

Third Thursday

From Chancellor Arrington



Last month I mentioned the state budget situation for next year. The General Assembly is still in session, so the final budget has not been adopted. At this point it does not appear that any changes have been made to the governor's recommendation for UTIA lines. As it stands now, AgResearch's budget would increase from \$25.4 million to \$26 million. Extension would go from \$30.8 million to \$31.6 million. The College of Veterinary Medicine would go from \$16.4 million to \$17.3 million. These increases would fund a 1 percent salary increase and changes to employee benefits programs. **[Click here to read more.](#)**

Be sure to follow Chancellor Arrington and the latest Institute developments on Twitter at **[@UTIAChancellor](#)**.

Progress on new 4-H ALEC Department

Last year the integration of 4-H Youth Development and Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications was announced. This new department will focus on the human dimension of our food and agricultural systems, providing youth development programs statewide and offering teacher education classes, as well.

[Read a message](#) from Deans Tim Cross and Caula Beyl on progress for launching this new,

integrated department.

Championing our champion



The Council for the Advancement and Support of Education awarded its grand prize to the nomination packet supporting Institute champion Waymon Hickman for its **Volunteer of the Year Award**.

The packet was crafted by Keith Barber, vice chancellor of Advancement, and Margot Emery, senior writer/producer for the Department of Marketing and Communications. The packet was successful in securing Hickman the prestigious award.

Growing our leaders

Sponsored by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, the LEAD21 program provides leadership and professional development training for faculty and professionals within the land-grant system.

Six team members representing UTIA and Tennessee State University are among its latest graduates. **Read more about what they learned.**

Fun CVM student outreach to community



Each spring, students in the College of Veterinary Medicine organize an Open House for the community. This year's event will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 12.

Children are encouraged to bring their stuffed animals to the Teddy Bear Clinic for veterinary students to examine. Guests will learn about dog bite prevention and tour exhibits featuring small animal medicine, large animal medicine, community organizations and pet rescue groups. The anatomy lab with various skeletons and plastinated specimens is always a crowd favorite. Parades of dog and horse breeds are scheduled throughout the day. Guests can also enjoy learning about various breeds of cats and farm animals. [Click here for more information.](#)

Kudos for Grow More, Give More and CVM



Congratulations to leaders of **Grow More, Give More** and the College of Veterinary

Medicine. The **UT Alliance of Women Philanthropists** awarded each **Giving Circle** grants based on the merit and importance of their proposals.

Grow More, Give More, the Institute's service project to feed our hungry neighbors, kicks off its new year soon. Gardeners are asked to plant an extra row for the purpose of donating produce. Be on the watch for a volunteer interest meeting next month to find out how you can get involved.

The College of Veterinary Medicine will use its grant to develop animal manikins that students can use to practice and hone their skills. [Read more about these efforts.](#)

Got a research startup idea? Win big money!

Institute scientists still have time to enter an innovative business plan competition that aims to help UT researchers cultivate and transition their big ideas into practical commercial enterprises. The

inaugural \$25,000 **Tennessee Venture Challenge**, a business-plan competition sponsored by the UT Research Foundation, takes place April 3.

Boosting Tennessee beef



Tennessee's cattle industry is valued at \$783 million, the state's most valuable agricultural commodity.

Advancing the state's cattle industry is a top priority of the Institute. Three recent initiatives led by UTIA are expected to have big impacts in leading the industry forward. [Click here to learn about them.](#)

Celebrating West Tennessee gardening



People in the Mid-South turn to Memphis PBS station WKNO for the latest in gardening advice. UT Extension agent Chris Cooper hosts **The Family Plot** television series, a program focused on

the region's specific growing conditions and the techniques and tips that allow plants to thrive.

The show's fourth season premiered February 20 with the topic of winter lawn care and using dormant oil. Extension agent Booker T. Leigh of Tipton County and retired Shelby County Extension agent and director Mike Dennison joined Cooper for the episode. Both are frequent guests on the show.

Cooper currently serves as the interim coordinator of the state **Master Gardener Program**.

Save the date for the second annual UT Gardens Gala

Join us in Knoxville April 25 for cocktails, music, dinner, and live and silent auctions at the UT Gardens gala, "A Rainbow of Iris," presented by HGTV HOME.

The state flower of Tennessee, the bearded iris, will be featured to celebrate the Gardens' designation as Tennessee's State Botanical Garden. Also meet Vern Yip, HGTV host and designer, who will be the celebrity guest and emcee. **For more information and to register, click here.**



Colorful request for staff in West Tennessee



Horticulturist and UT Gardens, Jackson, curator Jason Reeves is seeking thousands of empty wine and other bottles. He would love to have yours.

Use of bottles as garden ornaments is the theme for this year's Summer Celebration at the **West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center** in Jackson.

Blue bottles are especially prized, but any color and size is welcome except clear beer bottles. If you remove the labels, Reeves will send love your way. He will recycle what he

doesn't use.

Reeves plans to stack colorful bottles to form vivid glass walls. He will use others for bottle trees to adorn the center's grounds. Please contact **Angie Thorne** at 731-424-1643 if you're able to help him on his bottle quest.

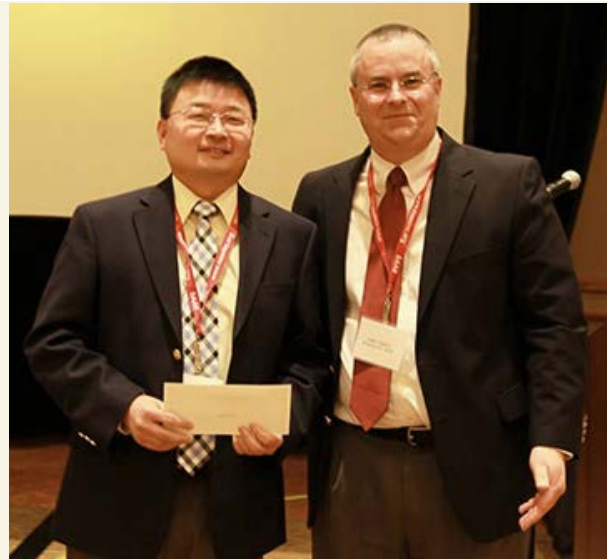
Summer Celebration, which will take place on July 10, has become one of the most popular annual events hosted by UT AgResearch. Featuring presentations, tours, vendors and plant sales, the event focuses on all aspects of gardening and landscape design in a fun and informative day.

Representing us well

The Department of Agricultural and

Resource Economics had great visibility at the 2014 Southern Agricultural Economics Association annual meeting. Faculty and graduate students supplied a total of eight papers, two posters, one invited symposium presentation and one organized symposium presentation.

Assistant professor Tun-Hsiang (Edward) Yu was awarded the Emerging Scholars award and was invited to present a talk on his research, which focuses on designing a dedicated energy crop supply system to biorefineries in Tennessee.



A poster titled Cost of Developing Dairy Heifers on Native-Warm Season Grasses, created by graduate program alumnus Joe Lowe, was awarded second place in the presented poster competition as a Distinguished Professional Contribution. **More ...**

Fresh veggies for you



The UT Organic Farm in Knoxville is offering Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares.

From May to September, students will supply a mouthwatering array of local, organic fruits and vegetables, all harvested the day of delivery. The share is for a half bushel of produce a week, enough for a family of four or two vegetarians. The cost is \$560 or four payments of \$145 for 20 weeks of produce.

For more information, contact **Jeff Martin** at 865-974-9204. The Organic Farm is a unit of the **UT East Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center**.

Like BBQ? Bluegrass? Outbidding your friends?

Then head to the Knoxville Museum of Art April 1 for "BBQ, Bidding and Bluegrass," a fundraiser for **Human-Animal Bond in Tennessee (HABIT)**.

HABIT is an animal-assisted therapy program of the UT College of Veterinary Medicine, and Dr. Julie Albright, UTCVM PetSafe Chair in Small Animal Behavioral Research, will lead a discussion on what makes a good therapy animal, followed by a Q&A with the audience.



A suggested donation of \$35 is requested.

The event will take place from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. An optional complimentary tour of KMA is available an hour before the event begins. Turn out and support a great cause! **More ...**

Super pix!

Mary Beth Lee, Extension agent with UT Extension Van Buren County, captured this image of a gorgeous sunset on her drive home. This year, UTIA members like Lee entered a whopping 307 images in the UTIA-wide Photo Competition! Watch for an announcement of the winners soon along with a link to view all entries.



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