

NIFA CLIPS

[**A USDA representative is in the Bristol Bay region this week \(KDLG, 7/29\)**](#) (Radio interview) A high-ranking official with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (NIFA NPL Kitty Cardwell) is in the Bristol Bay region this week to discuss a seldom used program focused specifically on helping small businesses overcome challenges.

[**The mission is fitness at Winston-Salem State kids' camp \(The Chronicle 7/31\)**](#) Winston-Salem State University is doing its part to combat the nation's troubling youth obesity epidemic. More than 50 kids from low-income households took part in the two-week Rams Fitness Academy earlier this month. The camp-style program for children 10 to 12 offered a variety of physical activities and interactive health literacy sessions. The free camp was funded through a \$150,000 research-based U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture grant.

[**Annie's Project - Risk Management for Farm Women - starts Aug. 28 \(Cherokee Chronicle Times 8/1\)**](#) Iowa State University Extension and Outreach in Cherokee is pleased to offer "Annie's Project," the nationally recognized course designed to empower women to be better business partners and owners. Annie's program partners and sponsors: Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA, and Farm Credit.

[**How to find new employees \(Pork Network, 8/1\)**](#) Agribusinesses have been working for years to draw employees and stop the loss of highly qualified workers to other fields. In recent years, producers, companies, colleges and others within the ag industry have promoted opportunities beyond the farmer in the field that were overlooked in the past — resulting in a dearth of employees. "We certainly have a shortfall, no doubt about it," says Sonny Ramaswamy, director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Ramaswamy added that while there has been an increase in the number of students enrolled in agriculture at U.S. universities, "it hasn't been enough to keep up with the demand that we have in the workforce."

[**Multi-Gen family: On the rise \(OZY, 8/1\)**](#) Moving in with Mom and Dad, or having them move in with you, or maybe inviting your grown spawn and their little spawn to shack up. For some Americans, these are a longed-for ideal; for others, a dreaded nightmare. Whatever your views, know this: The multigenerational household is on the rise. The nuclear family is on the outs. A [paper forthcoming](#) in the journal *Urban Lawyer* notes the decline of the nuclear family in suburbs, which have become more diverse economically and demographically. (NIFA funded the research paper referenced in the article.)

[**America chooses Jared Fuchs as grand prize winner in National 4-H Council and HughesNet "Inspire a Future Scientist" video contest \(CNN Money, 8/4\)**](#) Jared Fuchs of Helena, Ala., has won the grand prize in the "Inspire a Future Scientist" video contest. He wins \$1,000 and a trip to [4-H National Youth Science Day](#) (4-H NYSD) in Washington, DC. Jared's 15-second video shows how science, from sub-atomic particles to the structure of the universe, explains who we are and where we are going.

[**Researchers develop food safety social media guide \(Health Canal, 8/5\)**](#) To help protect public health, researchers from North Carolina State University have developed guidelines on how to use social media to communicate effectively about food safety. The

paper on the guidance, "[Potential of social media as a tool to combat foodborne illness](#)," is published in *Perspectives in Public Health*. The research was funded by Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grants from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

[Michigan State gets federal bee pollination grant](#) (Miami Herald, 8/6) The U.S. Agriculture Department has awarded Michigan State University \$6.9 million to study and develop bee pollination strategies for specialty crop growers. "Specialty crops are valued at more than \$50 billion every year, and pollination is critical to ensure successful fruit set and profitability of the industry," Sonny Ramaswamy, National Institute of Food and Agriculture director, said.

[MSU professor receives grant to battle viral food pathogens](#) (MSU Today, 8/6) Joan Rose, Homer Nowlin Chair in Water Research at MSU, will use a nearly \$300,000 grant to incorporate the latest next-generation genomic tools in efforts to reduce the number of food-borne outbreaks associated with fresh produce. The grant was awarded through the United States Department of Agriculture Agriculture and Food Research Initiative and administered through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Rose is a professor in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Department of Fisheries and Wildlife.

[iPhone app guides pregnant, nursing women on eating fish safely](#) (Imperial Valley News, 8/6) An iPhone app from Purdue University can help women who are pregnant or nursing safely eat seafood, a good source of nutrients for babies but also the subject of concern about ingesting mercury and other contaminants. The app is available in English, Spanish and traditional or simplified Chinese. Also available online is an updated wallet card, with information about which commercial fish species are best to eat when women are expecting or nursing a baby. The app and card are part of an educational effort funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

[A novel way to get patients to eat their fruits and vegetables: Have them grow their own!](#) (Oncology Nurse Advisor, 8/7) The Harvest for Health program has several goals. Based on prior studies, the developers of Harvest for Health hypothesized that a gardening intervention would improve a patient's physical activity, quality of life, and physical functioning. The group also theorized that the process of growing fruits and vegetables would increase the patient's consumption of these foods. For this study, the research team recruited Master Gardeners from the Master Gardener Program. This nationwide program is offered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and is available through each state's Cooperative Extension System.

[New switchgrass variety promises more biofuel at lower cost](#) (ARS, 8/7) The release of a new type of switchgrass specifically designed for bioenergy generation has been announced by [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) (USDA) researchers and their partners. [Agricultural Research Service](#) (ARS) scientists have spent decades working on different projects that contributed to the development of the cultivar "Liberty," which can yield eight tons of biomass per acre. The release of the new cultivar is a significant milestone for ARS. It's also a key accomplishment for [CenUSA Bioenergy](#), a project funded by USDA's [National Institute of Food and Agriculture](#).

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vegetables would increase the patient's consumption of these foods. For this study, the research team recruited Master Gardeners from the Master Gardener Program. This nationwide program is offered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and is available through each state's Cooperative Extension System.

[USDA reaches out to small businesses in Alaska](#) (Bristol Bay Times, 8/8) "Look at this swiss chard, look at the color of those stems, it's so beautiful!" says a customer at Dillingham's small but highly appreciated Farmer's Market last Wednesday afternoon. Impressed by the bounty of chard, kale, pumpkin blossoms, herbs, jams and more was Dr. Kitty Cardwell, a NIFA National Program Leader with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. Cardwell has been on a trip through several parts of the state, getting a feel for the business climate and touting the unique federal program. SBIR, she says, is a research grant program based on helping solve big problems to help small businesses thrive. She sees opportunity all around her.

['Superweeds' pose new challenge for Midwest farmers](#) (Maryville Daily Forum, 8/11) Farmers across the Midwest, including Nodaway County, have been hearing a lot about "superweeds" this summer. Superweeds are unwanted plants that have developed immunity to chemical herbicides designed to control them. But according to George Kegode, a former assistant professor at Northwest Missouri State University and currently a science advisor with the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the problem isn't really the weeds. It's the way farmers try to kill them.

[Rose to 'glimpse into the world of viruses' to battle viral food pathogens](#) (Michigan Ag Connection, 8/11) Joan Rose, holder of the Homer Nowlin Chair in Water Research at Michigan State University, will use a nearly \$300,000 grant to incorporate the latest next-generation genomic tools in efforts to reduce the number of food-borne outbreaks associated with fresh produce. The grant was awarded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative and administered through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.