



University of Tennessee, Knoxville
**TRACE: Tennessee Research and Creative
Exchange**

Third Thursday

University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture
Publications

7-2007

Third Thursday 7-2007

Institute of Agriculture

Follow this and additional works at: https://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_thirdthursday



Part of the [Agriculture Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Institute of Agriculture, "Third Thursday 7-2007" (2007). *Third Thursday*.
https://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_thirdthursday/12

The publications in this collection represent the historical publishing record of the UT Agricultural Experiment Station and do not necessarily reflect current scientific knowledge or recommendations. Current information about UT Ag Research can be found at the [UT Ag Research website](#).

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture Publications at TRACE: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Third Thursday by an authorized administrator of TRACE: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact trace@utk.edu.

UT INSTITUTE OF Agriculture

News for Employees, Students & Friends

July 2007

REACHING OUT TO KOSOVO

By Anthony Carver,
Extension Director, Grainger County

They say Extension is far reaching. Even the definition of the word means to connect between distances. That's true. **This story demonstrates that point well.** Meet Petrit (pronounced *Ptreat*) Tujaka. He is from the country of Kosovo near Greece. His story is sad but must be told. Kosovo had a civil war between the Serbs and Albanians. The Serbs invaded and killed 80 percent of the male population, leaving the country in an economic and emotional wreck. Today the people of Kosovo are trying to rebuild their lives and form better ones. So what does all this have to do with Extension programs in Tennessee?

In October 2006, Petrit was working with a group of widows trying to grow strawberries and other crops for food and to sell. They had only pictures of how the strawberries should look. Then fate sent help in the form of Grainger County farmers, who were there as a missionary group to help cut firewood for the coming winter. The group had John Mixon and Randy Turley, both Grainger County vegetable farmers, on the team. The two started advising and showing Petrit and the widows how to plant the strawberries. The group spent a week bedding, laying plastic and drip-tape by hand over an acre of land. Finally the strawberries were placed in the ground.

Knowing that Petrit's success is important, the same missionary group that sent the Grainger County farmers abroad brought Petrit to the United States—to Grainger County specifically, where he visited this spring. Being familiar with Extension, John Mixon contacted me to put together all kinds of

information on farming. I spent several days researching Kosovo's agronomic conditions, appropriate varieties, etc. With some help from Area Specialist – Farm Management Laura Howard, I put together a large binder with production information, Web sites, local agricultural contacts, laws, trade information, and much more. Also, John and I are working on getting Petrit some row covers for his strawberries this fall.

During his visit here, I taught Petrit about tractor safety, measuring land, strawberry, blueberry, lettuce, hay,

Continued, page 4

SIGN UP FOR UT ALERT

UT's e2campus emergency alert system has arrived. Faculty, staff, and students may now sign up for the UT alert mass notification and text message system. The system will be used to deliver critical messages in the event of an emergency.

Alerts can be sent to PDAs, cell phones, e-mail addresses, and pagers almost instantly, allowing for faster communication during an emergency. Since the system relies on text messaging, it will function effectively even when cell traffic increases during an emergency.

No cost will be passed on to participants other than fees charged by phone providers for standard text messaging services.

Faculty, staff, and students can sign up for UT alert online. Go to the UT alert page and click on "Sign up now!" Then follow the instructions. You will need your cell phone handy to enter the confirmation code at the end of the process. The UT alert Web site is located at <http://www.utk.edu/utalert>.

National
Zoological
Conference
Ahead.
Details
Inside.



Tujaka examining strawberry beds, top, and with Anthony Carver, above right, on a visit to a sheep operation.

third thursday

IN THE NEWS

Like lamb meat? You can purchase quality lamb and support 4-H Lamb projects at the same time through the **annual 4-H Lamb Show and Sale.** **Amy Powell Williams, Extension agent in Loudon County, is coordinating the lamb sale.** You may purchase whole or half lambs that will be processed in either Loudon or Knox County. The cost of the live lamb is \$1.40 per pound, with most lambs expected to average 120-140 pounds. Paying a premium price above \$1.40 rewards the 4-H'ers and assures a higher placing lamb. The sale is Aug. 2, and purchased lambs will be transported for processing. For more details, contact Powell Williams at (865) 458-5612 or apowell@utk.edu

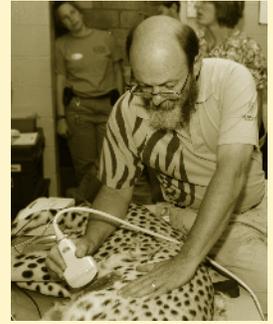
People who are interested in learning about the growing and marketing of asparagus are invited to an Asparagus Twilight Meeting on Aug. 16 at 6 p.m. at the farm of Garnett Carr, 982 Flem Clayton Rd., Roxboro, NC, according to Carl Cantaluppi, area horticulture agent for the NC Cooperative Extension Service in Granville and Person counties. The meeting will showcase the quarter-acre variety trial plots and compare 13 different varieties grown on the farm. Asparagus, Cantaluppi says, is a high-value crop that is easy to grow, has high consumer demand and needs to be promoted in the South. For more information, email carl_cantaluppi@ncsu.edu or call (919) 603-1350.

Chuck Denney and Doug Edlund of Marketing and Communications Services have won a Gold Award from the Association for Communication Excellence in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Life and Human Sciences. Although they have received numerous ACE awards in previous years, this is their first in the category of non-credit educational video. They received it for a video touting the year-round

A TO Z ... AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN

*By Ed Ramsay,
Professor, Small Animal Clinical Sciences,
College of Veterinary Medicine, & President,
American Association of Zoo Veterinarians*

Solidifying its reputation as a leader in avian and zoological medicine, the UT College of Veterinary Medicine is co-hosting, along with the Knoxville Zoological Gardens, the **annual conference of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (AAZV) this October 20-26.** The AAZV works to advance the field of veterinary medicine dealing with captive and free-ranging wild animals.



Ed Ramsay

The meeting will draw close to 500 zoo veterinarians and veterinary students from the United States and more than 20 countries. Invertebrate medicine, endoscopy, and zoo animal dentistry are among the wet labs that will be offered.

Participants from Europe, South America, Australia, Asia, and many developing countries will gather in Knoxville for the weeklong conference that was first brought to town in 1978 by the late CVM dean Hiram Kitchen. Historically, the conference is held at zoos, and this is only the second time since the 1990's that the meeting has been held at a veterinary college. UTCVM is fortunate to have a close collaboration with the Knoxville zoo, and hosting the meeting in East Tennessee allows us the opportunity to showcase not only our program but also that relationship with the zoo to the international zoo community. While numerous veterinary colleges offer experience in exotic pet medicine, only about half a dozen in the country place an emphasis on zoo medicine as an integral part of the curriculum. The college's early administration determined zoo medicine would be an area of emphasis, and we are fortunate the current administration and Institute continue that support. UTCVM was the second college in the country to have a full-time faculty member dedicated to zoo medicine. Hosting the AAZV conference draws attention for one week in October, but the college's avian and zoological medicine section draws international attention throughout the year as students and veterinarians come to the college for externships.

environmental education program directed by **Terri Quillin at the Ridley 4-H Center in Columbia.**

The Tennessee Food Safety Task Force, chaired by Bill Morris of Food Science and Technology, is having an impact among Memphis restaurateurs. The task force hosted a workshop focusing on food safety legal issues in February featuring nationally recognized speakers. Proceedings from the event have

been reprinted in several issues of the Memphis Restaurant Association newsletter. Ann Draughon and Mike Davidson of the department also serve on the task force.

Memphis' Agricenter International will host a big event for commercial agricultural technology at the **2007 AgTechnology Field Day, Thursday, July 19, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Fifteen leading agricultural companies will demonstrate their latest technology.

Continued, back page

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT:

For months we've been talking to anyone who would listen about the Tennessee Biofuels Initiative (TBFi). We've explained how well suited Tennessee



Joe DiPietro

is to the production of biomass crops like switchgrass and poplar trees. We've touted how the production of cellulosic ethanol offers Tennessee farmers an opportunity to produce entirely new crops – crops they can sell locally to benefit their communities and the state's economy. And let's not forget the benefits the consumption of home-grown fuel pose for the environment, for consumers and for increased national security through reduced dependence on foreign oil.

As you probably already know, the Governor agreed with the premise. In January he announced support for state investment in cellulosic ethanol research. The Legislature listened and supported the initiative, and now it's time for us to hold up our end of the bargain.

The Institute is extremely grateful for the confidence our state leaders have shown us by supporting the TBFi, which includes construction of a first-of-its-kind demonstration biorefinery, incentive payments for farmers to grow switchgrass, and research funds to improve the efficiency of converting cellulose to ethanol. This effort epitomizes the research, education and outreach missions of our land-grant institution.

It's been said many ways: "Be careful what you wish for." "It's time for the rubber to meet the road." "Let's see if this dog will hunt." Still, there is a great deal of truth to the axiom that with success comes responsibility. In the case of the TBFi, we are confident and excited about accepting this responsibility.

It will be a challenge to convert the Initiative from a conceptual model to

a working biorefinery and finally to affordable fuel for consumers. While there will be problems we did not anticipate, I trust in the fact that we are an organization that has consistently had people who are very good at solving problems. Historically, investment in agricultural research has returned great dividends to society, and we're betting heavily on the TBFi reaping marvelous returns for those we serve.

Lastly, this indeed has been a team effort and success. I would like to thank all who made this reality including those in the Institute, others in the UT System and our friends and supporters. There are so many names that it's impossible to list them here, but I am lucky and grateful to have had the privilege of working with each of you and say "well done!"

All the best,

Joe

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Charles and Julie Wharton gave \$100,000. Twenty thousand will be used for two Wharton Professors Awards in Veterinary Medicine.

Debbie Arp will leave \$150,000 as part of an estate gift to support feline medicine.

Nutramax Orthopedics gave \$47,500 in recognition of the work of orthopedic/arthroscopic specialist Dr. Darryl Millis.

Betty Hammack and Charles Meredith, M.D. will bequeath \$500,000 to support the CVM Veterinary Social Work program.

BRIEFLY: TIAN TIAN FENG

Tiantian Feng, a native of Heilongjiang province, China, is a visiting scholar from the **Center for Animal Ecology and Conservation Biology, Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing.**

Q: Why do you like living here?

A: The experiences I am having here are totally different than in China, everything is different. Also, I can learn more here. It's a good chance for my research work.

Q: Why have you come to UT?

A: I'm here through an arrangement with the Memphis Zoological Society to research relationships between animal diversity and landscape patterns for endangered species in China: mammals such as the giant panda, golden takin,

July 19, **Tobacco and Forage Production Field Day**, Research and Education Center at Greeneville, 8 a.m.

July 19, **Mid-South AgTechnology Field Day, Memphis Agricenter International**, 7 a.m., jbradley@agricenter.org

July 26, **Making Forages Work Field Day**, Middle Tennessee Research and Education Center, 8:30 a.m.

Aug. 7, **Steak and Potatoes Field Day**, Plateau Research and Education Center, 8 a.m.

Aug. 16, **Asparagus Twilight Meeting**, Roxboro, NC, 6 p.m., carl_cantaluppi@ncsu.edu

UTIA Events & Happenings



and golden monkey that are classified as Class 1 protected species.

Q: How have you adjusted to your new surroundings?

A: I've adjusted with the help of all the people here. They've made me feel at home. And UT's Center for International Education has been a particularly good resource, helping me and putting me in touch with other Chinese scholars.

FAR REACHING, from page 1

sheep, and everything else production. I have taken him to farms to show him 'how we do it here.' He is very excited that he can use his camera and a public computer to send me pictures, and I can diagnose any future problems via e-mail. Petrit says, "The UN has given us food and basic needs, but never took the time to show us how to help ourselves. With friends like you, we can start to rebuild again."

Extension programs are amazing. Imagine teaching a country to farm and produce their own food 5,000 miles away. I would say that's pretty big impact.

IN THE NEWS, from page 2

Commercial vendors will showcase and discuss 'in field' research and product development. For more information, contact **John Bradley**, director of research, at jbradley@agricenter.org or (901) 757-7754.

The **Highland Rim Research and Education Center** suffered a fire **Friday, June 8**. Stored hay combusted in a hay barn, destroying the 2005 facility and about 100 large round rolls of hay. Fire fighters worked for 12 hours to get the flames under control. No other structures were damaged.

FAT CAMP HELPS DOGS TRIM UP

He's named Harley for the famed motorcycle, but that doesn't mean his owner wants him to get as big as a hawg. **Harley is a five-year-old Samoyed breed, a type of Russian sled dog, who now tips the scales at 65 pounds. That's a few too many doggie treats.**



Harley has lost several pounds so far, thanks to CVM's fat camp.

Penny Blake is Harley's devoted mom. "When my son would walk with Harley, we recognized he couldn't do it. That he was just totally out of breath and not able to go maybe half a mile."

Penny heard about "**Fat Camp**" at **UT's College of Veterinary Medicine**—a sort of "Celebrity Fit Club" for pooches—and now Harley is a camper. Harley is exercised with walks outdoors and on an underwater treadmill. He also gets a change in diet.

"So getting the weight off is going to make him feel better and really increase his level of activity. He's going to play more and probably act like a puppy," says UT Veterinarian Angela Lusby.

It's estimated that more than half of all middle-aged American pets are too fat. Just like with people—obesity can lead to serious health problems such as diabetes, arthritis, and joint pain. **You can view a video story about "Fat Camp" at <http://www.agriculture.utk.edu/news/VideoReleases/>**
—Chuck Denney

The **UT Forest Resources Center and Arboretum** has placed **information concerning the spring freeze and its aftereffects on its Web site, at <http://forestry.tennessee.edu/freeze07.htm>.** The information is intended to aid Institute personnel and

the general public with questions concerning what should be done to care for damaged plants. The Web-based resource will continue to be updated as events progress. The information is tailored to homeowners and other interested publics.

UTIA News is published monthly by the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture
Send comments and suggestions to Margot Emery, memory@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
E11-1101-00-001-08



The University of Tennessee
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
101 Morgan Hall
Knoxville, TN 37996-4505