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Third Thursday

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Third Thursday

From the Chancellor



Larry Arrington

Our University of Tennessee bioenergy program received some well-deserved attention from Tennessee political leaders recently. Governor Bill Haslam and Senator Lamar Alexander were among the group that toured a Vonore farm growing several varieties of switchgrass. They were also able to tour the processing plant and biorefinery located in Monroe County. Senator Alexander indicated his strong support for a fuel that comes from crops we don't eat. Furthermore, he believes fuel from switchgrass will be very important for our country's future. Governor Haslam emphasized the importance of making a fuel that isn't subject to the whims of the international oil market. Thanks to all of our UTIA faculty who continue to be involved in the bioenergy program.

The College of Veterinary Medicine met recently with the UTCVM Advisory Board. This group provides important counsel to our college. We express our appreciation to this advisory group and the many other individuals who are engaged in advisory capacities for UTIA.

President DiPietro is commissioning a strategic planning team to evaluate the mission and direct the university system over the next decade. UTIA will be represented on this strategic planning team that will include university administrators, campus leaders, faculty, staff, students and constituent stakeholders. We will keep you informed of progress with this effort.

Go Vols,

Schrick Named Head of Animal Science



Neal Schrick

Concluding a national search, Chancellor Arrington has named Professor Neal Schrick head of the Department of Animal Science. He succeeds Alan Matthew, who left the university earlier this year, and John Waller who served as interim head. Schrick is an authority on animal and reproductive physiology and endocrinology. He has been a member of the faculty since 1994.

Arrington said he based the appointment upon the recommendations of the deans and input during the search process from faculty, staff and stakeholders.



eXtension Learn offers a wide variety of professional development sessions online to anyone in Extension in all program areas. Please visit www.eXtension.org/learn for a listing of upcoming topics. Examples of October offerings include: Creating Charts and Graphs with Excel, National eXtension Virtual Conference, ebook Conversion, How to Breed for Organic Production Systems and much more.



There'll be fun, fun, fun when Ag Day 2011 celebrates "New Faces, New Places" on Saturday, October 29. Join our annual street fair for alumni and friends four hours before game time on Chapman Drive beside the Plant Biotechnology Building.

UTIA Faculty Increasing Their Competitiveness: Peers Increasing Also

by Bill Brown, Dean, AgResearch



Bill Brown

Highly relevant, successful land-grant institutions deliver superior performance relative to their mission and make a distinctive impact for the benefit of their clientele over

a long period of time. UTIA faculty and staff can be very proud of their accomplishments over the past few years and, even with the recent budget reductions, leading indicators suggest that our future looks bright.

The extent of budget reductions beginning in 2008 for southern region institutions is beginning to show (Table 1; 2009 data are the most recent available). No apparent trend exists in terms of changes in research faculty FTE across institutions between 2008 and 2009. **UT AgResearch has increased faculty FTE since 2009; our current faculty FTE is 94.** Most institutions experienced a reduction in total state plus federal appropriation between 2008 and 2009, primarily due to reductions in state funding. **Tennessee ranks 10th out of 13 southern states**

in total state plus federal appropriated funding. On the other hand, Tennessee ranks third out of 13 southern states in appropriated funding per faculty FTE, indicating that UT AgResearch provides strong support of faculty programs relative to our southern region peers.

This high level of internal support relative to our peers assists faculty in their efforts to serve the public and is a major reason for strong clientele support of UTIA programs.

UT AgResearch faculty increased their grant expenditures an impressive 25 percent, from \$118,000 per faculty FTE in 2008 to \$148,000 in 2009. Many of our peers (nine out of 13 southern region peers) also experienced increases in grant expenditures between 2008 and 2009. **We also moved up in the ranking relative to our peers** increasing from 11th to 10th out of 13 southern region institutions.

Unique refereed publications produced by UTIA faculty declined in 2010 to levels similar to those in 2007 and 2008 (Table 2). This may be a cyclical response due to the large increase between 2008 and 2009. **The large increase in grants submission (see next page) may also be a factor; however, we need to keep**

publication rate at the front of our minds. Presentations at scientific meetings appear to follow a cyclic pattern and were up in 2010 as compared to 2009. This may be a leading indicator for increased refereed publications in the near term. Grant expenditures (excluding state, federal and county appropriations) have increased steadily since 2007, increasing by 10.6 percent from 2010 to 2011. Awards have moderated between \$46 million to \$48 million in recent years; however, very large increases in submissions in 2010 and 2011 suggest that our awards and thus expenditures may increase in the short to medium term.

Due to your hard work and dedication, UTIA teaching, research and extension programs are moving forward and advancing in spite of reduced appropriations. As with most land-grant institutions, our funding model is changing; the key is to seek opportunities for extramural funding in areas that are consistent with our mission. Our status within the UT system of having contract authority places a great deal of responsibility on UTIA from an audit perspective, but provides us with the flexibility to conduct the work needed to serve our clientele.

Bobby Simpson



Little River Animal and Environmental unit

UT AgResearch opened the Little River Animal and Environmental Unit (known locally as the UT Dairy) on Sept. 30 with a ribbon cutting and luncheon for Blount County leaders and dairy industry representatives. Faculty and staff were invited to tour the new 529-acre facility following the luncheon. AgResearch also hosted a Community Open House for the public on Sunday, Oct. 2. Nestled in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, the new unit will help scientists investigate the interactions between animal agriculture and the environment. The goal of the research is to enhance agricultural practices for the benefit of society while demonstrating excellent stewardship of natural resources.

Table 1. State and federal allocations, research faculty FTE and grantsmanship for agricultural experiment stations in the southern region, FY 2008 & 2009

	Faculty FTE		State + Federal \$ M		State + Federal per faculty FTE, \$ K		Grant Expenditures per faculty FTE, \$ K	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
AL	97	96	21.8	17.8	225	185	77	70
AR	127	123	43.3	42.2	342	342	152	150
FL	412	447	72.6	66.9	176	150	151	164
GA	181	182	54.2	44.8	300	245	223	210
KY	118	102	36.9	34.8	312	342	130	167
LA	158	159	47.1	44.7	298	281	90	94
MS	84	76	28.3	27.4	335	359	374	407
NC	188	189	76.6	69.2	406	365	196	203
OK	97	92	37.9	31.1	393	337	156	148
SC	54	58	14.3	13.5	262	234	217	494
TN	88	87	33.8	30.9	386	355	118	148
TX	250	264	93.2	87.4	372	330	292	319
VA	125	120	41.5	37.3	332	310	346	375

Table 2. UTIA-wide publication, presentations and grantsmanship measures, 2007 through 2011

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Refereed publications *	244	239	295	240	
Scientific presentations *	380	427	404	419	
Grant expenditures, \$M **	21.2	21.3	24.7	27.4	30.3
Grant awards, \$ M **	38.9	46.7	46.9	48.3	46.0
Grant proposals, \$M **	90.7	107.6	107.0	123.6	226.7

*:includes teaching, research, extension;
 **:includes teaching, research, extension, vet school

What's news

>> **At its national meeting, the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, NACAA, recognized the following Extension agents for their service and dedication: Ricky Mathenia** of McNairy County and **Bruce Steeleman** of Cannon County. **Agents Ty Petty** of Unicoi County and **Jerri Lynn Sims** of Humphreys County **earned Achievement Awards for their impacts.**

>> **The Tennessee Forestry Association has honored Richard Evans,** retiring director of the Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center, **with an honorary lifetime membership** in the organization for his support for the advancement of forestry and forest science through the years.

Biomass Field Day

See the institute's latest achievements in bioenergy at the Biomass Field Day, Oct. 25 and 26 in Vonore. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/biomassFD>.

YOUR VOICE. YOUR UT.



At the University of Tennessee, every voice matters, and we want to hear yours.

UT is launching a statewide employee engagement assessment to address such topics as pay, benefits, work culture, performance evaluation, training, professional development and communication.

Your input is valued and critical to identifying areas that need improvement.

President Joe DiPietro, Chief Human Resources Officer Linda Hendricks and campus and institute leaders are all working together to address challenges. Under their leadership, an increase in the minimum starting pay rate was achieved and the first across-the-board pay raise in four years was implemented.

Responses will be confidential and employees can respond honestly. UT is taking a new best-practices approach to the survey process—a nationally recognized, third-party vendor has been contracted to ensure anonymity and follow-through.

Please make a note to take the survey on November 1. The survey website is <http://yourvoice.tennessee.edu>.

Thank you for helping us make UT the best workplace it can be.

UTIA News is published monthly by the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture. Send comments and suggestions to Margot Emery, memery@tennessee.edu. The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services. All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, or covered veteran status. Visit the Institute of Agriculture on the Internet at <http://agriculture.tennessee.edu> | E11-1101-00-001-11

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