

Milan
No-Till
turns 25,
inside.



Joe DiPietro

Changes underway

Summer is often a time of change in university life. Some faculty and staff announce plans to retire, and new employees arrive in advance of the new academic year. And so it is for us.

Please join with me this month in welcoming Dr. William Brown, our new research dean and director of the 10 Agricultural Research and Education Centers. And also welcome Dr. Tim Cross, who will become dean of UT Extension on August 1. I am confident in their abilities and the leadership that they will provide. I look forward to working with them closely in advancing the vision and mission of the Institute, and we can expect great things to happen under their watch.

Their units have been ably led for several years by Interim Deans Tom Klindt and Charles Goan. Each has gone beyond the call of duty in many ways in coordinating the day-to-day activities of their respective unit. I want to thank them for their dedication and service and also express appreciation to you for your support of them in the challenging roles they have filled. We benefited greatly from their experienced and successful leadership.

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Institute bioenergy program update

The Institute's Bioenergy Task Force has formulated the following vision and mission for bioenergy programs underway at UT.

VISION:

The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture will be the national and international leader in cellulosic bioenergy and bioproducts research, education, and outreach within five years.

MISSION:

The mission of the UT Institute of Agriculture Bioenergy Program is to enhance economic and

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Welcome aboard, Dean Brown

Dean William F. Brown is off to a quick start as dean of research and director of UT Agricultural Research.

This month he began meeting with departments and agricultural stakeholders and participating in the remainder of this year's field days.



William F. Brown

"I'm just very excited to be returning to Tennessee and joining the world-class faculty and staff who work here," says Brown, who earned a M.S. in animal science at UT in the 1970s.

"I want to spend quite a bit of time getting to know the faculty and staff and the programs that are in place—to spend much more time listening than I am talking—and travel to the departments and research centers across the state.

"I'm anxious to go to the remainder of the field days. I see them as good opportunities to meet the producers and clientele and learn more about the programs. I have a special interest in meeting the grower groups and the clientele and the producers to learn more about their needs, to help us shape our programs."

Prior to accepting the position with UT in March, Brown was assistant dean and assistant director of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station. He has also served as program director of the Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture Research Program and co-director of the Center for Tropical Agriculture at the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska. 🌾



The beginning of Extension work in Tennessee



Charles Goan

by Charles Goan
Interim Dean, UT Extension

A little over two years and eight months ago, I moved to the UT Extension Dean's Office. At that time I had been an Extension employee for nearly 35 years, and I must admit that I still had a lot to learn about Extension.

How many of you know that Extension work in Tennessee started a few years before passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914? While reviewing some historical Extension documents, I quickly realized that I knew very little about the beginning of Extension educational programs in Tennessee.

The following are early milestones in Tennessee Extension history:

- In the fall of 1909, a USDA representative was stationed in Jackson to start a program known as Farmers Cooperative Demonstration Work.
- On December 1, 1910, the first county agricultural agent in Tennessee was hired; and by February 1911, there were six agents located in Chester, Crockett, Dyer, McNairy, Obion, and Tipton Counties.
- On December 10, 1910, the first district agent was hired and headquartered in Dyersburg.
- In 1911, six home demonstration agents were hired to work in Bradley, Coffee, Hamilton, Madison, McMinn, and Lawrence Counties.
- On October 2, 1911, Madison County made the first county appropriation to support Extension work.
- In late 1910 and early 1911, boys' corn clubs and girls' tomato clubs were organized and are considered as the forerunner of the 4-H Club program.
- With the passage of the Smith-Lever Act, the University of Tennessee and the USDA on July 1, 1914, organized a Division of Extension which assumed leadership for the Farmers Cooperative Demonstration Work and Home Demonstration Work.

For the past 98 years, Extension has had a distinguished history of providing educational programs that have helped improve the quality of life for millions of Tennesseans. I'm thinking that we need to consider starting the celebration of 100 years of Extension in Tennessee in 2010 and continue until the celebration of the Smith-Lever Act in 2014. Please share your thoughts with the Dean's Office about when we need to start celebrating 100 years of Extension.

As I prepare to leave the dean's office on July 31, I want to thank all Extension employees for the excellent work you have done during my time serving as interim dean. As Dr. Tim Cross moves into the dean's office on August 1, please extend a hearty welcome to him as he assumes the duties of dean for UT Extension.

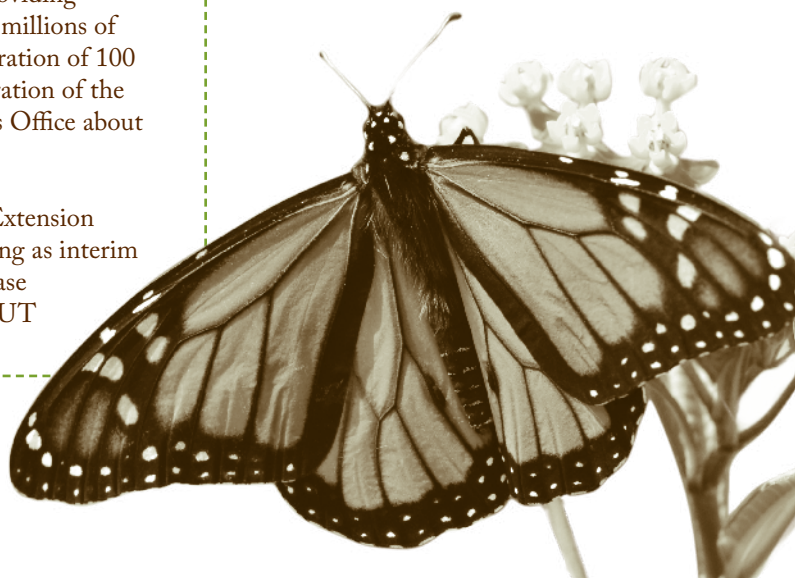
Hamilton to lead UT Gardens

In recognition of the UT Gardens' expanding programs and its role for UT as well as within Knoxville and the surrounding gardening communities, the Institute has appointed Susan Hamilton, associate professor of horticulture in the Department of Plant Sciences, as interim director of the gardens.

Hamilton has been visible within the gardens for some years as director of the nationally recognized annual flower trials. Her new position expands her responsibilities to include full oversight for garden operations including budget management, development, strategic planning, and coordinating the activities of the Friends of the Gardens support group. Her appointment will be effective until a permanent director can be appointed.

Joe DiPietro, UT vice president for agriculture, announced the appointment June 10. "I'm pleased that Dr. Hamilton can take on this expanded role. She is already well known to the gardening community as co-host of the WNOX radio show, 'The Garden Girls' and she's a popular author and speaker. She brings a wealth of valuable professional expertise to the position and is an ideal representative for the Institute."

—Patricia McDaniels



Milan No-Till marks 25

On July 24 the **Milan No-Till Field Day** will mark its 25th anniversary. This popular event is but one of a handful of field days scheduled for July and August.

Also on tap was **Summer Celebration**, July 10 in Jackson, which continues to grow in popularity. **Tobacco and Forage Production** occurs July 17 in Greeneville, and a **Steak and Potatoes Field Day** will be held August 5 in Crossville. This year's final field day will focus on **turfgrass** on September 18 at the Plant Sciences Unit in Knoxville. UT Agricultural Research's Web site, <http://taes.tennessee.edu/>, has details on each event.

Changes, *continued*

Dr. Goan has announced plans to retire in December. Dr. Klindt will be transitioning to other duties that will be determined in the near future. I hope you will join with me in expressing your appreciation to each of these individuals as they serve the Institute very well.

All the best,

Joe



Dennis Onks



Hugh Moorehead

Bioenergy program, *continued*

environmental sustainability and reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels and petroleum-based products through research, education, and outreach programs on bioenergy and biobased, non-food energy sources.

The mission will be accomplished through:

- Development and adoption of technology for sustainable and responsible cellulosic resources to become a strategic source of the nation's fuels.
- Excellence in scholarly reputation and visibility among higher education institutions, private sector companies and government entities through research accomplishments that produce:
 - Economically competitive biofuels and bioproducts;
 - Advanced science and technology that results in new products entering U.S. and world markets;
 - Publications in highly respected refereed journals; and
 - Intellectual property worthy of patenting and licensing.
- Programs that foster economic growth, rural community development, and sustainable use of natural resources.
- Appropriate, targeted educational programs that will train the future bioenergy workforce.
- Partnerships that leverage resources and build relationships.

The Task Force welcomes your input and has developed a Web site where you can find background information on the planning process, Task Force e-mail addresses, and meeting minutes. Please visit <http://utbioenergy.org/TaskForce> and send your comments to any member of the Task Force. ☺

UT AgResearch names interim dairy director

Dennis Onks has been named interim director of the Dairy Agricultural Research and Education Center in Lewisburg.

Onks is director of the Middle Tennessee Agricultural Research and Education Center in Spring Hill. He will coordinate operations with Research Associate **Hugh Moorehead** of the Dairy Center until a permanent director is named.

Onks succeeds **Henry Dowlen**, who retired last month after nearly 37 years of leadership as director. ☺

Change of leadership for 4-H



Alice Ann Moore



Steve Sutton

After 31 years of dedicated service, the director of 4-H Youth Development is retiring. Alice Ann Moore has served as an Extension agent in Grainger County, associate district supervisor, district director, and, for the past five-and-a-half years, director of 4-H Youth Development.

"We appreciate the leadership and vision Alice Ann has invested in 4-H and in the other posts she has held and wish her the best in her retirement," says Interim UT Extension Dean Charles Goan.

Extension Specialist Steve Sutton has agreed to accept the duties of interim director of 4-H Youth Development, effective August 1

"I appreciate Steve's willingness to take on extra duties until the search process to fill the director position is completed," Dr. Goan said in an e-mail sent to all Extension employees. 🍌



Campaign Update

The Institute of Agriculture continues to make excellent progress in the University of Tennessee Campaign for Tennessee.

Thanks to generous alumni and friends, as of May 31, **the Institute had received over \$63 million in gift commitments, placing it at 74 percent of its \$85 million goal.** Other units of the University of Tennessee range from 35 percent to 84 percent of goal achieved. The campaign is currently near its midpoint and will be completed on December 31, 2011.

Buddy Mitchell, associate vice president for agricultural development and government relations, said, "While good progress has been achieved, over a \$150 million in needs have been identified in the Institute of Agriculture. Many of these needs remain to be funded and much work is yet to be done in the Campaign for Tennessee. We look forward to working with the Institute of Agriculture administration, faculty, and staff and our volunteer leaders in the days ahead to maximize the potential impact of the Campaign for Tennessee on the UT Institute of Agriculture." 🍌



Marketing and Communications to staff Nashville office

To better serve the statewide nature of the Institute's operations, Patricia McDaniels of the Department of Marketing and Communications is relocating to the Extension Central District Office Building at the Ellington Agricultural Center in Nashville.

As senior media coordinator, McDaniels handles media relations, marketing, and news releases for the Institute, as well as oversees the Web packet for Extension agents. These duties will continue as she works from Nashville. Enhanced service is anticipated for field days and other events, programs, and services in Middle and West Tennessee.

Starting in mid July, you may reach McDaniels at (615) 835-4570 or by email at pmcdaniels@tennessee.edu. 🍌

With Wii, leaps and bounds are literal

Teenager Brandon Gentry has a mean backhand. However, his tennis opponent isn't real, but real enough—courtesy of the **Nintendo Wii game.**

Wii is not for thumbs only. You swing and use a remote to mimic the actions of a real game. Brandon works up a sweat swatting computerized tennis balls. "You've got to really move to play it," he says.

Wii has dozens of sports to play where a stationary posture won't cut it. **UT Extension teaches Wii games to kids as part of the Leaps and Bounds program at Nashville's Apollo Middle School and other places statewide.** Kids love

video games, but not necessarily exercise. Extension specialist Martin Koon says with Wii, they get both.

"It's wireless, so you're not attached to a cable like most video games. You're up. The controllers, you actually move them. Like tennis, you're swinging a racket. Baseball, you're swinging a bat or pitching a ball," Koon says.

UT Extension also has kids play the game "Guitar Hero" as exercise in the "Leaps and Bounds" program. You can view a video story about this at www.agriculture.utk.edu/video.

—Chuck Denney

Minser honored with conservation award



William Minser, right, accepts the Conservation Award from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Southeast Regional Director Sam Hamilton

For his dedicated work in shaping Tennessee Valley Authority land management policy, the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has honored William Minser with a Southeastern Regional Director's Conservation Award.**

Minser is a research associate and instructor in the **Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries.** He is one of 16 individuals or groups honored by the Fish and Wildlife Service with conservation awards.

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Update on the Biofuels Initiative

The UT Biofuels Initiative continues to move forward with its plans to develop a sustainable bioeconomy in the state.

Over the past two months, UT Extension specialists have been working with area farmers to plant 725 acres of switchgrass. This acreage represents the largest amount of privately farmed land in the country to be dedicated to growing switchgrass for biofuels production.

Sixteen East Tennessee farmers across seven counties are participating in the switchgrass farmer incentive program. Planting of the new bioenergy crop began on April 30 and continued into June. Individual plots range in size from 15 to 119 acres.

In order to fully supply the 10 percent demonstration-scale biorefinery, UT anticipates planting an additional 2,000 to 3,000 acres of switchgrass in spring 2009 and another 2,000 to 4,000 acres in spring 2010. UT Extension will host additional interest meetings in late summer or early fall for farmers who would like to learn more about growing switchgrass for the Biofuels Initiative.

—Patterson Wilson



Patterson Wilson

PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE—McMinn County farmer Dillon Vanzant plants switchgrass on 15 acres of land in Athens, TN

Online directory to aid value-added agriculture

Farmers interested in enhancing their bottom line have a new tool. **Courtesy of UT Extension and the Farm Bureau, through the Center for Profitable Agriculture, a new online directory catalogs resources available to help producers with their value-added enterprises,** like agritourism or selling finished products such as salsa along with the produce.

A product of the **Tennessee Value-Added Agriculture Priority Program,** the new directory provides information in these topic areas: livestock, wood and forestry, farmers markets, agritourism, marketing, farm waste, funding and fruits and vegetables. Additional topics that are expected in the future include getting started in value-added agriculture, business planning, bottled water, and wine and winery development.

The Tennessee Value-Added Agriculture Priority Program provides proactive leadership, planning, and implementation for UT Extension's educational programs in value-added agriculture. The program will include cooperative efforts on grant-funded projects, creation of web-based resources, and collaboration on value-added projects. In addition, the program will provide in-service training for Extension agents and the development of a five-year plan for value-added outreach across the state.

Jennifer Dutton, priority team member and UT Extension marketing specialist, believes the service is much needed. As traditional agriculture becomes more difficult to earn a living at, many farmers are turning to value-added enterprises to capture a higher portion of the consumer dollar, Dutton said. This Web site provides producers who are interested in adding value to their current farming activities with a wealth of information on a variety of topics, all in one place. It makes it easier and less time consuming to research the options and avenues that are available to them through value-added agriculture.

The online resource guide can be accessed through the Tennessee Value-Added Priority Team's Web site at <http://valueaddedag.tennessee.edu>. Site visitors are invited to check the site often as information is constantly being added and updated.

—Patricia McDaniels

Jennifer Franklin



STUDYING MINE RECLAMATION—Three soil biologists from the Institute of Soil Biology, Biology Centre of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic visited UT recently to study mine reclamation work. The trio examined the effects of revegetation practices on the development of the soil community including insects, bacteria, fungi, and algae. They have found long-term effects of reclamation practices on sites in Europe and are interested to see whether the soil community develops in a similar way on U.S. sites. In collaboration with Jennifer Franklin of the Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries, they are looking at the development of the soil and plant community on reclaimed mined land in the Cumberland Mountains. They sampled soils in Campbell and Anderson counties then processed the samples in the lab at UT. This is the scientists' second visit to UT, and the team plans to return next year for further sampling.

Minser, *continued*

During late 2006 and early 2007, the Tennessee Valley Authority held public hearings to request input on how the agency should manage the remaining 293,000 acres of public lakeshore property on 49 public TVA reservoirs in seven southeastern states. Recent TVA land management policy had involved removing land from public use for lakeshore development. A newly expanded board of directors wanted to take a fresh look at the issue. Minser seized the opportunity to make a difference in TVA's land management policy.

He was tireless in his leadership to keep the conservation community informed of the latest information regarding this TVA policy and to lead the charge in encouraging the public to respond to TVA's request for public input. Through his direction, TVA received more than five thousand responses with more than 92 percent of those calling for public lakeshore property to remain undeveloped and in public ownership. As a result, the new TVA board voted to prohibit the further sale of lakeshore property for residential development.

The award recognized Minser's leadership in shaping TVA land management policy and his dedication to natural resources.

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 either in Loudon or Knox County. The cost of a live lamb is \$1.50 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 July 17, and purchased lambs will be transported for processing. For more details, contact Powell Williams at (865) 458-5612 or apowell@utk.edu.

UTIA News is published monthly by the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture
Send comments and suggestions to Margot Emery, memery@tennessee.edu
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E11-1101-00-001-07

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