

UT INSTITUTE OF Agriculture

News for Employees, Students & Friends April 2008

GIFT TO GROW CLYDE AUSTIN 4-H CENTER IN GREENEVILLE



Rich Maxey

An anonymous gift is helping to fund a new lodge at the Clyde Austin 4-H Center. The building will increase the versatility of programming at the Greeneville facility.

Vet Med moves into new wing, Bioenergy Task Force named, Details inside.

FROM THE VP: SPRING IS IN THE AIR

Trees are leafing out. Flowers are in bloom. Spring is blossoming all around us. I'm pleased to report there is new growth underway at the Institute, as well.

In Greene County, a generous donation is helping to make an expansion of the Clyde Austin 4-H Center a reality. In Knoxville, we celebrate the opening of a new and important wing to the College of Veterinary Medicine's Teaching Hospital. Patients, students and faculty will benefit from the many positive impacts this expansion makes possible.

As new growth occurs, we also celebrate milestones of our established programs. This is the 25th year for the UT Gardens in Knoxville. Fittingly the Dogwood Arts Festival has chosen to honor the occasion by making the gardens their Open Garden for 2008. This honor is expected to boost the annual number of visitors to the gardens beyond 50,000.

Continued, back page



Joe DiPietro

A Greene County couple has made a million dollar gift to match state funding for a new lodge building to be built at the Clyde Austin 4-H Center. The donors, who don't want to be publicly recognized for their gift, have "a passion to support the center for the part that it plays in the education and character development of youth." They also value the center as a great community resource that can benefit all the citizens and businesses in the area.

Their gift, along with others, will be used in addition to state funding to build the lodge facility and enhance the

Continued, page 3

UT DAIRY IN KNOXVILLE CLOSING FOR RELOCATION

Employees reassigned, salaries unchanged

The Institute has announced plans to close the dairy research facility located on Alcoa Highway in Knoxville. The dairy is being vacated in advance of providing the property, known as Cherokee Farm, to the UT System administration for the proposed state-of-the-art, technology-oriented research site of the same name. The schedule for the dairy's closure begins with the reassignment of eight employees to other positions at UT Agricultural Experiment Station facilities in Knoxville.

"The good news here," said Joe DiPietro, vice president of agriculture, "is no one is going to be out of work. We've worked very hard to ensure that our workforce will still have jobs."

East Tennessee Research and Education Center Director John Hodges met with the staff to inform

Continued, page 2

third thursday

NEW VET MED FACILITY OFFERS WONDERFUL TOOLS

by *Leon Potgieter, interim dean,
College of Veterinary Medicine*

This month, we begin moving into a \$10 million, 32,000-gross-square-foot expansion, and I can hardly wait to show it off. It is a wonderful facility that now matches our medical expertise. A gift from a generous donor has helped make it possible.

We have needed this expansion for a long time to better serve our patients and to provide a better teaching environment for our students since state-of-the-art clinical services are difficult to provide in severely cramped quarters. When the college was built more than 30 years ago, it was never anticipated the facility would need to accommodate the approximately 15,000 small animals we currently treat each year, and isolation and bio-containment of contagious diseases were really more like an after-thought in those days.

In addition to new dedicated isolation facilities, the expansion provides much needed space for oncology, canine rehabilitation, and avian and zoological medicine. We are installing an MRI unit for diagnosis as well as an impressive state-of-the-art linear accelerator for radiation therapy.

UTCVM is a leader in avian and zoological medicine. Now, our clinicians will be able to treat reptiles, birds, and mammals in dedicated spaces. Also created is an

area that will allow us to better treat a variety of larger species such as bears, lions, and tigers.

Even with our lack of space, we have been able to achieve worldwide recognition for our canine rehabilitation work. Can you imagine what will happen to that program now? We have two underwater treadmills, an in-ground pool, and dedicated space for the various modalities we utilize.

A facility this well designed doesn't happen by mistake. I must credit the building committee, in particular Juergen Schumacher, Avian and Zoological Medicine section chief. He worked relentlessly with the various specialists who would eventually occupy the space to ensure their patients' needs would be met.

It will be a great joy to see the reaction of the staff as they go through the new facility. We have wonderful people here and now we've been able to put some wonderful tools in their hands.

But this is no time to rest. Seeing the wonderful expansion makes me impatient to see the completion of phase two of the project. It is imperative that we expand the large animal hospital so that we have the entire hospital state-of-the-art to serve the citizens of Tennessee and the region.



Leon Potgieter

DAIRY, from page 1

them personally of the plans and to answer any questions they might have. No new jobs were created. Because the Experiment Station administration had been preparing for the shift for some time, vacant positions were retained within the Knoxville area to accommodate the needs of the workers. Employees will begin their new positions as their previous jobs are phased out, sometime before August.

Cherokee Farm will be transferred to UT System management on or about August 1, 2008.

Because construction of the new dairy research facility in Blount County will be not be completed for approximately two years, the

existing livestock and equipment will be sold, surplus, or transferred to other Experiment Station facilities. This includes some 100 head of prime milking Holstein cows—one of the top-producing herds in the state. Most of the milking herd is scheduled to be relocated to the Experiment Station's **Middle Tennessee Research and Education Center in Spring Hill.**

Hodges is particularly pleased with **plans to re-establish the genetic base of the top-producing herd at the new research facility in Blount County.** "We plan to use offspring from the present herd at the new facility," he said. Some of our finest scientists specializing in reproductive physiology will work with us to

ensure we have the best genetic base available at the new facility."

DiPietro said the timing of the closure will work with student workers' schedules, as well. "At the end of the semester our student interns and workers would normally leave their positions or transition into a new position for the summer. So the timing should not affect that normal cycle," he said.

Records show the present dairy operation was moved from the agricultural campus to the Cherokee Farm in 1935. Recently the herd has maintained a rolling herd average of 24,513 pounds of milk per cow, which is about 2,850 gallons of milk per cow. —*Patricia Clark McDaniels*

BIOENERGY TASK FORCE NAMED

At the Institute's Bioenergy and Bioproducts Strategic Planning Meeting held earlier this year, Vice President for Agriculture Joe DiPietro presented a **vision statement** for the Institute's Bioenergy program. Through nominations and volunteers, he has formed the following **task force to carry out the planning effort to engage faculty and others in the process.**

- **Caula Beyl**, CASNR Dean
- **Joe Bozell**, Forest Products Center
- **Daniel De La Torre Ugarte**, Agricultural Economics
- **Burt English**, Agricultural Economics
- **David Harper**, Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries
- **Doug Hayes**, Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science
- **Pat Keyser**, Forestry Wildlife, and Fisheries
- **Lorna Norwood**, chair, Marketing and Communications
- **Neil Rhodes**, Plant Sciences
- **Neal Stewart**, Plant Sciences
- **Mark Windham**, Entomology and Plant Pathology

The task force charge includes the following items: gain Institute-wide input and engagement in the process; review comments on and revision of vision statement; carry out a strategic planning process; brief SWOT analysis of implementation of the vision; develop recommendations for what's needed and plans to implement our vision; other items as determined during the process; and completion of a written plan and/or report by August 15, 2008.

Should you have questions or concerns, DiPietro asks that you contact him at (865) 974-7342 or dipietro@tennessee.edu.

4-H CENTER, *from page 1*

4-H Center. The long-term viability of the camp is greatly enhanced by these improvements and additions. **"This is a program changing gift" said Dennis Jones, director of Development.**

The lodge will be used for smaller groups, especially in the off-season, that the larger camp facilities cannot economically accommodate. It will offer a more intimate and relaxing atmosphere that many youth groups, families, and businesses seek when planning meetings and retreats.

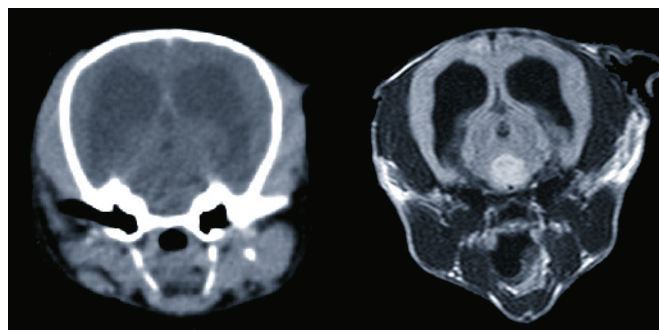
Andy Seals, Clyde Austin 4-H Center manager, is actively involved in the design and planning of the new lodge. He is hoping to have construction underway by the end of the year and indicates that although the private gift has greatly enhanced the project, there continues to be a need for additional private funding.



Sarah Ferrell

*Congratulations to **Chase Ferrell**, state 4-H Council vice president, and **Sarah Ferrell**, Grundy County Extension agent, for the opportunity to visit the White House in Washington D.C. and meet the President and First Lady Laura Bush. Chase was asked to sing the national anthem last year at a Helping America's Youth Conference sponsored by the White House. He was representing 4-H at that conference. Chase along with his sister Sarah attended a reception at the White House on February 7 to celebrate the third anniversary of the Helping America's Youth Conference.*

VET MED PIONEERS IN MRI SERVICES TO REGION



Silke Hecht

In these CT and MRI scans of an animal's brain, a brain tumor isn't apparent on the CT image (at left), but can be seen as a brighter white circular mass at the center of the MRI image.

Veterinary Imaging Services with the College of Veterinary Medicine is the **first to offer Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) for animals in the East Tennessee region.** Before now, pet owners had to travel to Raleigh, N.C., or Auburn University in Alabama for the service.

Non-invasive and incredibly sensitive, MRI picks up abnormalities in water distribution and composition in the body, giving radiologists a clearer image of the inside of the body and

unveiling changes not seen with other imaging modalities. MRI can be used to diagnose neural tissue conditions, musculoskeletal conditions, soft tissue tumors, nasal and sinus conditions, and thoracic and abdominal conditions.

Since MRI uses magnetic fields rather than radiation, it is considered a very safe diagnostic tool. While the college offers MRI scans for small animals this April, MRI will be available for horses in 2009. – *Sandra Harbison*



Extension Interim Dean **Charlie Goan** (not pictured) and **Steve Walker**, Extension agent and county director for Macon County, met with U.S. Agriculture Secretary **Ed Schafer** (center) after Walker provided a briefing about **UT Extension response to the tornadoes and storms** in February 2008. Walker is pictured above, in the right foreground, as he prepares to present information to the secretary.

UTIA Events & Happenings

- April 17-20, **Veterinary Social Work Summit**, Knoxville
- April 18-19, Spring Plant Sale, **UT Arboretum Society** Forest Resources Research and Education Center, Oak Ridge, (865) 483-3571
- April 22-24, **Statewide 4-H Inservice**, Henry Horton State Park
- April 29, **Marketing Forest Carbon**, East Tennessee
- May 9, **CASNR Commencement Ceremony**, Knoxville Convention Center, 9 a.m.
- May 10, **Bird Walk**, UT Arboretum, Oak Ridge, 7 a.m.
- May 10, Friends of the UT Gardens 17th Annual Spring Plant Sale**, Friendship Plaza of the UT Gardens, 9 a.m., members, 10 a.m., public
- May 13, **FCS Faculty and Regional Program Leaders Meeting**, Knoxville

CASNR PRESENTS \$725K IN SCHOLARSHIPS

Earlier this month at its 48th annual **Scholarship and Awards Banquet**, the **College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources** gave scholarships to **389 students**, totaling **\$725,550** in awards.

Among the recipients is **David Lane**, who was diagnosed with cancer during his freshman year. He had to withdraw for a while but came back to his studies and has excelled. The son of **Clyde Lane** of Animal Science is now one of the college's **McClanahan Scholars**, the top scholarship for the college. —*Doug Edlund*

VP, from page 1

This year is also the 25th anniversary of **Milan No-Till Field Day**. At this event and in other field days beginning this month, our mission of providing solutions for everyone, everywhere, everyday will be in action first-hand. Field days at our Research and Education Centers provide the ideal opportunity to answer problems that improve life for farmers, land owners, home owners, and the citizens we serve.

In these and other ways, we welcome spring.

All the best,

Joe

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