

NIFA Clips

[Vilsack announces farm bill funding for bioenergy research, converting to biomass fuel systems \(Noodles, 6/13\)](#) Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced up to \$14.5 million in funding for two USDA bioenergy programs made available through the 2014 Farm Bill. USDA's Rural Development (RD) announced it is accepting applications from companies seeking to offset the costs associated with converting fossil fuel systems to renewable biomass fuel systems, while USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced the availability of \$2.5 million in grants to enhance national energy security through the development of bio-based transportation fuels, biopower, and new bio-based products.

[Vilsack outlines plan of climate change attack \(AgWeb, 6/13\)](#) The Agriculture Secretary used a recent speech to update developments in an ongoing program. Vilsack took the occasion of a speech at last month's summit on climate change, held by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, to update the audience on USDA's two-year-old climate change program designed to help farmers adjust to the impact of climate change, which he said includes more intense weather patterns, longer droughts, more severe storms, more pests and more diseases. In April, USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture awarded \$6 million to 10 universities to study the impact of climate change on agriculture. As part of the grant, the universities will develop strategies to help farmers and ranchers deal with the impact of climate change.

[President Obama announces more key administrative posts \(The White House, 6/13\)](#) President Barack Obama announced his intent to nominate Dr. Roger N. Beachy, Appointee for Member, National Science Board, National Science Foundation. Beachy was the first Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture at the Department of Agriculture from 2009 to 2011.

[Teams comb Flathead Indian Reservation for clues about ancient, recent fires \(Montana State University, 6/16\)](#) On a quest to learn more about fires in the Northern Rockies, Montana State University, Salish Kootenai College and federal researchers are looking to the trees, lakes and oral tradition for insights they can share with land managers. [David McWethy](#) of MSU is now leading a team of students sampling sediments from several lakes on the Flathead Indian Reservation. At the same time, Rick Everett of SKC is leading a group of students collecting tree rings and fire scars. The two-year project is funded by a USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Tribal Colleges Research Grant.

[NCCU nets federal money for security research \(Herald-Sun, 6/17\)](#) The U.S. departments of Agriculture and Homeland Security gave grants totaling more than \$500,000 to North Carolina Central University to battle foodborne illness outbreaks, weather events and other threats. The Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise (BRITE) and Institute for Homeland Security and Workforce Development at NCCU received the funding for health and safety research. The grant from the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture was one of only two received by historically black colleges or universities.

[MU offers online grain marketing 'game' \(Farm Talk, 6/17\)](#) In July, University of Missouri-Extension will coordinate the "Show-Me Market Showdown." This is a free, educational, online grain marketing game for farmers, ag professionals and other interested

people. This game is a simulation that will enable players to enhance their grain marketing knowledge and skills. Funding for this project is provided by the North Central Risk Management Education Center and the USDA, National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

[RE2 partners with Texas A&M for research](#) (Pittsburg Post-Gazette, 6/19)

Lawrencville-based robotics company RE2 will team up with Texas A&M University's A&M AgriLife Extension Service to examine how robotics can aid the viticulture industry. The entities will work together as a subcontractor for the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Foundation program "Assessing Viticulture Production Practices for Robotic Technology Development."

[Genetic control mechanism for livestock pest developed](#) (Feedstuffs, 6/19)

Researchers from North Carolina State University have developed a technique to control populations of the Australian sheep blowfly — a major livestock pest in Australia and New Zealand — by making female flies dependent upon a common antibiotic to survive. Since the females will die when not provided tetracycline in their diets, the males can be separated out in the larval stage. This is essential for a "male-only" genetic control program to reduce blowfly populations. The research is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food & Agriculture and North Carolina State.

[Genera, partners collaborate for advancement of advanced biofuels](#) (Ethanol Producer, 6/19)

USDA NIFA funding is helping with the goal of demonstrating the production of advanced biofuels from sustainable sources of lignocellulosic biomass. A \$15 million dollar CAP grant starting in 2010 funded a multi institutional team to study biomass and bioenergy in the southeastern U.S.

[USDA provides \\$8 to help boost declining honey bee population](#) (Farm and Ranch Guide, 6/20) The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), today announced \$8 million in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) incentives for Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin farmers and ranchers who establish new habitats for declining honey bee populations. More than half of the commercially managed honey bees are in these five states during the summer. Today's announcement comes in addition to \$3 million USDA designated to the Midwest states to support bee populations earlier this year through the Natural Resources Conservation Service Environmental Quality Incentives Program. The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) supports bee research efforts through grants and research to Land Grant Universities.

[A second career, happily in the weeds](#) (NY Times, 6/20) Though new agricultural enterprises typically demand long hours and physical stamina, many retirees turn to farming as a way to keep active and earn an income — or, like Mr. Noble, to at least supplement Social Security. The White House's [2013 Economic Report of the President](#) notes that "the average age of U.S. farmers and ranchers has been increasing over time." One-third of beginning farmers — defined by the federal government as having been in business fewer than 10 years — "are over age 55, indicating that many farmers move into agriculture only after retiring from a different career." NIFA supports beginning farmers through the [Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program](#).

[Stronger bonds with parents linked to better future relationships](#) (HNGN, 6/21)

Childhood experiences are crucial because they determine personality traits later as adults. In a new study, researchers from the University of Illinois found that children who share strong bonds with their parents make better friends and are able to adapt to different

relationship situations. The study was published online in the journal [Developmental Psychology](#). Funding was provided by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

[Ohio's new land-grant university, Central State, eligible for \\$1.3 million](#) (Farm and Dairy, 6/23) The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) made funds available June 23 to support food and agriculture science facility improvement at Central State University (CSU) in Wilberforce, Ohio. [Central State was designated as an 1890 land-grant university in the 2014 farm bill](#). It is one of only two institutions in the state to hold land-grant status. Ohio State University is an original land grant university, designated in 1862. The funding is a supplement to the 1890s Facilities Grants Program administered by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

[USDA's big biobased picture](#) (AgWired, 6/23) The U.S. Department of Agriculture takes a wide angle view of the biobased product picture which encompasses several different segments within the agency. At the [USB Biobased Stakeholders Dialogue](#) last week in Washington D.C. we heard from a number of USDA officials about what they are doing to expand biobased opportunities. One panel featured [Rural Business Cooperative Service](#) administrator Lilian Salerno, Dr. Daniel Cassidy with the [National Institute of Food and Agriculture](#) (NIFA), and Special Assistant to the Secretary Tara Rice.

[Pressure canning for home gardeners](#) (Bemidji Pioneer, 6/24) There certainly has been an upsurge of home gardening. More and more people want to know where their food comes from. And they want to preserve it by drying, canning, freezing and storing. This article is about safe pressure canning. Home canning has greatly advanced since it was first introduced as a way to preserve food. Now there is a [website](#) I recommend canners refer to. It is USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture research, led by University of Georgia.