

UT INSTITUTE OF Agriculture

News for Employees, Students & Friends March 2006

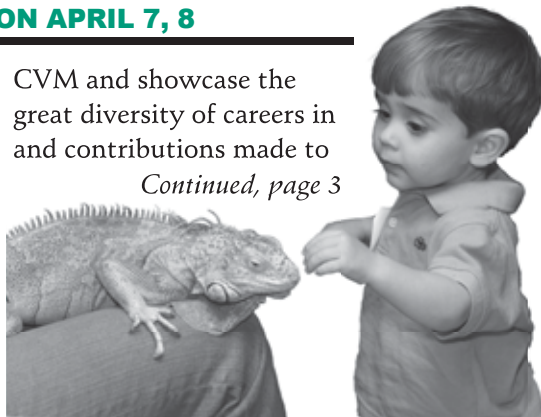
POPULAR OPEN HOUSES RETURN ON APRIL 7, 8

Wide eyes, broadened horizons, and a lot of fun are in store April 7 and 8. The popular open houses return on those dates, hosted by the College of Veterinary Medicine and College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. The action occurs from 9 to 4 each day and is expected to attract 4,500 or more visitors to the agricultural campus.

The open houses inform the public and prospective students about veterinary medicine and the services provided by

CVM and showcase the great diversity of careers in and contributions made to

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Animals fascinate at the open houses. Learn more about this year's events at the Institute's Web site.

SETTLING IN AND GETTING TO KNOW EVERYONE

by Joseph A. DiPietro
Vice President for Agriculture

Well, I have been on campus just a few weeks now and am settling into my surroundings and beginning to get acquainted with the Institute, its people and its programs, UT Knoxville, and the UT System. I am very appreciative of the warm welcome



Joseph DiPietro

I have received and ask that you bear with me being absent a few days later this month as Deb and I look forward to transitioning our home from Gainesville to Knoxville.

My immediate goals are to get my arms around exactly what the UT Institute of Agriculture is. I hope to gain a fuller understanding of its qualities, attributes, and mission, and become better informed of the needs of faculty, staff, and students as well as our internal and external constituents, stakeholders, and supporters.

Based on the few weeks I have been here it's increasingly apparent to me that the outcomes of our enterprise are very important to Tennesseans statewide, including urban and rural, traditional and non-traditional, in many meaningful and important ways.

I also anticipate learning that through our teaching, research, and Extension programs we are providing not only solutions to problems for those we serve, but opportunities for personal improvement, development, and growth, too, in ways I never expected.

My efforts to do this will include a lot of getting around to various campus and off-campus parts of our place—to departments, and our RECs, Extension offices, and 4-H camps and activities.

I look forward to meeting with students, faculty, and staff, with department chairs, directors, and deans to get better acquainted and assist me in this process. Plans also include meetings with producers, constituents, supporters, federal and state policymakers, and legislators.

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At Sunbelt Expo, the spotlight will be on Tennessee. See inside

third thursday

TENNESSEE IS THE '06 SPOTLIGHT STATE FOR SUNBELT EXPO

by Tim Cross, Assistant Dean, UT Extension

Each year, 200,000+ participants visit the **Sunbelt Expo in Moultrie, Georgia**. This expo is marketed as **the world's largest farm show** with on-site row crops and field demonstrations.

The expo showcases forward-looking farming practices for visitors from throughout the Southeast, the U.S., and other parts of the world. More than 1,100 exhibitors are expected this year, and many have attended every year since the Expo began in 1978.

The Sunbelt Expo identifies one state each year to serve as a spotlight state, providing a major exhibit at the expo as well as a speaker and printed information about the state's agriculture industry at the Farmer of the Year awards luncheon. **This year, the spotlight state will be Tennessee.** Planning for the spotlight state activities is being led by UT Extension, along with participants from **the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, and the Tennessee Farm Bureau.**

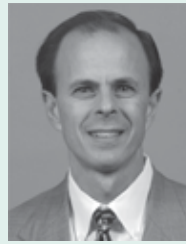


The Sunbelt Expo sprawls across 1,680 acres in south Georgia.

(Morristown, 2005), **Austin Anderson** (Manchester, 2004), **John Smith** (Puryear, 2003), **Ed Rollins** (Pulaski, 2002) and **Malcolm Burchfiel** (Newbern, 2001). **Jimmy Tosh** (Henry) received the overall award in 1998. State-level winners receive \$2,500, and the overall winner receives \$14,000 and the use of a tractor for one year.

UT Extension serves as the nominating organization for the Southeastern Farmer of the Year awards program. Nominations are sought within each of the three Extension regions, and the three Tennessee regional winners are then judged by a state panel to select the Tennessee winner. Area specialists in farm management work with Extension agents to develop nomination packets for farmers in their areas. **Nominations are currently being developed, and the state winner must be selected prior to June 1, 2006.**

With the expo spotlight shining brightly on Tennessee, we have a real opportunity to showcase the diversity and the breadth of the state's agricultural industry. We will also use this opportunity to highlight value-added agricultural and forestry products as well as agritourism enterprises statewide. **The Sunbelt Expo will be held October 17-19.**



Tim Cross

The Plateau Research and Education Center will sell cattle from its herd Friday, March 24, starting at 10 a.m. CST. The sale features **high-quality replacement heifers and yearling bulls** (registered Angus, Gelbvieh, and Balancers). For more information, contact the REC at (931) 484-0034, or e-mail Glenda Wisdom at gwisdom@utk.edu.

A Horse Ownership Course will be held in the Plateau area starting March 14. While designed for all horse owners, the five-week course should be of particular value to new horse owners, those wanting up-to-date information, and future horse owners. The course will be held at the South Fentress Elementary School in Grimsley. For more, contact **Nathan Rich** at (931) 879-9117.

Supervisors and managers at the university have a new resource to aid their work. Employee & Organizational Development has launched a bimonthly electronic newsletter, ***Making a Difference***, that provides **tips, techniques, and approaches that people can use to perform their supervisory duties more efficiently and effectively.** The newsletter is distributed systemwide by e-mail and is also linked to the EOD Web site at <http://uthr.admin.utk.edu/tandd/>. The publication is part of a larger supervisory toolkit that EOD is developing. To learn more, contact David Bowman at (865) 974-4430 or dbowman@tennessee.edu.

In Knoxville, UT's annual **Professional Development Conference for Women** is coming soon. The daylong event takes place April 27 and is designed to provide women tools to enhance their professional and personal lives. A \$95 conference fee covers workshop materials, breakfast, lunch, breaks, and parking. To register or for more information, call **Employee & Organizational Development** at (865) 974-6657, or visit the Web site <http://uthr.admin.utk.edu/tandd>.



Mixing fun and learning, CASNR features a wide array of subjects in its Open House displays and activities.

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society by the agriculture and natural resources industries.

CASNR will also hold a special program for high school students and accepted seniors on April 8. The program will introduce prospective students to the college and university, with seminars that provide information about scholarships and the admissions process.

Accepted seniors will have the opportunity to explore majors within CASNR as well as learn more about the summer orientation and class registration process. **All attendees to this program must register for the event. For more information contact Sandella Gansheimer at sandella@utk.edu.**

VP'S MESSAGE, from page 1

The effort will be a whirlwind at times, that's for sure, but it's a whirlwind I am very much looking forward to riding.

Hope to see you soon. And remember if I can be of assistance in any way, don't hesitate to drop me an e-mail, give me a call, or stop by.

All the best,

Joe

TENNESSEE, KENTUCKY PURSUE FEDERAL RESEARCH LAB

Kentucky and Tennessee are jointly competing for a new federal animal-disease laboratory being developed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The universities of Louisville, Kentucky, and Tennessee, along with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, are in the consortium that is making a bid for a \$451 million federal bioterrorism research lab. The facility would be located in rural Pulaski County in southern Kentucky and would employ about 400 workers, including more than 200 highly paid scientists. The scientists would study some of the world's most dangerous pathogens in the planned 500,000-square-foot lab.



Researchers at the proposed facility would wear protective suits.

"This is an effort that could literally change the economic landscape of the region," said Rep. Harold Rogers, D-Kentucky. The news conference announcing the bid was attended by political and aca-

Continued, back cover

TEAMWORK TO AID EAST-STATE DAIRY, BEEF PRODUCERS

The College of Veterinary Medicine and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture are partnering to expand free post-mortem animal diagnostic services to cattle farmers in East Tennessee. The service, available now, is expected to enhance the state's surveillance for all cattle diseases, including foreign animal and emerging diseases that could devastate Tennessee's animal industries.

The partnership is funded through the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program, a \$5 million appropriation proposed by Governor Phil Bredesen and supported by the Tennessee General Assembly last year to expand animal health programs and to build farm income in the state.

"The state is providing an excellent opportunity to increase cattle submissions through the college, thereby enhancing outreach to regional practitioners, improving our recognition of disease trends, and furthering the education of senior students soon to join the ranks of veterinarians throughout Tennessee," said Dr. Michael McEn-

tee, CVM professor and Anatomic Pathology section chief.

The TDA will reimburse the college for necropsy (animal autopsy)



The expansion of necropsy service offers many benefits—helping to head off herd problems earlier, providing greater support for local vets, and possibly increasing caseloads in CVM for teaching purposes.

examinations of cattle, making the service available to Tennessee farmers at no charge.

To learn more, contact the Tennessee Department of Agriculture State Veterinarian's office at (615) 837-5120 or CVM at (865) 974-5673.

RESEARCH LAB, from page 3

demic leaders, including **Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen**.

The federal government is weighing whether to replace a 50-year-old animal-disease center on **Plum Island** off the coast of Long Island with a **National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility**. Plum Island fails to meet future research requirements supporting both agriculture and public-health national security, according to the **Homeland Security Department**.

Other states are expected to compete for the center, and New York officials, including Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-New York, are trying to keep the Plum Island facility open. However, Clinton has opposed building laboratory facilities there that would support study of some of the riskiest pathogens, such as anthrax.

By combining the research capability of the **University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture** and the **University of Tennessee's College of Veterinary Medicine**, the two states can "**make a powerful case**" for the lab, **Bredesen** said.

The lab would replace at least a portion of the Plum Island facility and **provide the nation with a lab with the capability of studying how viruses that require Biosafety Level 4 security affect large animals**.

Although the lab would potentially house devastating diseases, such as foot-and-mouth disease, extensive safety and security measures should put neighbors at ease, officials said.

"I would not be afraid if this facility were located in my back yard," said **Michael Blackwell**, dean of UT's College of Veterinary Medicine. Blackwell noted that the facility would have its own wastewater treatment facility and that all air would be filtered before leaving the facility.

CUMBERLAND BEEF DAY SET FOR APRIL 13

The eighth annual Cumberland Beef Day will be held on **April 13 at the White County Fair Complex in Sparta** from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event is co-sponsored by the **White/Van Buren Cattlemen's Association**, **University of Tennessee Extension**, and area Extension agents.

This year's theme is competing in a global cattle economy. **Featured speaker Troy Applehans of Cattle-Fax** of Centennial, CO, will share perspectives on the effects of globalization on beef production and marketing in the U.S.

The day also includes **live demonstrations and a trade show** of products, equipment, and services. To learn more, contact **Scott Swoape** at (931) 946-2435 or **Bill Adcock** at (931) 836-3348.

Henry Fribourg, professor emeritus of crop ecology, and alumnus **David Hannaway**, professor of crop and soil science, Oregon State University, have released the **Tall Fescue On-Line Monograph** at <http://forages.oregonstate.edu/is/tfis/monograph.html>.

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Send comments and suggestions to Margot Pantalone, mpantalo@utk.edu
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