRS, attended the EIPM Spring Day 2014 at the FAMU Viticulture Center. The theme of the event was “Conservation of Beneficial Species and Pest Management.”

This event was hosted by Dr. Jesusa (Susie) Lagaspi, USDA/ARS, Dr. Stephen Hight, USDA/ARS and Dr. Muhammad Haseeb CBC, CAFS/FAMU.

- Opening remarks by Dr. Stephen Leong about the field day and the Center with respect to career development.
- Participants were transported to training and demonstration site.
- Graduate Student: Ms. Tavia Gordon, an MS student providing a brief on the plant-mediated pest management in vegetables using refuge and trap crops.
- Dr. Legaspi and Mr. Neil Miller explained their research on kale and sweet alyssum with respect to conservation of beneficial species and pest management.
Participants were shown how various insects are trapped in malaise traps for monitoring and collection.

Dr. Stephen Hight, a USDA scientist explained his research to participants on weeds pest management.

Trap and refuge crops tagged in the field for the participant observations.

*Photos and caption, courtesy of Dr. M. Haseeb*
Schedule of Upcoming FAMU Cooperative Extension Events

July

4H Youth Summer Enrichment Program
Date: 7/21-7/31

August

2014 Small Farm & Alternative Enterprise Conference
Date: 8/1-8/2
Kissimmee, Florida

FAMU Cooperative Extension Program Open House
Location: Perry Paige Building on the campus of Florida A&M
Date: TBA

October

2014 FAMU Extension Fall Farm Fest Agri-Showcase
Date: TBA

November

College of Agriculture & Food Sciences Rattler Roundup!
FAMU Homecoming Week 2014- “SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT” #committed
Date: TBA

December

Centennial Celebration Gala
Florida A&M Grand Ball Room
Date: TBA
“Birthday Cake on The Set”
with FAMU Cooperative Extension

On the anniversary date of the Smith-Lever Act, FAMU Cooperative Extension celebrated on “The Set” of Florida A&M University’s campus for cake and cupcakes! Thanks to all that came out.

Cutting of the cake by former and current Extension Administrators: Director of Special Outreach Programs, Dr. Lawrence Carter, Associate Director of Cooperative Extension, Mrs. Vonda Richardson and Director of Veterinarian Services, Dr. Ray Mobley.

The crowd trying to beat the heat, under the tent, while enjoying cake and cupcakes!

“Take Your Daughter to Work” participant, Laila Spinner (daughter of SDA Newsletter Editor, Amelia Davis) enjoying her cupcake.
On May 31st, FAMU Cooperative Extension was invited to take part in the Open House event of the Leon County Extension office, located on Paul Russell Road in Tallahassee, Florida. This event was a part of the ongoing Centennial Celebration of the Smith –Lever Act of 1914, which commemorates 100 years of Cooperative Extension.

Mrs. Vonda Richardson, Ms. Amelia Davis, Miss Laila Spinner and Mr. Trevor Hylton, represented FAMU Cooperative Extension at this event.
Online registration information available now!

Check out website: http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/smallfarms/index.html

Registration Scholarship Info

Florida small farmers who cannot attend the conference due to financial hardship have the opportunity to apply for a registration scholarship. Up to a $150 value, the scholarship covers the cost of a full conference registration. Other costs associated with the conference such as travel, lodging, and incidentals are not covered under the registration scholarship and will be the responsibility of the individual.

Applications will be reviewed in the order received by a committee composed of small farm producers and university extension faculty. Priority will be given to first time conference attendees. Past winners are not eligible and all scholarship recipients must be 18 years of age or older. Scholarship recipients name and Florida County will be posted on the conference website.

The number of scholarship that can be awarded will depend on the total amount of donations received for this purpose.

Florida small farmers applying should have completed the application and submitted by June 1st, for consideration.

Applicants will be notified by June 23. Awardees will be required to complete a registration within one week of notification to confirm scholarship acceptance (by June 30).

Hosted By:
SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2014
FAMU CENTER FOR VITICULTURE
6505 MAHAN DRIVE • TALLAHASSEE, FL 32317
8 A.M. - 4 P.M.

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