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UT INSTITUTE OF Agriculture

News for Employees, Students & Friends November–December 2006

Happy Holidays!



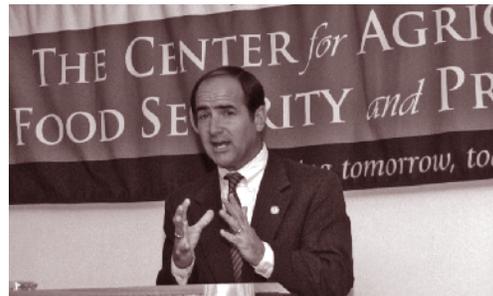
CVM LEADS NATIONAL RESPONSE TO THREATS OF TERRORISM TO AGRICULTURE, FOOD SUPPLY

UT's College of Veterinary Medicine has created the Center for Agriculture and Food Security and Preparedness (CAFSP). U.S. Congressman Zach Wamp announced the center during a news conference at the veterinary college Oct 16.

The new center will serve as a focal point for several key initiatives that will assist the nation in its efforts to protect agriculture and the food supply from terrorist threats. Agriculture

and the food supply are part of the nation's critical infrastructure and have been identified as a key sector that is vulnerable to terrorist threats.

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U.S. Rep. Zach Wamp emphasized the importance of UT's participation in the homeland security effort through the new Center for Agriculture and Food Security and Preparedness.

PLANT SCIENTIST WINS TOP UT RESEARCH HONOR

Plant scientist Vincent Pantalone, who develops new soybean varieties, has been named one of two recipients of UT's 2006 Wheeley Award. The award recognizes and encourages technology transfer from the university to private industry. Given by the UT Research Foundation, the Wheeley Award is considered one of the most prestigious of the university's honors.

Pantalone is an associate professor in the Department of Plant Sciences. His work with soybean cultivars has resulted in five varieties that are pesticide-resistant, two conventional varieties and five improved germplasm (DNA) lines. Since

Continued, page 7

ARTHRITIS PARTNERSHIP WINS TWO NATIONAL AWARDS

Through the Tennessee Arthritis Education Partnership, UT Extension Family and Consumer Sciences is teaching Tennesseans how to take control of arthritis, which affects one in three adults in our state.

The partnership, which is a collaboration of UT Extension with the Tennessee Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation and the Tennessee Department of Health's Arthritis Control Program, received two national recognitions this year.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention selected Tennessee for the prestigious Partnership Award, from among chronic disease programs in all 50 states, Guam, and Puerto Rico. The award is the highest that the CDC bestows.

"Our partnership won hands-down. CDC told us that no other state even came close," said Bobbi Clarke, professor,

Continued, page 6

UT Family Campaign nears, *Details inside*

Pantalone pauses in a field of 5601T soybeans, a cultivar he developed at UT and which serves as one of two of the check varieties featured in the USDA Southern Uniform Testing Program. The program allows breeders to determine the region's best-performing varieties.



third thursday

UT FAMILY CAMPAIGN HOLDS IMPORTANT GOALS

Just a few weeks ago we held a meeting of our UTIA Development Council on campus. The meeting included presentations by faculty and others about some of our most successful programs, and additional time was spent focusing and introducing the group to plans for the new UT capital campaign, *The Campaign For Tennessee*.

Enthusiasm and Vol loyalty was palpable in the room among these volunteers. We are grateful for their willingness to assist us in important ways to make sure we get to our goal of raising \$55 million before the capital campaign concludes in 2011. Not only are many of them doing so by providing personal gifts, but they are also committed to identifying others who are willing to help us. As I said to the group, "We hope you'll provide some of your time, your talent, and treasure to this campaign effort." I am confident and thankful that they will step forward and do that. This will be key to achieving our fund raising goal. It will transform UTIA from an excellent to an exemplary institute that continues to provide even greater solutions to problems that advance plant, animal, human, and environmental health while fostering economic development. After all, you can't spell "solutions" without 'UT' in it, which is particularly meaningful to all of us in the Institute of Agriculture. The bottom line is that fundraising is more important than ever, has become a way of life in higher education, and is key to our future success. We are increasingly expected to produce more of our own resources to operate the valuable programs that provide solutions to important problems and make our state a great place to live.



Recently, I taped a video presentation that will be used to kick off the UTIA portion of the University of Tennessee Family Campaign, which is part of *The Campaign For Tennessee*. You are likely to have the opportunity to view it soon. I sincerely appreciate all your hard work and efforts day in and day out to advance the mission of the Institute and hope you'll go the extra mile and seriously consider pitching in by contributing to the Family Campaign.

Your personal gift will help us build a strong case of internal support for the campaign which translates into an important, powerful

message to outside donors of the commitment of our own people to the campaign's success.

I have benefited greatly from my association with three land grant institutions over my career. They have educated me, given me a wonderful, stimulating environment to work in, provided an exceptional place to raise our family, provided many long lasting friendships, and fostered my professional development. In each case, I feel I owe them a debt I can never really repay. That's what makes me support them with their campaign efforts. I hope you will consider supporting the Institute of Agriculture by joining me in a five-year pledge for this critical effort. Thank you for your consideration of donating to the University of Tennessee Family Campaign. As always if you have comments, questions or concerns drop by the office, send me an e-mail message, or give me a call.

All the best,

Joe



Coffee County's Bob Willis

SUNBELT PICKS TENNESSEAN

Bob Willis of Hillsboro, Tenn., has been named the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year for 2006.

His award was announced October 17 at the Willie B. Withers Expo Luncheon during the opening day of the 29th annual Sunbelt Expo.

Willis competed with top farmers from across the Southeast for the prestigious award. The competition included a state finalist from nine states of the region.

In 1961 Willis purchased his first 145 acres and grew sweet potatoes. From those humble beginnings he has expanded his operations to encompass 4,500 acres on which he grows corn, soybeans and wheat, as well as other commodities. He also manages 850 head of Holstein heifers and 130 head of beef cows.

Willis was selected to represent Tennessee by UT Extension and was nominated by C. Dallas Manning, Extension farm management specialist located in Coffee County. Dean Northcutt serves as the Coffee County Extension adult agriculture agent and director.

Institute of Agriculture Grants and Contracts

July–September 2006

Thanks to the resourcefulness and competitiveness of our faculty, the Institute received awards totaling \$7,467,212 in grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements from external agencies for the third 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.

July

PI; Co-PI	Department	Award	Agency
Fred Allen	Plant Sciences	17,205	TN Advanced Genetics
Seung Baek; Michael McEntee	Pathobiology	205,900	National Institutes of Health
John Bartee	Montgomery County	361,177	Fort Campbell–Army
George Cain	Comparative Medicine	12,400	Magna Flow
Joe Clark	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	43,750	LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
Matthew Devereaux	Family & Consumer Sciences	77,126	TN Dept. of Education
Linda Frank	Small Animal Clinical Sciences	100	Curis, Inc
Jerome Grant; Paris Lambdin	Entomology & Plant Pathology	89,288	US Forest Service
Donald Hodges	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	50,000	Nat'l Commission on Energy Policy
William Klingeman	Plant Sciences	14,000	Univ of Georgia
Vincent Pantalone	Plant Sciences	79,195	USDA ARS
Howard Plummer	Pathobiology	262,796	Philip Morris
Samuel Rogers	Plant Sciences	8,750	Blount Co. Soil Conserv. District
Adam Taylor	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	3,000	Buffalo Duck River Directory
Gerald Tuskan	Plant Sciences	30,000	US Geological Survey
Karen Vail	Entomology & Plant Pathology	15,000 7,000	FMC Corporation Bayer CropScience

Aug.

John Bartee	Montgomery County	57,700	Army–Fort Campbell
Ernest Bernard	Entomology & Plant Pathology	13,300	TN Wildlife Resources Agency
Joseph Clark	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	30,000	US Dept. of Interior, FWS
Nicholas Frank	Large Animal Clinical Sci	15,000	Waltham Foundation, England
Carrie Fritz	Ag Economics	13,731	TN Dept of Education
Delton Gerloff	Ag Economics	1,500	Nat'l Crop Insurance Services
Douglas Hayes	Biosystems Eng & Soil Science	310,090	USDA CSREES
Darrell Hensley; James Parkman	Entomology & Plant Pathology	40,000	NC State Univ
William Minser; Larry Wilson	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	70,000	USDA NCRS
Betty Neilson	Henderson County	15,000	LeBonheur Community Outreach
John New	Comparative Medicine	24,400	NC State Univ
David Ostermeier	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	180,072	The Nature Conservancy
Vincent Pantalone	Plant Sciences	77,715	USDA ARS
James Parkman; Karen Vail	Entomology & Plant Pathology	5,000	Bayer CropScience
Gary Rogers	Animal Science	15,000	Semex
Samuel Rogers	Plant Sciences	7,500	Hallsdale–Powell Utility District
Barry Rouse	Pathobiology	347,575	National Institutes of Health
John Skinner	Entomology & Plant Pathology	10,000	USDA ARS
Neal Stewart	Plant Sciences	40,000 11,896	Consort for Plant Biotech Research Univ of VA

Grants and Contracts July–September 2006

Aug.

PI; Co-PI	Department	Award	Agency
Daniel De La Torre Ugarte	Ag Economics	55,000	Nat'l Commission on Energy Policy
Donald Tyler	West TN Research & Ed Center	111,403	USDA ARS
Dan Wheeler	Center for Profitable Agriculture	145,000	TN Farm Bureau
Larry Wilson	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	29,550	Blue Ridge Paper Products, Inc
Daniel Yoder	Biosystems Eng & Soil Science	12,000 1,000	USDA NRCS USDA ARS
Svetlana Zivanovic	Food Science & Technology	15,000	Office of Naval Research
<i>County Billing Accounts for 2007</i>			
Jimmy Lumpkin	Western Region	94,238	Benton County
Thomas Steelman	Western Region	47,622	Cannon County
Janet Cluck	Western Region	98,917	Dickson County
Timothy Campbell	Western Region	88,701	Dyer County
Marcus McLemore	Western Region	62,422	Hardin County
Jerry Parker	Western Region	68,497	Lauderdale County
Sammy Elgin	Western Region	145,716	Madison County
Ricky Mathenia	Western Region	52,167	McNairy County
Myra Walker	Central Region	95,817	Giles County
Cynthia Zeitz	Central Region	27,221	Jackson County
DeWayne Trail	Central Region	144,280	Rutherford County
Theresa Allan	Central Region	33,345	Trousdale County
Billy Adcock	Central Region	62,397	White County
James Perry	Central Region	213,500	Williamson County
Anthony Carver	Eastern Region	37,887	Grainger County
Stephen Hale	Eastern Region	101,621	Greene County
Ray Burden	Eastern Region	182,562	Hamilton County
Jonathan Rhea	Eastern Region	63,098	Jefferson County
Harold Woods	Eastern Region	94,238	McMinn County
Jerry Don Lamb	Eastern Region	74,983	Rhea County

Sept.

PI; Co-PI	Department	Award	Agency
Robert Augé	Plant Sciences	21,000	UT–Battelle
Richard Davis	International Programs	9,410	USDA
Mark Fly	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	75,000	USDA Forest Service
Clark Garland	Ag Economics	14,524	Texas Cooperative Extension
Matthew Gray	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	163,143	USDA NRCS
Owen Gwathmey	Plant Sciences	4,000	John Deere
Robert Hayes	West TN Research & Ed Center	7,920	USDA ARS
Martha Keel	Family & Consumer Sciences	22,120	Centers for Disease Control & Prev
Thomas Klindt	Experiment Station Admin	100,000	South Dakota State Univ
Kurt Lamour	Entomology & Plant Pathology	20,000	TN Dept of Agriculture
Elizabeth Long; Darrell Hensley Angela Thompson	Entomology & Plant Pathology Plant Sciences	31,875	NC State Univ
Dan McLemore; Vickie Witcher	Ag Economics	70,000	Philip Morris
Emmit Rawls	Ag Economics	30,686	Texas Cooperative Extension
Timothy Rials; Siqun Wang, David Harper, Timothy Young, Nicole Labbé, Joseph Bozell	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	428,286	USDA CSREES
Samuel Rogers	Plant Sciences	10,500	Blount County Soil Conserv District
David Rotstein	Pathobiology	15,600	Nat'l Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin

Grants and Contracts July–September 2006

Sept.

PI; Co-PI	Department	Award	Agency
Scott Schlarbaum	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	40,091 2,440 3,000	USDA Forest Service TN Wildlife Resources Agency National Park Service
Hildegard Schuller	Pathobiology	31,406	National Institutes of Health
George Smith	Ag Economics	60,000	Texas Cooperative System
Lawrence Steckel	Plant Sciences	9,000	John Deere
Neal Stewart	Plant Sciences	60,000	Univ of Virginia
Adam Taylor	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	70,754	USDA Forest Service
Robert Trigiano; Mark Windham	Entomology & Plant Pathology	32,927	USDA ARS
<i>County Billing Accounts for 2007</i>			
Steven Burgess	Western Region	46,086	Carroll County
Garry Glass	Western Region	32,829	Decatur County
Robert Vickers	Western Region	64,999	Hardeman County
Walter Battle	Western Region	113,858	Haywood County
Ronald Blair	Western Region	45,843	Henderson County
Paula Spears	Western Region	35,559	Lewis County
John Barte	Western Region	111,343	Montgomery County
Jeff Lannom	Western Region	65,211	Weakley County
Dean Northcutt	Central Region	136,411	Coffee County
Brenda Andy	Central Region	41,299	Grundy County
Eugene Medley	Central Region	46,931	Overton County
J. W. McGuire	Central Region	126,357	Wilson County
James McMillion	Eastern Region	132,185	Blount County
Emmanuel Bedwell	Eastern Region	111,327	Hamblen County
John Goddard	Eastern Region	117,858	Loudon County
David Amonett	Eastern Region	45,027	Morgan County
Alan Bruhin	Eastern Region	117,400	Sevier County

UTIA Events & Happenings

November 23 **Thanksgiving Holiday**

November 24 **Administrative Closing**

December 10-12 **TN Fruit & Vegetable Assoc. Annual Meeting** David Lockwood, lockwood@utk.edu

December 12 **FCS Faculty & Regional Program Leaders Meeting**, Morgan Hall

December 25 **Winter Holiday**

December 26-29 **Administrative Closing**

January 1 **New Year's Holiday**

SECURITY, from page 1

CAFSP will house the college's national training program that is being developed for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on agriculture and food vulnerability assessment. Development of this outreach training program is being funded by a \$2 million grant that CVM received last fall from DHS. The training program will provide industry and government officials at the state, county, and local levels across the country with tools to prevent and deter terrorist acts that target the agricultural and food sector. Facilities and operations considered vulnerable can reduce or eliminate risk through appropriate planning and training. The training program will be available at no cost to local communities later this fall.

Sharon Thompson, director of Partnership Programs at the veterinary college, leads the center. Thompson, project director for the DHS grant as well as other homeland security related grants at the college, says, "The formation of the center demonstrates the College's continuing commitment to its work in the homeland security arena and will support the further expansion of this work." Other UTCVM faculty and partnering institutions will also be involved in the center's activities.

Michael Blackwell, UTCVM dean and retired assistant surgeon general and chief of staff of the Office of the Surgeon General, says the center positions the college as a key player in the national effort to protect the nation's food supply from acts of terrorism. "This center has come about because the UT College of Veterinary Medicine recognizes its responsibility to promote public health and to be on the team that protects national security," Blackwell says. "The work that will come out of this center has the potential to affect each and every American, anyone who consumes

food." Blackwell adds the center is the result of the success the college has had in building partnerships and receiving funding from the Department of Homeland Security.

"The center will provide a readily accessible Web portal for information on the DHS training program as well as showcase other College homeland security related activities," says Thompson. The center will provide a focal point for its efforts to work directly with industry, especially in the vulnerability assessment and infrastructure protection arena. "We plan to develop online and additional in-person training programs," she adds.

The center will organize and host the second Foreign Animal and Emerging Diseases Training Course, which will be held in Knoxville in the summer of 2007.

ARTHRITIS, from page 1

Extension health specialist, and co-director of the UT Center for Community-Based Health Initiatives.

CDC has also acknowledged the partnership as an Exemplary Public Health Program that can serve as a model for reaching underserved populations in other states. CDC identified inadequate information access as a major barrier to arthritis intervention and treatment, noting that Tennessee had successfully expanded program participation to areas that previously had no participation.

According to the CDC, more widespread use of the Arthritis Self-Help Course would save money and reduce the burden of arthritis.

The National Arthritis Foundation presented the partnership with a National Public Health Innovative Award for outstanding achievement. The Tennessee Arthritis Education partnership was among six chosen from 20 projects nominated nationwide.

"We are successful because we are pooling the resources of our three agencies. The keys to our partnership's capability are the evidence-based curricula of the Arthritis Foundation, vital grant support from the Tennessee Department of Health, and the educational delivery systems of UT Extension," Clarke said.

Throughout the state, 37 UT Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) educators in 37 counties have become certified to teach the Arthritis Foundation Self-Help Program and the Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program.

Earlier this year, three FCS agents received the Florence Hall Award from the Tennessee Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. The award recognizes an outstanding initiative that is alert in addressing family concerns and implementing programs that benefit families.

Partnering with local community organizations, Donna Calhoun, Heather Kyle and Christopher Sneed established the Arthritis Foundation's self-help and exercise programs in remote areas of Polk, Monroe and McMinn counties.

"We have been working together since 2000, helping Tennesseans learn how to self-manage chronic symptoms. Arthritis cannot be cured, but you can learn how to control the pain and other discomforts caused by the disease. This is truly an honor for all of us to celebrate," Clarke said.

FCS recently incorporated a Tai Chi program into the partnership's curriculum, and 39 FCS Extension educators are offering the new course in their communities.

For more information, visit the Tennessee Arthritis Education Partnership at <http://fcs.tennessee.edu/healthsafety/tnaep.htm>.

—Terri Friedman

TENNESSEE 4-H SETS GOALS TO PROVIDE YOUTH WITH MORE OPTIONS

Alice Ann Moore
Director, 4-H Youth Development



UT Extension and the Tennessee 4-H program have experienced changes during the past few years. Although changes are often hard to accept, 4-H agents and specialists, volunteers and the youth have embraced the changes and challenges and adapted to develop even better county, region and state programming. Those in 4-H youth development often do not have time to reflect on the impact they have on the lives of youth because of club meetings, honor club and all star activities, camp, State 4-H Congress – the list is never ending.

Recently, the state 4-H specialist staff along with representatives from the regions met to consider the direction of the Tennessee 4-H program for 2007 and beyond.

As we talked about the past and discussed the future, we realized how strong the 4-H program in Tennessee is due to the agents and volunteers who conduct the programs in the counties. We have strong traditions, but we are willing to try new things

and accept change when needed. We continually strive to provide better opportunities for the youth involved in 4-H and to involve youth and adults from diverse backgrounds.

As we look to 2007 and beyond, our direction is focused on improving

some things and providing new opportunities.

We plan to improve the 4-H curriculum. A curriculum committee to be led by Steve Sutton was formed. The goal is to revise some literature combined with new literature to improve opportunities for project work.

The Tennessee 4-H program is known for developing life skills and that emphasis will continue.

Successful programming in service learning and civic engagement is prevalent throughout the state. We plan to continue this emphasis and provide even more opportunities in this area.

Volunteers and volunteer development must be a priority in order to strengthen, improve and enhance our county programs.

Teens are an important audience and emphasis is being placed on retaining youth in 4-H as they become teenagers.

Science, engineering, and technology is an emerging priority area, and we will be dedicating time and resources to this effort. In 2008, a state action agenda will be written for the science, engineering, and technology program area.

Marketing efforts through the Vol Network as well as other venues have been successful, and we will continue our marketing strategy.

Recognition for agents working in the 4-H Youth Development field is a concern. The “Mary Neal Alexander” award for a 4-H agent is one award. We want to find more ways to recognize professionals who make the youth development field their career.

Funding is always a challenge, and although we have good support from UT Extension Administration and Tennessee 4-H Foundation, fund development for new initiatives as well as current programming will be a priority.

In these ways, we’re working to provide Tennessee youth with more opportunities and options when they become involved with the 4-H program.

WHEELY AWARD WINNER, from page 1

2001, two of his cultivars have been adopted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as “high-yield checks” or high-producing standard varieties, replacing older varieties that were the agricultural standard for almost two decades.

The new varieties yield an extra five bushels of soybeans a year, which offers the Tennessee agricultural industry the possibility of increasing

its annual revenues, estimated at more than \$230 million a year, by another \$33 million. Pantalone has been at UT since 1998.

Nine faculty have received the Wheeley Award since its inception in 1989. Peter Tsai, a research associate professor in UT’s Textiles and Nonwoven Development Center (TANDEC), is co-recipient of the award. Tsai has developed methods of improving nonwoven filters.

“Both of these men are outstanding scientists who have been able to commercialize their research in ways that benefit their industries and the university,” said Fred Tompkins, president of the University of Tennessee Research Foundation and UT associate vice president for research. “They have developed products that are important to the regional and national economy and to society.”

ASIAN SOYBEAN RUST CONFIRMED

In mid October, experts with UT Extension confirmed the presence of a significant agricultural disease in the state. Asian soybean rust was found in West Tennessee on soybean leaf samples taken from several fields in Gibson, Obion, and Weakley counties. By the end of October, samples from 18 Tennessee counties had tested positive for soybean rust.

The original confirmation came at the end of the growing season when most soybeans had been harvested. Plant pathologist Beth Long says the disease

caused no damage to the state's soybean crop this year.

The disease samples — a few rust pustules — were found on soybean leaves and visually identified with a microscope at the Extension lab at Jackson. The samples were then tested with the "QuickStix" method by Melvin Newman, Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology in Jackson.

Final confirmation that the pustules were Asian soybean rust was determined by polymerase chain

reaction (PCR) testing in Kurt Lamour's lab at the Institute in Knoxville.

After the soybean plants were sampled, a hard frost occurred in West Tennessee, and most remaining green leaf tissue was destroyed. Soybean rust cannot survive the winter in Tennessee, but rust spores can easily be blown in during the growing season from areas in the Southern U.S. where freezing temperatures do not occur.

UT PLATEAU CENTER TO HOLD DECEMBER CATTLE SALE

The UT Plateau Research and Education Center will host the 7th annual fall sale of cattle from its herd on Friday, December 1, starting at 10 a.m. CST.

The sale will feature open and bred cows, all of which are registered Angus, Gelbvieh or Balancer cows. Minimum bids per head will be required. The cows will be penned and available for viewing beginning November 30. Registration documentation will also be available.

For more information, including a list of the cattle to be sold, or to make arrangements to preview sale stock, contact the Plateau Research and Education Center at (931) 484-0034 or e-mail the Center's staff at gwisdom@utk.edu.

The sale will be conducted by Marcka Auction Services, with Marcus Davis presiding as auctioneer. The sale will be conducted at the center's headquarters on U.S. Highway 70 North, approximately 8 miles west of Crossville.

The Plateau Research and Education Center is one of 10 field laboratories operated across the state by the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station. At each facility UT researchers work to solve real-world problems faced by producers and industries so businesses can thrive and consumers can enjoy high standards of living.

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