

NIFA in the News – Week of March 18, 2013

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 March 18, 2013.

### **In the News**

**Michigan State veterinarian awarded USDA grant to study mastitis (Dairy Herd 3/18).** Improving mastitis control, reducing antibiotic use, increasing the economic viability of dairy farms—these are the goals of a research team led by Ronald Erskine, professor in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Science. The researchers, from Michigan State University, University of Pennsylvania, Mississippi State University, and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, have been awarded a grant by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture for a project that aims to reduce antibiotic use among dairy cows by half and instances of mastitis in dairy cows by a third within five years. [Link](#)

**Beginning Farmer and Rancher Workshop (KTIC 3/18).** Six beginning farmer and rancher workshops are scheduled across Nebraska. The workshops are funded by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Beginning Farmer and Rancher Grant Program and are offered by the Center for Rural Affairs, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension and the Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society. Three of the workshops will focus on the concepts of mob grazing and/or marketing grass-fed beef, while the other three will focus on the beginning farmer and vegetable/fruit production. [Link](#)

**US gives MSU vet \$3 million for dairy cow disease (AP/ WWMT-TV 3/18).** A Michigan State University veterinarian has received a \$3 million federal grant to continue his research on ways to reduce udder infections in dairy cattle. The university says the five-year grant will let Ron Erskine continue his work on mastitis. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food is providing the funds. Mastitis is an infection of a cow's udder and is the most common infectious disease in dairy cattle in North America. [Link](#)

**Udderly Helpful Grant Goes To MSU's Vet School (CBS Local 3/18).** Michigan State University's school of veterinary medicine has received a \$3 million federal grant to continue research on ways to reduce udder infections in dairy cattle. The five-year grant comes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture with the hope of developing an intervention process for dairy operators to prevent the costly infections from occurring. [Link](#)

**Researcher gets \$US2.9m for equine viral arteritis research (Horsetalk 3/20).** A

University of Kentucky professor has received a \$US2.9 million grant to identify the genetic factors responsible for establishment of the equine arteritis virus (EAV) carrier state in stallions. The five-year grant was awarded by the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, part of the US Department of Agriculture, to Udeni Balasuriya, a professor at the Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center. [Link](#)

**(Neb.)-Chadron State College Faculty Members Seek Grants (KCSR 3/20).**

Chadron State College faculty members are seeking five grants totaling over \$250,000. The largest application, for \$150,000, is intended to enhance students' experience using GPS and Geographic Information Systems. In coordinating the writing of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture grant, Butterfield collaborated with several other regional and national experts. The grant addresses how, with further GPS/GIS knowledge, CSC students could better analyze and find solutions for real-world problems such as drought, crop and food distribution patterns, livestock and wildlife interactions, and related aspects of sustainable agricultural operations. [Link](#)

**Blunt Happy With Agriculture Bill Work (KTTS 3/21).** U.S. Senator Roy Blunt (Mo.) applauded the Senate's passage of the FY13 Agriculture Appropriations bill today. Blunt serves as the Ranking Member for the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies. The FY13 Agriculture Appropriations bill places significant emphasis on maintaining research programs at our land grant universities and funding competitive research programs such as the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative. This bill increases the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative program by \$26 million above last year. [Link](#)