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University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture  
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8-2006

## Third Thursday 8-2006

Institute of Agriculture

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# INSTITUTE OF Agriculture

News for Employees, Students & Friends August 2006

## 4-H SWAP OPENS EYES

Ya ya betcha, y'all! Volunteer State, meet the Land of 10,000 Lakes.

Actually the number is 11,800, one of many facts **4-H'ers from Robertson County** learned on a **summer exchange** trip to Goodhue County, Minnesota.

"It's been great. I've learned a lot of new things," says Will Elliott, a Tennessee 4-H'er.

"There are so many things different in Minnesota than Tennessee. Some of us are starting to talk like Minnesotans." Elliott then demonstrated with a "Ya betcha" with a slight drawl.

The Tennesseans stayed with local families and saw the sites around the Twin Cities and Red Wing and *Continued, page 5*



## HOW TO ACT WHEN INJURIES OCCUR

If your co-worker were injured, what would you do? In the midst of an injury, **knowing how to get a colleague to the hospital** is important. People tend to use their personal vehicle because it is what they are familiar with, but they do so without realizing that if anything goes wrong, they can be held liable. Here is guidance for getting medical care for an injured co-worker or student:

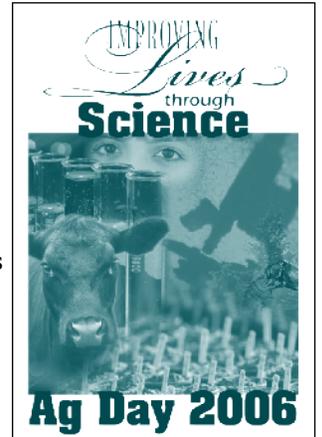
- If there is a life-threatening accident or injury, immediately call 911. Tell them your location within the building and, if available, send someone to flag down and usher emergency personnel through the building to the injured person.
- If an injury is not life threatening, call

*Continued, page 6*

## AG DAY

Join in the fun when the Institute hosts its annual **Ag Day celebration** for alumni and friends. The action starts four hours before the homecoming game kickoff, Saturday, **September 23**.

Interactive displays and exhibits will explore this year's theme of improving lives through science. Meals will be available for purchase. Visit <http://agday.tennessee.edu> to learn more or call (865) 974-8622.



## INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES 2006 PROMOTIONS, AWARDS

In July two assistant deans were promoted to the rank of associate deans. **Tim Cross** of UT Extension and **Roland Mote** of the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station are among 32 individuals who were **promoted and/or received tenure** effective July 1.

Photos of these individuals and of the recipients of the **Institute's annual awards** are online at <http://agriculture.tennessee.edu/awards06/>. The awards honored some of the best and brightest at the Institute: individuals and teams who perform outstandingly in research, teaching, and outreach. We encourage you to read the citations posted online about their efforts and join us in congratulating them.



Tim Cross



Roland Mote

*2nd quarter grants and contracts*  
*Spirited research*  
*Aid for small farmers*  
*See inside*

third thursday

## FRESHMEN SPARK CHANGE, AND SO DO NATIONAL TRENDS



*Mary Lewnes Albrecht  
Associate Dean for Academic Programs  
College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources*

Freshmen begin to move into the dormitories on August 17. Members of the Class of 2011 were born in 1988. Their world is very different from the world many of us experienced at the age of 18. Let's think about it.

Ronald Reagan was in office when they were born. And, more than likely, they only remember three presidents with two names, George Bush and Bill Clinton.

*Law and Order* and *The Simpsons* have always been in prime time and in reruns. These kids wouldn't have a clue if you told them they "sound like a broken record." And more than likely, they are downloading music files to their iPods from iTunes.

Faculty members on the other hand, were born from about 1941 to 1976. Depending on their age, they saw the birth and growth of rock and roll, the assassination of a U.S. president, the resignation of a U.S. president, and the introduction of personal computers that changed

the way we work and play, communicate, shop, travel, and so much more.

What does this mean? We need to be aware of the experiences students and faculty members bring to the classroom. Each comes with different experiences, knowledge, and perspectives.

Change occurs in agriculture and natural resources, as well. Our students come from urban, suburban and rural school districts; fewer come with an agriculture background. A USDA report on employment opportunities projects more jobs in the agriculture and natural resource sectors over the next few years than the available pool of graduates from colleges of agriculture. However, the vast majority of the positions will not be in production, but in business (e.g., sales and marketing of products to producers, processors, or consumers), service (e.g., landscape design and construction, forest management consulting), science and engineering (e.g.,

biotechnology, bioprocessing, food engineering), and communication and education (e.g., public relations and news reporters, lobbyists, farm and ranch advisors).

By knowing the trends in each discipline, departments constantly review the curriculum, adjust courses, redirect efforts, and move into new areas. For example, this year the landscape design/construction faculty in the Department of Plant Sciences will work with their colleagues in the College of Architecture and Design to prepare a THEC proposal for a Master of Landscape Architecture program. This effort has the backing of the Office of the Chancellor. Through reallocation resources, the Department of Animal Science hired a lecturer to support the growing interest in equine studies. And, a group of faculty has been working on a proposal for a minor in international agriculture.

All of these efforts are being made to ensure that the incoming class of 2011 is prepared for the challenges of the future—to ensure a safe and secure global food system, soil and land-resources management in an environmental stewardship context, and the role of plant and animal biotechnology in today's agriculture and social systems.

## POLICY INFORMATION, UPDATES NOW ONLINE

The university has established a **web location for university policies** at [www.tennessee.edu/policy](http://www.tennessee.edu/policy). Current versions of **fiscal, human resources, and safety policies** are available at this site for your reference and information. Navigation among policies, either alphabetically or numerically, is

shown on the left-hand side of the screen. Navigation within a policy is shown at the top of each policy. You may click on a topic to access that section of the policy. You may return to navigation within a policy by clicking on [top] whenever it appears. If you have questions about current policies or policy changes, contact

Human Resources at (865) 974-6018, or Institute Safety Officer Susan Fiscor at (865) 974-1153. You may also e-mail [policies@tennessee.edu](mailto:policies@tennessee.edu). Information detailing recent changes to fiscal and human resources policies is provided in the July 15 issue of *Staff Stuff* newsletter, available at [www.tennessee.edu/staffstuff/](http://www.tennessee.edu/staffstuff/).

# Institute of Agriculture Grants and Contracts

## April-June 2006

Thanks to the resourcefulness and competitiveness of our faculty, the Institute received awards totaling \$5,593,013 in grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements from external agencies for the second quarter of 2006. At a time when most states are operating with constrained budgets, our ability to attract dollars for research and Extension from outside sources has become especially crucial. To the principal and co-principal investigators listed below, congratulations. To everyone, we appreciate your support and efforts in seeking external funding.

Apr.

PI; Co-PI	Department	Award	Agency
Seung Baek; Michael McEntee	Pathobiology	212,804 162,000	National Institutes of Health American Cancer Society
Joseph Bartges	Small Animal Clinical Sciences	45,000	Ft Dodge Animal Health
David Buehler	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	120,711 12,000	US Army Corps of Engineers National Council for Air & Stream Improvement
Barbara Clarke	Family & Consumer Sciences	14,000	WESTAT Inc
Wayne Clatterbuck	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	181,418	USDA ARS
Michael Davidson	Food Sci & Technology	31,501	University of Minnesota
Owen Gwathmey	Plant Sciences	9,200	Cotton Inc
Nicole Labbé	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	125,000	Brown-Form Beverage Worldwide
David Mercker	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	48,000	TN Dept of Ag
Robert Miller	TN Agricultural Experiment Station	640,000	University of Kentucky Research Foundation
John Moulton	Ento & Plant Path	103,500	US Dept of Def-Army Medical Research
Timothy Prather	Biosys Eng & Soil Sci	150,000	USDA CSREES
Scott Schlarbaum; Sunshine Brosi	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	27,400	Cherokee Preservation
Hildegard Schuller	Pathobiology	282,794	National Institutes of Health
Sharon Thompson	Partnership Program-Vet Med	111,000*	Knox County

May

Paul Ayers	Biosystems Eng & Soil Sci	10,000	Great Smoky Mountains Conservation Association
David Brian	Pathobiology	298,458	National Institutes of Health
Feng Chen	Plant Sciences	40,000	USDA ARS
Christopher Clark; Kimberly Jensen, Steven Yen	Agricultural Economics	309,171	EPA
Wayne Clatterbuck	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	23,000	TN Department of Agriculture
Mei-Zhen Cui; Xuemin Xu Cui; Robert Donnell	Pathobiology	247,446 184,200	National Institutes of Health Philip Morris
Paul Denton	Plant Sciences	23,000	Philip Morris
Matthew Gray	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	51,000 60,000	TN Wildlife Resource Agency TVA
David Harper	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	125,289 5,000	Brown-Forman Beverage Worldwide USDA Forest Service
Diane Hendrix	Small Animal Clinical Sciences	5,724	AKC Canine Health Foundation
Darrell Hensley	Ento & Plant Path	14,333	University of Florida
Carl Jones; Ernest Bernard	Ento & Plant Path	193,200	USDA Forest Service
Amy LeBlanc	Small Animal Clinical Sciences	8,700	National Cancer Institute-Center of Cancer Research
Jaehoon Lee; Neal Eash	Biosystems Eng & Soil Sci	89,910	Rural Development Korea
Tomas Martin-Jimenez	Comparative Medicine	75,051	Pfizer Inc
Gina Pighetti; Cheryl Kojima, Arnold Saxton	Animal Science	30,000	Meril Limited
Roland Roberts; Burton English, James Larson	Agricultural Economics	6,500	Cotton Inc

\*Combines several grants

# Grants and Contracts April-June 2006

# May

PI; Co-PI	Department	Award	Agency
Scott Stewart	Ento & Plant Path	18,333	Cotton Inc
John Tyner	Biosystems Eng & Soil Sci	5,000	TN Concrete Association
Karen Vail	Ento & Plant Path	5,000	Syngenta
Forbes Walker	Biosystems Eng & Soil Sci	8,825	TN Department of Agriculture
John Wilkerson	Agricultural Economics	30,000	Cotton Inc
Larry Wilson	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	250,000	TN Wildlife Resource Agency
Dena Wise	Family & Consumer Sciences	12,100	University of KY Research Foundation
Amanda Ziehl; Robert Holland	Center for Profitable Agriculture	5,000	TN Beef Industry Council

# June

PI; Co-PI	Department	Award	Agency
Paul Ayers	Biosystems Eng & Soil Sci	5,000	National Park Service
Ernest Bernard; Carl Jones, Paris Lambdin	Ento & Plant Path	87,000	National Park Service
David Buehler	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	11,000 5,000	USDA Forest Service US Fish and Wildlife Service
Joseph Clark	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	211,945	Louisiana Dept of Wildlife & Fish
Barbara Clarke	Family and Consumer Sci	54,900	Tennessee Department of Health
Richard Davis	International Programs	4,800	Academy for Educational Development
Paul Denton	Plant Sciences	19,210	Phillip Morris
Clark Garland	Agricultural Economics	40,000*	University of Georgia
Matthew Gray	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	7,000	TN Wildlife Resource Agency
Emmit Rawls	Agricultural Economics	63,903*	TN Department of Agriculture
Scott Schlarbaum	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	22,913	USDA Forest Service
Robert Trigiano; Mark Windham	Ento & Plant Path	517,420	USDA AARS
Frank van Manen	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	8,985	Memphis Zoological Society
Dan Wheeler	Center for Profitable Agriculture	4,000	TN Department of Agriculture
Michael Wilcox	Agricultural Economics	48,341 2,500	Intr'n'l Institute for Tropical Agriculture Mississippi State University
Larry Wilson	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	72,000 63,328 44,200	Blue Ridge Paper Projects, Inc USDA Forest Service US Geological Survey

\*Combines several grants

## GRANT AIDS WEST TENNESSEE SMALL FARMERS

Small farmers in **Hardeman and Haywood counties** received some targeted assistance this spring. A \$5,000 grant from Alabama A&M University's Keeping Landownership Alive funded outreach activity coordinated through **UT-TSU Extension** in the two West Tennessee counties.

Workshops were held for limited resource farmers that focused on how to maximize land productivity through timber management, growing medicinal plants, goat herding, silvopasture concepts, and implementing USDA and Tennessee Department of Forestry programs.

The funds were also used to educate landowners about the legal aspects of property ownership and estate planning.

"We were successful in opening the eyes of property owners to



opportunities they weren't aware of, of some agencies that might be able to assist them, and of making them more aware of what we do in Extension and government agencies," says TSU Agent **Lee Sammons** of Hardeman County.

Haywood County Director **Walter Battle** says response has been great. "I've had people ask for more information on medicinal plants. One lady told me her parents decided to do a will, and a couple of people have asked me about raising goats."

Outcomes from the sessions include continued meetings of participants and plans for follow-up workshops this fall.

**4-H SWAP**, from page 1

Zumbrotta to the southeast. Stops included the massive Mall of America, the Minnesota Capital, the Red Wing Pottery Plant and the Mayo Clinic.

“We hope they will gain a better appreciation of other parts of the country and also of their own home,” says **Kathy Finley**, a Robertson County UT Extension agent who arranged the trip. “When they see something on the news about Minnesota, they’re going to take that to heart. They’re going to have a little connection there.”

This is payback. Last summer, the Minnesotans came to Tennessee, and it made quite an impression.

“Grits—they’re horrible,” says Lenny Feuling, a Minnesota 4-H volunteer. “I see nothing in them at all. Sawdust would be a good replacement.”

“You end up slipping into the accent a little more than you realize. You come home and all of a sudden you’re speaking a different language it seems like,” says Logan Janka, a Minnesota 4-H’er. “I hope they (the Tennesseans) get back an experience of a different culture.”

This was far from a vacation. Kids from both states did work at the Goodhue County 4-H center—building and painting display cases for the upcoming fair.

“4-H is about volunteering your time and working with the community. So that’s bringing out more of our 4-H in us,” says Tennessee 4-H’er Kayla Schultz.

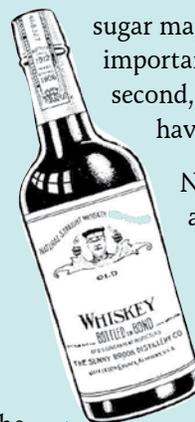
“It’s good to do a little community service wherever you go,” says Will Elliott.

The Robertson County 4-H’ers are already contacting other states about being part of this exchange program in the future. —*Chuck Denney*

**SPIRITED RESEARCH AIMS FOR BETTER PRODUCT**

Research underway at the **Tennessee Forest Products Center** aims to help distillers of Tennessee whiskey produce a better and more uniform product.

The July issue of *Photonics Research* details the work of **Nicole Labbé**, an assistant professor with the center, and **Thomas Elder**, a co-principal investigator with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Their work with spectroscopy is paving the way for online process monitoring techniques that address two issues. First, to verify that charcoal used in filtering the alcohol is derived from



sugar maples, which are believed to be important to the whiskey’s taste. And, second, that oak barrels used in aging have been optimally charred.

Near-infrared spectroscopy appears ideally suited to such work but because it offers limited chemical information, Labbé and her partners have first used mid-infrared spectroscopy to collect the necessary data to verify the approach works. Being confident with the mid-infrared results, they are now working on the second phase of the project.

**NEWS AROUND THE INSTITUTE**

Professor **Reid Gerhardt** of the **Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology** has been presented with the **Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence and Productivity in Veterinary Entomology**. This award was given in recognition of his research and work with graduate students throughout his long career. Underwritten by Bayer Corporation, the award was presented at the recent meeting of the Livestock Insect Workers Conference in Amarillo, Texas.

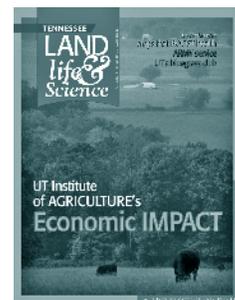
For the third year in a row, **Chuck Denney** and **Doug Edlund** of **Marketing and Communications Services** have won **gold awards** from the Association for Communication Excellence (ACE), an international association for communicators in agriculture, natural resources, and life and human sciences. The two won gold awards for their TV stories and also their TV program, **UT Connections**, which showcase the Institute’s reach and impact.

Denney and Edlund received the awards at the ACE conference in Quebec City, Canada, where they also gave a presentation on video news release production.

For the second year in a row, the Institute’s magazine, **Tennessee Land, Life & Science** has received an **Award of**

**Publication Excellence** from APEX, an annual awards program that recognizes excellence in publications work by professional communicators. Close to 800 magazines and journals were entered in this year’s judging. The Institute’s magazine was one of 25 selected for its category. **Margot Emery** oversees production of the magazine.

**Theressa Cooper**, CASNR, has been elected to serve on the **Exempt Staff Council**. She joins **Janet Jones**, Small Animal Clinic, and **Herb Byrd**, UT Extension, who are continuing three-year terms on the council. The ESC provides a forum for issues and ideas relevant to exempt staff and a mechanism for communicating with other representative bodies and administrators. If you have an idea or issue, let one of our three representatives know. You can learn more at the ESC’s Web site, <http://esc.tennessee.edu>.



**INJURIES, from page 1**

UT Police at 974-3114 to transport the person to the emergency room. UT Police will dispatch a police vehicle to take the individual to get medical care. If you are off campus and UT Police can not respond to you, use a UT vehicle if possible to transport the injured person.

- If the injury is minor, the employee or student can go to UT Student Health Services for medical follow-up.

- It is never recommended that a co-worker take an injured person in their personal vehicle to get medical care. If further injury or an accident occurs, the co-worker can be held liable. –Susan Fiscor, CIH, CSP, Health & Safety Officer

**August 31, Turfgrass Field day**

<http://westtennessee.tennessee.edu/events/index.htm>

**September 2-5, College of Veterinary Medicine**

**Taking Action for Animals 2006**

<http://www.takingactionforanimals.org/>

**September 14-17, College of Veterinary Medicine**

**Southern Region Leadership Conference**

[www.spayneuterconference.org/](http://www.spayneuterconference.org/)

**September 22-24, College of Veterinary Medicine**

**2006 World Grand Champion Tennessee Walking Horse**

[www.vet.utk.edu/continuing-ed/](http://www.vet.utk.edu/continuing-ed/)

**September 23, UTIA Ag Day**

<http://agday.tennessee.edu/>

**FIELD DAYS AND THE START OF A NEW YEAR**

Summer at the Institute of Agriculture has been busy for me. I have been learning the ropes on campus and gaining first hand experience at off campus activities and meetings like Field Days at our Research and Education Centers.

They have not only been a lot of fun for me to attend, but also a wonderful learning experience. Field Days have made me realize that our RECs are UT's largest research laboratories and largest classrooms.

We are in the business of providing solutions for people throughout the state. Field Day programs allow us to communicate them. They provide a unique interface that delivers a blend of helpful educational programs that include our latest research findings. And their reach is statewide: from Jackson where the emphasis is on ornamental horticulture, turf grass, and row crops, to Milan where the focus is on no-till cotton, soybean, and corn production systems, and switchgrass cultivation, to Springfield and Greeneville, where the focus is on beef cattle and tobacco production systems. Field Days are a key way we enhance UTIA's mission of advancing plant, animal, human, environmental,



Joe DiPietro

and economic well being for all Tennesseans. I appreciate and am impressed by the excellent staff we have that pull off field days in a very professional manner and without even the slightest glitch.

Now as summer begins to wind down a new cycle begins for us with the start of a new academic year. As the school year begins, we feel hope, freshness, enthusiasm, energy, and aspiration. This is a time that we can start to build on past successes and strive to be even more effective in our teaching, research, and outreach activities. I look forward to working with all of you during the new academic year and am confident that with your help we will accomplish far more than we ever anticipated.

All the best,

Joe

UTIA News is published monthly by the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture. Send comments and suggestions to Margot Emery, [memery@tennessee.edu](mailto:memery@tennessee.edu). Visit the Institute of Agriculture on the Internet at <http://agriculture.utk.edu>. UT is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution. E11-1101-00-001-07

UTIA Events & Happenings

THE UNIVERSITY of  
TENNESSEE

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