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5-2006

## Third thursday 5-2006

Institute of Agriculture

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**REMEMBERING A UT VICE PRESIDENT AND LEGEND IN VETERINARY EDUCATION**

The Institute is mourning retired UT Vice President for Agriculture **Dr. Willis William “Bill” Armistead**, who died on April 18 at Knoxville’s UT Hospital. Dr. Armistead was the founding dean of the **College of Veterinary Medicine**. He was 89.

A central figure in the creation of the College, Dr. Armistead served as a consultant to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission regarding the establishment of a veterinary college in Tennessee. He drafted the 1973 report that became the foundation for the new college a year later. Having already served as dean at two veterinary schools — Michigan State University and Texas A&M University — Dr. Armistead was a natural choice to serve as the first dean of UT’s College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Armistead selected the charter faculty, oversaw building construction, and developed the educational program for the new college. He served as dean from

*Continued, page 2*



*Dr. W.W. Armistead*

**CHANCELLOR’S HONORS**

Each spring the UT Knoxville Chancellor recognizes the year’s outstanding faculty and students for their academic and creative achievements.

On April 12 **Chancellor Loren Crabtree** lauded the efforts of these outstanding individuals who represent the UT Institute of Agriculture:

**Students:**

*Honored for academic achievement:* **Robert Hull**, environmental and soil sciences.

*Honored for undergraduate research and creative achievement:* **Michael Legett**, animal science major working with **Dr. Cheryl Kojima**.

*Honored for professional promise:* **Philip Campbell**, environmental and soil sciences; **Susan Conlon**, plant sciences; **Christa Davis**, environmental and soil sciences; **Adrienne Roach**, biosystems engineering; **Emily Smith**, plant sciences;

**Thomas Taylor**, food science and technology; and CVM students **Stacey Leonatti** and **Kara Watson**.

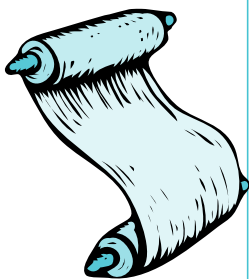
*Top collegiate scholars:*

**Tera Shenae Bunch**, agricultural education; **Kara Lynn Watson**, veterinary medicine.

**Faculty:**

Honored for their research and creative achievements: **Dr. Mei-Zhen Cui**, associate professor of pathobiology, for her work studying the vascular pathophysiology of atherosclerosis; and **Dr. Neal Schrick**, professor of animal science, for his work on early embryonic losses in cattle.

**Dr. Clark Brekke**, assistant dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, received a special award from the Commission for Blacks for his understanding of and commitment to campus diversity.



**Food fight!**

**1st quarter grants and contracts**

**Youth in crisis**

**See inside**

third thursday

## A NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR ANIMAL HEALTH: UTCVM AND RIVER

Dr. Bob DeNovo

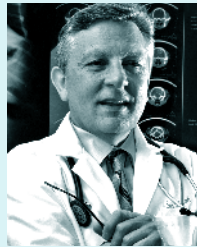
Professor and Head, Small Animal Clinical Sciences

**T**he Regional Institute for Veterinary Emergency and Referral Hospital (RIVER) is an animal emergency and critical care service concept initiated by a group of Chattanooga-area veterinarians several years ago. It began in a local storefront and has emerged as a new state-of-the-art emergency and critical care hospital located on Amnicola Highway. It will also house referral specialty services for companion animals and their owners. The Chattanooga area veterinarians contacted UTCVM about two years ago to develop a collaborative approach to providing several specialty services in addition to the after hours emergency and critical care services provided at the group-owned hospital.

Beginning in July 2006 on a two-year trial basis, UTCVM will send a **board-certified internal medicine specialist** two days per week to handle referral cases at the Amnicola Highway hospital. Funding for the internist will be shared by UTCVM and RIVER. Referral and critical care cases will be seen during regular day-time hospital hours, and emergency and critical care service will continue as an after hours operation. Plans to provide **additional medical specialties** such as oncology, cardiology, ophthalmology, and surgery are in development stages, and include state-of-the-art digital radiography, ultrasound, endoscopy, and on-premises chemotherapy. These specialties would be provided on a less frequent schedule, perhaps twice monthly at the outset. Additional medical specialties could follow depending upon referral caseload and college personnel resources.

Highlights of the **RIVER – UTCVM partnership include educational opportunities** for UTCVM students and house officers participating in externships in a community-based, high-tech emergency and critical care facility with live-in accommodations, as well as opportunities to gain experience working with aquatic mammals at the Tennessee Aquarium. The RIVER hospital will also provide **on-site training opportunities** for the new Licensed Veterinary Technician program developed by Chattanooga State Technical Community College — a great example of partnering among the three organizations to help address the statewide shortage of licensed veterinary technicians.

The **demand** for referral services **is strong**. We are confident that this demand will continue to grow across RIVER's service area, which encompasses south central Tennessee, northern Georgia, western North Carolina, northeast Alabama and the greater Atlanta area. Seeking to provide top-quality health services to companion animals in their region, the Chattanooga-area veterinary group arrived at a solution based on a community and education partnership and the **efficiencies of shared resources**. We congratulate them and look forward to building UTCVM's role in this partnership.



Dr. Bob DeNovo

## VICE PRESIDENT, from page 1

1974-1979, until his appointment as Vice President for Agriculture. In his new position, he oversaw the operations of not only the College of Veterinary Medicine, but also the College of Agriculture, the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station and the Agricultural Extension Service. Dr. Armistead retired from the University in 1987.

The **W.W. Armistead Veterinary Teaching Hospital** was named in his honor in 2004 as part of the celebration for the College's 30th anniversary.

Dr. Armistead's remarkable career included service as president of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association, the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges and the Rotary Club of Knoxville. He was the first veterinarian elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, authored more than 200 technical articles, and was the founding editor of the *Journal of Veterinary Medical Education*.

Earlier this year, at the unveiling of the plaque dedicating the teaching hospital in his name, Dr. Armistead said, "This is the highlight of my career, but a remarkable group of individuals share the honor. The first student class and the first faculty set the tone for the college. Those standards of excellence and service have persisted and the current faculty is carrying on the tradition. In this community and in this profession, this college has a reputation for service and compassion that is enviable."

A **memorial fund** is being established in his honor at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

# UTIA Grants and Contracts January - March 2006

During the first quarter of 2006, UTIA's resourceful faculty received awards totaling \$11,835,891 in grants, contracts, and agreements from external agencies. At a time when budgets are constrained, our ability to attract dollars for research and Extension from outside sources has become especially crucial. To the principal and co-principal investigators listed below, congratulations. To everyone, we appreciate your support and efforts in seeking external funding.

Jan.

PI; Co-PI	Department	Award	Agency
Paul Ayers	Biosystems Eng & Soil Sci	46,551	US Army CERL
Michael Buschermohle	Biosystems Eng & Soil Sci	14,333	Cotton Inc
Chism Craig	Plant Sciences	23,800	Cotton Inc
Rita Echandi	Small Animal Clinical Sci	4,995	Am College of Veterinary Radiology
Rita Echandi; Federica Morandi, Karen Tobias, Gregory Daniel	Small Animal Clinical Sci	8,694	AKC Canine Health Foundation
Mark Fly	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	110,000	TVA
Linda Frank	Small Animal Clinical Sci	9,936	AKC Canine Health Foundation
Judith Grizzle; Tarah Hadley	Animal Science, Small Animal Clinical Sci	29,648	Morris Animal Foundation
Owen Gwathmey	Plant Sciences	26,234*	Cotton Inc
Craig Harper	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	30,000	National Wild Turkey Federation
Robert Hayes	West TN Research & Education Ctr	47,804	USDA AARS
Claudia Kirk	Small Animal Clinical Sci	10,000	Merck - Merial
Thomas Klindt	TN Agricultural Experiment Station	744,000	US Dept of Energy
James Larson; Roland Roberts, Burton English	Ag Economics	13,000	Cotton Inc
James Larson; Roland Roberts	Ag Economics	4,485	Cotton Inc
Amy LeBlanc; Gregory Daniel	Small Animal Clinical Sci	12,922	American Kennel Club
Gary Lentz	Ento & Plant Path	23,333*	Cotton Inc
Yonghao Li	Ento & Plant Path	4,000	Horticultural Research Institute
Jun Lin	Animal Science	60,000	Iowa State University
Elizabeth Long	Ento & Plant Path	120,500	USDA APHIS
Darryl Millis	Small Animal Clinical Sci	156,048	Abbott Labs
Melvin Newman	Ento & Plant Path	19,750*	Cotton Inc
Stephen Oliver	Animal Science	12,000	Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica GmbH (Germany)
Edward Ramsey; John Sykes, Nancy Zagaya	Small Animal Clinical Sci	8,100	Morris Animal Foundation
Tahir Rashid; Karen Vail, Patrick Parkman	Ento & Plant Path	14,000	Horticultural Research Institute
Scott Reese	Humphreys County	10,000	General Mills
Roland Roberts; Burton English, James Larson	Ag Economics	25,500	Cotton Inc
Samuel Rogers	Plant Sciences	19,750	Blount Co Soil Conservation District
Samuel Rogers	Plant Sciences	4,000	TVA
Scott Schlarbaum	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	35,005	National Park Service
George Smith; John Buchanan	Plant Sci, Biosys Eng & Soil Sci	65,000	Texas Ag Extension Service
Larry Steckel; Robert Hayes	Plant Sciences	25,000	Cotton Inc
Scott Stewart	Ento & Plant Path	22,000	Cotton Inc
Frank Van Manen	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	5,000	Louisiana Dept of Wildlife and Fish
Angela Thompson	Plant Sciences	3,000	University of Florida
Kelly Tiller	Ag Economics	12,000	Cotton Inc
Karen Vail	Ento & Plant Path	15,000	Syngenta
Forbes Walker	Biosystems Eng & Soil Sci	30,000	TVA
Marie Walsh	Ag Economics	37,000	USDA CSREES
Siqun Wang	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	378,528	USDA NRI
Rebecca Wilkes; Stephen Kania	Comparative Medicine	10,863	Winn Feline Foundation
Dena Wise	Family & Consumer Sci	237,081	NASD Investor Education Foundation

\*Combines several grants

# Grants and Contracts *January - March 2006*

Jan.

PI; Co-PI	Department	Award	Agency
Alvin Womac	Biosystems Eng & Soil Sci	12,028	Wilger Inc
Svetlana Zivanovic	Food Science & Tech	29,441	Mushroom Council
Gregory Allen	Western Region	21,177	Lake County
John Bartee	Western Region	87,810	Montgomery County
Walter Battle	Western Region	114,438	Haywood County
Ronald Blair	Western Region	39,013	Henderson County
Calvin Bryant	Western Region	51,731	Lawrence County
Richard Buntin	Western Region	49,447	Crockett County
Steven Burgess	Western Region	44,231	Carroll County
Kenneth Burress	Western Region	41,114	Wayne County
Timothy Campbell	Western Region	76,104	Dyer County
Janet Cluck	Western Region	92,523	Dickson County
Mike Dennison	Western Region	10,905	Shelby County
Troy Dugger	Western Region	40,293	Hickman County
Sammy Elgin	Western Region	127,799	Madison County
Ken Goddard	Western Region	80,240	Henry County
Garry Glass	Western Region	28,608	Decatur County
Joseph Griffy	Western Region	38,053	Stewart County
Jeff Lannom	Western Region	68,618	Weakley County
Jimmy Lumpkin	Western Region	28,052	Benton County
Ricky Mathenia	Western Region	50,646	McNairy County
Marcus McLemore	Western Region	60,201	Hardin County
William Parker	Western Region	64,751	Lauderdale County
Richard Powell	Western Region	62,502	Tipton County
Scott Reese	Western Region	46,109	Humphreys County
Richard Ritter	Western Region	29,387	Perry County
Sheila Settles	Western Region	25,005	Houston County
Philip Shelby	Western Region	90,447	Gibson County
Brian Signaigo	Western Region	31,864	Chester County
Timothy Smith	Western Region	71,477	Obion County
Paula Spears	Western Region	33,048	Lewis County
Jeff Via	Western Region	70,402	Fayette County
Robert Vickers	Western Region	53,623	Hardeman County
Billy Adock	Central Region	48,751	White County
Theresa Allan	Central Region	31,645	Trousdale County
Brenda Andy	Central Region	40,832	Grundy County
Dale Beaty	Central Region	85,980	Warren County
Scott Chadwell	Central Region	99,701	Putnam County
Bonnie Fritch	Central Region	40,929	Sequatchie County
David Glover	Central Region	39,489	Smith County
Paul Hart	Central Region	68,717	Robertson County
Mary Henley	Central Region	75,606	Franklin County
George Killgore	Central Region	142,181	Davidson County
Randall Kimes	Central Region	37,034	Clay County
Stephen Lester	Central Region	89,473	Sumner County
Vicki Lofty	Central Region	46,514	Marion County
JW McGuire	Central Region	118,079	Wilson County
Eugene Medley	Central Region	44,493	Overton County

# Grants and Contracts *January - March 2006*

Jan.

PI; Co-PI	Department	Award	Agency
Larry Moorehead	Central Region	30,933	Moore County
Dean Northcutt	Central Region	126,051	Coffee County
Stephen Officer	Central Region	45,181	DeKalb County
James Perry	Central Region	200,276	Williamson County
David Qualls	Central Region	70,158	Lincoln County
Nancy Rucker	Central Region	67,078	Cheatham County
Ricky Skillington	Central Region	39,829	Marshall County
Kimberly Smith	Central Region	31,717	Pickett County
Thomas Steelman	Central Region	45,717	Cannon County
Scott Swoape	Central Region	28,057	Van Buren County
John Teague	Central Region	93,680	Bedford County
DeWayne Trail	Central Region	131,913	Rutherford County
Myra Walker	Central Region	95,916	Giles County
Steve Walker	Central Region	39,012	Macon County
Cynthia Zeitz	Central Region	25,828	Jackson County
David Amonett	Eastern Region	41,742	Morgan County
Emmanuel Bedwell	Eastern Region	110,016	Hamblen County
Alan Bruhin	Eastern Region	108,806	Sevier County
Carmen Burgos	Eastern Region	83,741	Anderson County
Beth Burns	Eastern Region	42,281	Bledsoe County
Mary Clark	Eastern Region	92,215	Sullivan County
John Goddard	Eastern Region	108,515	Loudon County
James Griffin	Eastern Region	21,104	Union County
Stephen Hale	Eastern Region	98,454	Greene County
William Hart	Eastern Region	67,425	Carter County
Connie Heiskell	Eastern Region	36,939	Grainger County
George Heiskell	Eastern Region	55,319	Claiborne County
Jerry Lamb	Eastern Region	33,702	Rhea County
Anna Layman	Eastern Region	25,040	Hancock County
Katherine Long	Eastern Region	97,292	Washington County
James McMillion	Eastern Region	132,341	Blount County
Grant Palmer	Eastern Region	68,242	Roane County
Robert Paxton	Eastern Region	25,092	Polk County
Andrew Petty	Eastern Region	28,263	Unicoi County
Margaret Pile	Eastern Region	42,785	Fentress County
Jonathan Rhea	Eastern Region	59,943	Jefferson County
Brenda Shadden	Eastern Region	45,038	Cocke County
Robert Sliger	Eastern Region	63,033	Monroe County
Tom Swanks	Eastern Region	27,734	Meigs County
Ricky Thomason	Eastern Region	50,271	Johnson County
William Upchurch	Eastern Region	79,091	Cumberland County
Jeremy West	Eastern Region	24,334	Scott County
Harold Woods	Eastern Region	89,198	McMinn County
John Ammons	Biosystems Eng & Soil Sci	10,000	USDA
Paul Ayers	Biosystems Eng & Soil Sci	34,500	US Army
Joe Beeler	Eastern Region	41,478	Campbell County
Ray Burden	Eastern Region	183,400	Hamilton County
Wayne Clatterbuck	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	68,000	TN Dept of Agriculture

## Grants and Contracts *January - March 2006*

Feb.

PI; Co-PI	Department	Award	Agency
Judy Cravens	Eastern Region	60,464	Hawkins County
Matt Devereaux	Family & Consumer Sci	171,404	TN Dept of Education
Burton English; Daniel Ugarte	Ag Economics	45,910	Natural Resource Solutions, LLC
Kim Frady	Eastern Region	198,108	Bradley County
Richard Groce	Central Region	98,656	Maury County
Fred Hopkins	Animal Science	15,000	TN Dept of Agriculture
Carl Jones; Darrell Hensley, Alan Windham	Ento & Plant Path	17,979	University of Florida
Robert Moore; Terry Schultz, Neal Stewart	CVM Administration, Comparative Medicine, Plant Sciences	988,566	US Army
Lisa Muller	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	4,000	TN Wildlife Resources Agency
James Neel	Animal Science	100,000	TN Dept of Agriculture
Stephen Oliver	Animal Science	100,768	Epitopix, LLC
Bonnie Ownley; Robert Trigiano	Ento & Plant Path	74,936	TN Higher Education Commission
Barry Rouse; Mark Sangester	Pathobiology	359,350	National Institutes of Health
Arnold Saxton	Animal Science	9,200	American Diabetes
Larry Wilson	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	41,000*	TN Wildlife Resources Agency
Timothy Young	Forestry, Wildlife & Fish	66,902	Georgia-Pacific Resin, LLC

Mar.

Fred Allen	Plant Sciences	12,600	TN Soybean Board
Prakash Arelli; Vincent Pantalone	Plant Sciences	21,000	TN Soybean Board
Paul Ayers	Biosystems Eng & Soil Sci	5,403	Colorado State University
John Bartee	Montgomery County	7,479	TN State University
Ernest Bernard	Ento & Plant Path	7,500	TN Wildlife Resources Agency
Ernest Bernard	Ento & Plant Path	10,000	TN Dept of Agriculture
Tim Cross	Extension Administration	40,000	TN Dept of Agriculture
Harold Dennison	Shelby County	241,954*	Agricenter International
Neal Denton	Eastern Region	242,236	Knox County
Patricia Donald	Ento & Plant Path	9,589	TN Soybean Board
David Golden; Svetlana Zivanovic, Michael Davidson	Food Science & Tech	269,835	Virginia Tech
Matthew Gray	Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries	75,643	Bowater Inc
Charles Hall	Ag Economics	3,000	Univ of AR Coop Extension Service
Martha Keel	Family & Consumer Sci	253,000	TN Dept of Environ & Conservation
Kurt Lamour	Ento & Plant Path	180,189*	National Science Foundation
Kurt Lamour	Ento & Plant Path	66,000*	TN Soybean Board
Naima Moustaid	Nutrition	10,000	Physicians' Medical Educations & Research Foundation (PMERF)
Thomas Mueller	Plant Sciences	5,000	TN Soybean Board
Melvin Newman	Ento & Plant Path	85,075*	TN Soybean Board
Melvin Newman; Patricia Donald	Ento & Plant Path	20,000	TN Soybean Board
Vincent Pantalone	Plant Sciences	65,133*	TN Soybean Board
George Smith	Ag Economics	5,200	Texas Agriculture Extension Service
Lawrence Steckel; Thomas Mueller	Plant Sciences	12,926	TN Soybean Board
Charles Neal Stewart	Plant Sciences	11,895	University of Virginia
Scott David Stewart; Melvin Newman, Charles Patrick	Ento & Plant Path, Plant Sciences	17,500	TN Soybean Board
Angela Thompson	Ento & Plant Path	23,000*	TN Soybean Board
Angela Thompson; Lawrence Steckel	Ento & Plant Path	3,000	TN Soybean Board
Sharon Thompson	Partnership Program	17,700	Knox County
Robert Williams	Ento & Plant Path	18,000	TN Soybean Board
Xiaofei Ye	Biosystems Eng & Soil Sci	10,091	Bush Brothers

*\*Combines several grants*

## VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE TOPIC OF NASHVILLE CONFERENCE

Value-added agriculture educators and service providers will meet in Nashville on June 12 and 13 for the **2006 National Value-Added Agriculture Conference**.

Value-added agricultural entrepreneurs seek to “add value” to farm commodities or resources through processing, packaging and or marketing activities that can increase farm income.

“The conference will feature experts on entrepreneurship, lessons learned from value-added entrepreneurs related to assistance needs, and sessions showcasing tools available for use by value-added educators and service providers,” says **Dan Wheeler**, chair of the of this year’s conference planning committee and director of the **UT Center for Profitable Agriculture**.

Conference program and registration details are available at the Center’s Web site (<http://cpa.utk.edu>) or by calling (931) 486-2777. Early registration (before June 1) is \$125. Registration after June 1 will be \$160.

The event will be held at the Sheraton Music City Hotel.

### May 20, **Dog Bite Prevention Classes for Kids**

<http://www.vet.utk.edu/rufus/>

### June 6–11, **Southern Region Master Gardeners Conference**

<http://srmgc.tennessee.edu/>

### June 8 & 9, **Securing the Future of Tennessee’s Workforce**

<http://fcs.tennessee.edu/securingthefuture/>

### June 14, **UT Weed Tour**

<http://westtennessee.tennessee.edu/>

### June 15, **Beef & Forage Field Day**

<http://knoxville.tennessee.edu/>

### June 24 & 25, **Blooms Days**

<http://bloomsdays.utk.edu/>

## FOOD (SCIENCE) FIGHT!

The **UT Department of Food Science and Technology** College Bowl Team won the **South-eastern Regional Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) College Bowl Competition** at North Carolina State University on April 8, 2006. Teams from Tennessee, North Carolina State University (NCSU), University of Florida, University of Georgia, and Virginia Tech University competed in the double elimination tournament.

UT defeated the home team and two-time regional champs NCSU in a set of comeback matches from the losers’ bracket, thus handing

NCSU its first loss in three years in the regional tournament. Team members include graduate students **Matt Taylor** (captain, East Bend, NC), **Glenn Black** (Saluda, SC) and **Faith Critzer** (Franklin, TN); and undergraduate students **Michael Adams** (senior, Nashville, TN), **Josh Jones** (freshman, Knoxville, TN), **Melissa Warren** (senior, Chattanooga, TN) and **Emily Alvanas** (senior, Knoxville, TN). **Dr. Qixin Zhong** and **Dr. Michael Davidson** served as coaches.

The team will compete in the national competition at the IFT Annual Meeting in Orlando in June.

## BESS INTERIM HEAD

**Dr. George Grandle** has been named the interim head of the **Department of Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science (BESS)**. His appointment was effective April 24, when former Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station associate dean **Dr. Ike Sewell** returned to retirement. Dr. Sewell served as interim head for approximately five months.

Dr. Grandle has more than 33 years of experience as a livestock production systems specialist with **UT Extension**. He has visited more than 1500 farms and prepared over 1400 plans to assist county agents in recommending new or improved livestock handling, housing and ventilation systems. His Web site “Agricultural Building and Equipment Plan List” (<http://bioenr.ag.utk.edu/Extension/ExtPubs/PlanList97.htm>) received almost a half million hits last year. He has been involved in preparing course materials and teaching sessions for the **National Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)** certification course since its inception in 2001.



*Dr. George Grandle, Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science, is the new interim head of BESS and the GSD immediate past president.*

## SPRING RECEPTION SHOWERS AWARDS, INSTALLS OFFICERS

The UT Chapter of **Gamma Sigma Delta**, the international honor society for agriculture, held its annual spring awards and initiation reception on April 25. Six undergraduate students, 16 graduate students, one CVM student, and one member of the faculty were inducted into the society.

The winner of the chapter’s student award for the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources is **Tera Bunch**, an Agricultural Science — Agricultural Education major. The winner of the chapter’s student award for the College of Veterinary Medicine is **Kara L. Watson**.

For complete details on the initiates and award winners see [http://www.agriculture.utk.edu/gsd/awards\\_spring2006.htm](http://www.agriculture.utk.edu/gsd/awards_spring2006.htm)



## SETTING GOALS

by Joseph A. DiPietro  
Vice President for  
Agriculture



We all know that the Institute is in the business of advancing the well-being of Tennesseans. We do this by providing solutions to their problems with plants and animals or by helping their families and youth, and through safeguarding natural resources. Our services may help their businesses or farms stay competitive or they may benefit their hobbies or companion animals.

I'm in the process of setting my goals for helping the Institute accomplish its mission. First on the list is meeting with legislators, other government officials, commodity groups, producers, donors, citizens, faculty, staff, and students. In the coming year I plan to visit as many of the Institute's venues as I can (eventually, I will get to everyone). I also plan to have stakeholders visit with us in the labs, classrooms and fields where we labor for their benefit.

Face to face, one on one, we will work together to ensure the continued growth of support for our teaching, research, and outreach programs and facilities.

As for my other priorities? Watch this column for my thoughts, or meet me at the next commodity dinner and we'll talk.

All the best,

Joe

## TENNESSEE 4-H'ERS OFFER HELP TO YOUTH IN CRISIS

One of Tennessee's ugliest societal scars is methamphetamine production and abuse. Three-fourths of all meth labs in the south-east are in Tennessee, with more than 1,200 lab incidents last year. That's the third highest in the nation.

At this year's **4-H Congress**, Tennessee 4-H'ers **made fleece blankets** and donated them to Governor Phil Bredesen's "Meth Destroys" campaign. The blankets will go in backpacks assembled for kids who come from meth homes. More than 700 children are expected to be taken into state custody this year because of their parents' meth problems — at a cost of more than \$4 million to the state.

"Tennessee 4-H is proud to be a partner to the Governor's project," says **Alice Ann Moore**, state director of 4-H. "We believe it's important to raise awareness of the meth problem statewide because it affects so many families — especially youth."

4-H'ers from across the state also took part in a **special service learning project** called "Critters of Comfort." The 4-H'ers donated more



than **700 stuffed animals** to the Metro Nashville Police Department. These stuffed animals will be given to children by officers on police calls to comfort kids during difficult times.

**Amy Gallimore** of the state 4-H office says the stuffed animals may be given to children in homes where domestic violence is a problem, or to young victims of abuse or neglect or natural disasters. Some "Critters of Comfort" could also go to help children displaced from their home as a result of the effects of meth.

**4-H Congress** is an annual gathering of 400 9th and 10th graders from across Tennessee. They meet for three days in Nashville and spend at least one day where they take over the **legislative chambers** in both the Senate and House. There the 4H'ers debate and vote on issues that affect young people. Since its beginning in 1948, **nearly 30,000 4-H'ers and volunteers have come to Congress** to learn more about state government.

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Visit the Institute of Agriculture on the Internet at <http://agriculture.utk.edu>  
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