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5-2008

## Third Thursday 5-2008

Institute of Agriculture

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# INSTITUTE OF Agriculture

News for Employees, Students & Friends

May 2008

## FROM THE VP: VET MED ACCREDITATION REVIEW

In April, the College of Veterinary Medicine underwent an accreditation site visit by a team from the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education. The visit capped more than a year of hard work and preparation by the college's deans, department heads, faculty members, staff, and students.

While full results of their findings will not be known until September, the team shared some comments during its exit interview with me. Strengths noted included faculty and student support for the structure and administration of the college; the hiring of a development director; and completion of the Small Animal Veterinary Teaching Hospital, which enhances the college's academic programs and offers state-of-the-art care in rehabilitation therapy,

radiation therapy, oncology, and avian/zoological medicine.

The team also said the college's avian and zoological medicine program is a unique strength and cited it, along with nutrition, diagnostic imaging, oncology, canine rehabilitation, and ophthalmology, as excellent programs.

*Continued, back page*



Joe DiPietro

## MASCOMA AND UT JOIN IN \$26 MILLION DOE GRANT

The development of a sustainable biofuels industry in Tennessee has taken another leap forward. **The U.S. Department of Energy has announced that Mascoma Corporation, with UT, is among the recipients of a \$26 million grant for the development of biomass conversion technology.**

The grant is for demonstrating the production of cellulosic ethanol at approximately one-tenth commercial scale operations. The facility is to be constructed at the Niles Ferry Industrial Park in Monroe County as part of the Tennessee Biofuels Initiative.

**David Millhorn**, executive vice president for UT, said, "This newest award is a dramatic example of how the vision and investment made by Governor Bredesen and our state leaders have helped to leverage major federal funding that will have dramatic impact on rural development in Tennessee."

The new funding brings the total investment in the region to some \$230 million for the development of bioenergy sciences. This

*Continued, back page*

**\$10,434,741**  
in first-quarter  
grants and  
contracts,  
see inside



Phil Snow

**CVM Expansion Debuts** – With the snip of a bright orange ribbon, the College of Veterinary Medicine celebrated the completion of its small animal teaching hospital expansion. Construction of the \$10 million, 32,000-gross-square-foot expansion began winter 2007. The expansion will provide more space for several important service areas. Vice President for Agriculture Joe DiPietro said the small animal hospital now matches the caliber and class of the people who work there.

third thursday

## THREE FIELD DAYS HEADLINE JUNE'S CALENDAR

June is the official start of summer, and **three Institute of Agriculture events** are scheduled to herald the occasion.

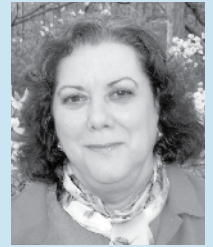
Sponsored by the **Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station system**, the events include a **Beef and Forage Field Day** on June 12th at the **East Tennessee Research and Education Center** in Knoxville. This event generally attracts 200 or more beef cattle producers from the region and features frank discussions of how producers can improve the genetics of their herd and other techniques for enhancing profits. For more information, watch the Web site: <http://knoxville.tennessee.edu/>.

**Fruits of the Backyard** is a new field day topic for the **Middle Tennessee Research and Education Center** in Spring Hill. On June 17 experts from around the region will explore production of commodities for homeowners. Commercial producers may learn a thing or two as well. Visit the Web site: <http://middletennessee.tennessee.edu/> for details.

Finally, methods to enhance the production of tobacco, beef and other commodities will be examined at the **Tobacco, Beef and More Field Day** at the **Highland Rim Research and Education Center** in Springfield on June 26. In addition to tobacco and beef, this event will also include a discussion of switchgrass opportunities for biofuels and no-till tomato and sweet corn varieties. The assembly of a drip irrigation system for vegetable and fruit production will also be demonstrated. Information about this event can be found online at <http://highlandrim.tennessee.edu/>  
—Patricia McDaniels

## THE FLEA AND GRADUATE EDUCATION

by *Caula Beyl, dean,  
College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources*



*Caula Beyl*

Most of us who have supervised graduate students remember well our own days in graduate school and the type of education we received. Much of what we learned was not articulated in the classroom but learned as a result of the environment and professional interaction with our graduate advisor and committee members. Are we now providing an environment rich in those opportunities? Are our graduate students aware of the intricacies of professional ethics, scientific communication, errors or fallacies of logic, successful grantsmanship, and how to succeed as a scientist?

Communication fluency is a fundamental necessity for the competent graduate student, but in today's society what does that mean? Certainly, both oral and written forms of communication, which implies that students are exposed to and taught how to present at national meetings, write research reports and publications, respond to requests for proposals, and design effective posters. Can our students develop effective tables and figures? Do they have the technological competency to submit manuscripts or proposals on line? Have we given them any experience editing or serving as informal reviewers of scientific writing?

Even more fundamental to the idea of developing competent scientists is an awareness of logic and the scientific method. Errors or fallacies of logic are abundant and to guard against them, students must be aware of them. I am reminded of the story of the flea. A professor of entomology (forgive me, EPP) developed a theory that the hearing organ of the flea was its hind leg. He carefully placed a flea on a table and slapped his hand down right behind the flea. The flea jumped. The professor was delighted since this behavior was consistent with his theory. He then stated that he would provide further evidence of his theory. Carefully holding another flea, he excised both hind legs and placed the second flea on the table as he had done with the first. Again, he slapped the table behind the flea, but this time the flea did not jump. The professor shouted in triumph. He had 'proven' that without its hearing organs, the flea did not hear him slap the table and thus, did not jump. *Therefore, the hearing organ of the flea is the hind leg.*

Could our graduate students recognize and give examples of such classical logical fallacies as 'correlation does not imply causation,' '*post hoc ergo propter hoc*,' or one of my favorites, 'proof by verbosity.' The last one can be summed up by saying, "If you can't dazzle them by your brilliance, then baffle them with your *argumentum verbosium!*"

Is it time to articulate a minimal set of learning outcomes or expectations for our graduate students? There are certain basic competencies that we should be able to assume irrespective of the very diverse disciplines represented by CASNR. To deliberate these issues, I am developing a Task Force for Quality Graduate Education. If you have a passion for ensuring that our graduate education truly prepares CASNR graduate students to take their places as leaders in their fields and would like to participate, please let me know. We want our graduates to be a reflection of the outstanding quality inherent in our programs and our faculty!

# Institute of Agriculture Grants and Contracts

## January–March 2008

Thanks to the resourcefulness and competitiveness of our faculty, the Institute received awards totaling \$10,434,741 in grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements from external agencies for the first quarter of 2008. At a time when most states are operating with constrained budgets, 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.

PI; Co-PI	Department	Award	Agency
Carla Bush	Central Region	20,000	USDA Rural Development
Zong-Ming Cheng; Feng Chen	Plant Sciences	30,000	Consortium for Plant Biotechnology Research, Inc
Matthew Devereaux	Family and Consumer Sciences	101,250	Tennessee Department of Education
Mark Fly; Burton English	Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries; Agriculture Economics	94,000	Tennessee Valley Authority
Owen Gwathmey	Plant Sciences	14,000	Cotton Inc
Timothy Hicks	Western Region	100,000	State of TN Department of Education
Robert Holland; Megan Bruch	Center for Profitable Agriculture	100,000	Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation
Robert Holland, Annette Wszelaki; Brandon Smith, David Lockwood	Center for Profitable Agriculture; Plant Sciences	996,611	Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Kimberly Jensen; Christopher Clark, Burton English, Daniel De La Torre Ugarte	Agriculture Economics	259,288	USDA CSREES
Christopher Main	Plant Sciences	5,000	Cotton Inc
Jeffrey Phillips	Small Animal Clinical Sciences	8,403	Merial Limited
Barry Rouse	Microbiology	355,300	National Institutes of Health
Scott Schlarbaum	Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries	5,850	National Park Service
John Soročan	Plant Sciences	12,500	National Turf Grass Federation, Inc
Lawrence Steckel	Plant Sciences	26,000	Cotton Inc
Neal Stewart	Plant Sciences	60,000	University of Virginia
		10,000	USDA CSREES
Robert Trigiano; Mark Windham	Entomology and Plant Pathology	550,347	USDA CSREES
Rebecca Wilkes	Comparative Medicine	15,000	Winn Feline Foundation
<i>County billing accounts</i>			
Brenda Andy	Central Region	44,338	Grundy County
Walter Battle	Western Region	98,133	Haywood County
<i>Dale Beaty</i>	Central Region	92,008	Warren County
Ronald Blair	Western Region	44,820	Henderson County
Calvin Bryant	Western Region	52,092	Lawrence County
Kenneth Burress	Western Region	44,692	Wayne County
Scott Chadwell	Central Region	114,647	Putnam County
Janut Cluck	Western Region	102,480	Dickson County
Mike Dennison	Western Region	6,751	Shelby County Government
Sammy Elgin	Western Region	146,234	Madison County
Kim Frady	Eastern Region	216,718	Bradley County
Bonnie Fritch	Central Region	44,686	Sequatchie County
Ken Goddard	Western Region	88,302	Henry County
James Griffin	Eastern Region	23,315	Union County
Joseph Griffy	Western Region	46,948	Stewart County
William Hart	Eastern Region	73,284	Carter County
Mary Henley	Central Region	67,586	Franklin County
George Kilgore	Central Region	10,544	Davidson County

\*Combines multiple grants

Jan.

# Grants and Contracts *January–March 2008*

Jan.

PI; Co-PI	Department	Award	Agency
Randall Kimes	Central Region	41,136	Clay County
Jerry Lamb	Eastern Region	78,293	Rhea County
Anna Layman	Eastern Region	26,421	Hancock County
Booker Leigh	Western Region	75,969	Tipton County
Vicki Lofty	Central Region	45,836	Marion County
Katherine Long	Eastern Region	137,022	Washington County
Jimmy Lumpkin	Western Region	30,330	Benton Co.
Matthew McCuiston	Eastern Region	47,609	Bledsoe County
Dean Northcutt	Central Region	149,769	Coffee County
Stephen Officer	Central Region	49,998	DeKalb County
Milton Orr	Eastern Region	102,824	Greene County
Robert Paxton	Eastern Region	25,138	Polk County
Margaret Pile	Central Region	32,891	Pickett County
Scott Reese	Western Region	69,391	Humphreys County
Richard Ritter	Western Region	31,360	Perry County
Kevin Rose	Central Region	93,655	Giles County
Nancy Rucker	Central Region	49,459	Cheatham County
Sheila Settles	Western Region	27,379	Houston County
Philip Shelby	Western Region	96,430	Gibson County
Ricky Skillington	Central Region	43,421	Marshall County
Robert Sliger	Eastern Region	58,701	Monroe County
Timothy Smith	Western Region	74,678	Obion County
Paula Spears	Western Region	36,808	Lewis County
Thomas Steelman	Central Region	51,353	Cannon County
Scott Swoape	Central Region	30,350	Van Buren County
Ricky Thomason	Eastern Region	44,413	Johnson County
Jeff Via	Western Region	71,643	Fayette County
Robert Vickers	Western Region	58,564	Hardeman County
Jeremy West	Eastern Region	27,938	Scott County
Harold Woods	Eastern Region	108,979	McMinn County

Feb.

PI; Co-PI	Department	Award	Agency
Frank Andrews; Rilla Reese	Large Animal Clinical Sciences	6,000	Comparative Gastroenterology Society
Paul Ayers	Biosystems Eng & Soil Sciences	94,524	Army CERL-CESU
Ernest Bernard	Entomology and Plant Pathology	30,000	Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Mark Bohling	Small Animal Clinical Sciences	2,000	3S Corporation
Megan Bruch	Center for Profitable Agriculture	25,000	Tennessee Department of Agriculture
David Buehler	Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries	16,365	US Fish and Wildlife
Michael Buschermohle; John Wilkerson, Hugh Savoy	Biosystems Eng & Soil Sciences	12,500	Cotton Inc
Eric Caldwell; Brian Leib, John Buchanan	Biosystems Eng & Soil Sciences	16,700	Tobacco Education & Research Council, Inc
Richard Davis	International Programs	*27,498	USDA/FAS/OCBD/TSED
Ann Draughon	Food Safety and Technology	10,000	National Science Foundation
Carrie Fritz	Agriculture Economics	41,193	Tennessee Department of Education
Robert Hayes	West TN Research and Education Ctr	61,919	USDA ARS
Juan Jurat-Fuentes	Entomology and Plant Pathology	32,250	Bayer BioScience NV
Tammy Kilgore	Central District-Davidson County	7,000	Tennessee Department of Agriculture



# Grants and Contracts *January–March 2008*

# Feb.

PI; Co-PI	Department	Award	Agency
James Larson; Roland Roberts, Burton English	Agriculture Economics	*23,950	Cotton Inc
Christopher Main	Plant Sciences	23,800	Cotton Inc
		1,850	Busch Ag Resources, Inc
David Mercker	Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries	50,000	Tennessee Department of Agriculture
James Neel; Kristy Hill-Campbell	Animal Science	386,000	Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Melvin Newman	Entomology and Plant Pathology	*19,750	Cotton Inc
Roland Roberts; Burton English, James Larson, Margarita Velandia, Dayton Lambert	Agriculture Economics	24,500	Cotton Inc
Barton Rohrbach; Agricola Odoi, Sharon Patton	Comparative Medicine	81,590	Novartis Animal Health
Barry Rouse	Microbiology	278,629	National Institutes of Health
Hildegard Schuller	Pathobiology	100,000	National Lung Cancer Partnership
George Smith	Agriculture Economics	15,000	Texas Cooperative Extension
John Sorochan	Plant Sciences	91,006	Propane Education & Research Council
Scott Stewart	Entomology and Plant Pathology	*41,000	Cotton Inc
Adam Taylor	Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries	16,963	Southern Forest Research Partnership
John B. Wilkerson	Biosystems Eng & Soil Sciences	30,000	Cotton Inc
Larry Wilson	Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries	20,000	Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency
Timothy Young	Forest Products Center	97,947	Brown-Forman Corp

# March

PI; Co-PI	Department	Award	Agency
Gregory Armel; Carl Sams, Dennis Dayton	Plant Sciences	5,000	NC State Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium
John Bartee	Montgomery County	532,337	Army-Fort Campbell
Ernest Bernard	Entomology & Plant Pathology	2,000	Great Smoky Mountain Association
Ann Berry	Family and Consumer Sciences	2,000	National Endowment for Financial Education
Feng Chen	Plant Sciences	28,107	MSTRS Technologies, Inc
Joseph Clark	Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries	17,000	Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Dennis Dayton; Carl Sams	Plant Sciences	5,000	NC State Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium
Shigetoshi Eda	Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries	15,000	UTRF
Mark Fly	Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries	4,500	Blount Education Initiative
Owen Gwathmey	Plant Sciences	11,350	Cotton Inc
Juan Jurat-Fuentes	Entomology & Plant Pathology	15,000	UTRF
Stephen Kania	Comparative Medicine	23,856	UT-Battelle
Brian Leib; Owen Gwathmey, Christopher Main	Biosystems Engineering & Soil Science; Plant Sciences	13,500	Cotton Inc
David Lockwood; James Willis, Gary Honea	Plant Sciences; Biosystems Engineering & Soil Science	5,000	NC State Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium
Betty Neilson	Henderson County	15,789	Henderson County Government
Melvin Newman	Entomology & Plant Pathology	*75,700	Tennessee Soybean Promotion Board
Stephen Oliver	Animal Science	15,000	UTRF
David Ostermeier; David Buehler, Donald Hodges, Paul Ayers	Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries; Biosystems Eng & Soil Sciences	310,434	The Nature Conservancy
Carl Sams; Anita Hayden, Dennis Dayton	Plant Sciences	5,000	NC State Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium
Hugh Savoy; Brian Leib, Gary Bates	Biosystems Eng & Soil Sciences; Plant Sciences	50,000	Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Scott Stewart	Entomology & Plant Pathology	14,000	Tennessee Soybean Promotion Board

# March

PI; Co-PI	Department	Award	Agency
Angela Thompson	Plant Sciences	18,000	Tennessee Soybean Promotion Board
Kelly Tiller; Daniel Green	Agriculture Economics	196,931	Burley Stabilization Corp
Marie Walsh	Agriculture Economics	38,300	USDA
Robert Williams	Plant Sciences	12,500	Tennessee Soybean Promotion Board
Xuemin Xu	Pathobiology	80,000	Alzheimer's Association
<i>County billing accounts</i>			
Ray Burden	Eastern Region	186,614	Hamilton County
Anthony Carver	Eastern Region	39,046	Grainger County
Vickie Clark	Eastern Region	116,148	Sullivan County
Neal Denton	Eastern Region	266,786	Knox County
Steve Edwards	Eastern Region	47,515	Campbell County
John Goddard	Eastern Region	119,201	Loudon County
Richard Groce	Central Region	108,764	Maury County
Robert Moncier	Eastern Region	61,219	Hawkins County
Grant Palmer	Eastern Region	78,416	Roane County
Andrew Petty	Eastern Region	31,827	Unicoi County
Brenda Shadden	Eastern Region	47,641	Cocke County
William Upchurch	Eastern Region	84,120	Cumberland County

## GRANT EXPANDS FOOD SAFETY OUTREACH

**A** UT program that delivers important food safety lessons to middle schoolers has received a \$25,000 donation from the **Grocery Manufacturers Association**.

The association is partnering with the **Department of Food Science and Technology** and UT Extension to deliver “**Food Safety in the Classroom**” to 10 Tennessee middle schools around the state over the coming weeks and months. They will join 15 schools in a four-state region experiencing the program.

“Food Safety in the Classroom” is a hands-on, interdisciplinary curriculum that teaches students key food safety concepts and practices while meeting state curriculum standards for core subject areas.

The program chooses middle school students as a critical target because they generally do not receive any meaningful food safety education even though they often prepare meals and snacks for themselves and their families.

The lessons are conducted at each participating school for approximately one week and are woven into the school’s daily math, science, language arts, and social studies curricula. Funds for the development of the program were provided by the USDA’s National Integrated Food Safety Initiative and UT’s Food Safety Center of Excellence under the direction of **Ann Draughon**. The program is administered by **Jennifer Richards** of Food Science and Technology.

## FIRST VET SOCIAL WORK SUMMIT A SUCCESS

**T**he **Veterinary Social Work Summit**, the first of its kind, provided an opportunity for **veterinary social workers from across the world to come together** to educate and be educated, to network and be connected, and to strengthen and solidify this new sub-specialty of social work practice. **Forty-two human- and animal-related professionals from five countries and 15 states attended the four-day summit in April.**

Sponsored by both the Colleges of Social Work and Veterinary Medicine

at UT, the summit included expert presenters on the four practice areas of veterinary social work: the link between human and animal violence, animal-assisted interventions, grief and bereavement, and compassion fatigue.

Other topics also included diversity as it relates to animal ownership and animal related professionals, spirituality, social work, and the human-animal bond, and mediation/communication as an important tool of the veterinary social worker.

According to Elizabeth Strand, director of Veterinary Social Work, participants indicated the summit was a positive experience. “Throughout the conference there were activities for getting to know each other, team building, exercises that highlighted diverse opinions about various topics including animals, as well as exercises that promote being in the present moment—an important step in handling stress,” said Strand.

This summit was the first conference in professional social work that was dedicated to human-animal relations.

## WHAT'S NEWS

**C**aula Beyl, dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, **has been elected a fellow of the American Society of Horticultural Science.** The fellow award, in recognition of outstanding contributions to the science, profession, or industry of horticulture, is the highest honor that the society bestows on its members. Earlier this spring she received the 2008 College of Agriculture Distinguished Agricultural Alumni award from the Purdue University College of Agriculture. She holds a Ph.D. in stress physiology and a master's in horticulture from Purdue University.

The **Southeast Equine Science Conference**, a new multi-state conference implemented through **UT Extension** in collaboration with **Mississippi State University**, took place in Memphis on May 8-9. This new educational program is designed for horse owners, researchers, veterinarians, Extension agents and other equine professionals or enthusiasts. The focus this year was on equine nutrition and recent advances in the field. The conference featured a panel of internationally recognized speakers in the field of equine science and was available through Webcast for those unable to attend in person.

Videographer/Editor **Doug Edlund** of Marketing and Communications Services has been elected to the **board of directors of ACE, the Association of Communication Excellence.** He has won close to 20 ACE awards in the past eight years and has been serving as Tennessee state representative for the national organization. ACE members are communications specialists at land grant universities.

The College of Veterinary Medicine's Assistant Dean **Dennis Geiser** is one of five veterinarians who weighed in

## UT AGRI-BUSINESS TEAM PLACES THIRD NATIONALLY

**I**n a highly competitive tournament, **UT's NAMA Marketing Team captured third place honors at the Student Marketing Competition** held in conjunction with the **National Agri-Marketing Association Conference** in Kansas City, Mo., this year.

The team, composed of undergraduate **Agricultural Economics and Business majors**, presented a product they conceived called the Heavy Hitter—a cordless, lightweight, ergonomically designed automatic staple gun for fastening wire fence to posts. The Heavy Hitter will use the latest in technology to provide essential power while maintaining ease of use, driving eight- and nine-gauge galvanized staples into wooden posts.

In addition to defining the product, the team had to develop a total marketing plan for the Heavy Hitter, including an advertising campaign and a means of monitoring and measuring the success of their plan. Financial expectations of the plan were also projected.

Team members are **Aaron Crowgey, Amy Greene, Jessica Jarrell, David Lane, Matt Lawson, Ben Morton, Katie Newbern, and Ryan Roark.**

on what legal experts consider to be one of the biggest capital punishment cases to face the U.S. Supreme Court in a generation. Geiser and four other vets were named in a brief filed with the high court supporting a death row inmate's assertion that the three-drug cocktail used for lethal injection amounts to cruel and unusual punishment, a violation of the Eighth Amendment. Their brief attracted the interest of *dvm newsmagazine*, which has an article about it online at <http://tinyurl.com/2j9bac>.

Information Specialist **Sandra Harbison** and Media Coordinator **Greg Hirshoren** with the College of Veterinary Medicine are responsible for the **cover story** of the spring issue of *Tennessee Alumnus magazine*. "Madras holds her head high" profiles the actions that **CVM doctors** took to improve a tiger cub's quality of life. You can read the story at <http://alumnus.tennessee.edu/>.

A **UT Extension forester** is the **Forest Landowners Association's Extension Forester of the Year.** The organization, which is comprised of forest landowners in 17 southern

states, selected Professor **Wayne Clatterbuck** for the 2008 honor. The purpose of this award is to recognize an Extension forester for exceptional contributions to forest landowner education, issues, and services. Clatterbuck's responsibilities are in forest management education and include assistance to the county extension network in forestry, coordinator of the Tennessee Master Logger Program, forest landowner education, urban forestry, and continuing education for forestry professionals. He has been with the university since 1995.

The **Tennessee Turfgrass Association** presented its **distinguished service award** to Professor **Neil Rhodes.** The award recognizes the contributions that Rhodes has made throughout his career, including his tenure as head of the Department of Plant Sciences from 2002 to the end of last month, when he moved into new responsibilities as weed science Extension professor. The association praised his support of the turfgrass program at UT and the statewide turfgrass industry.



**FROM THE VP, from page 1**

Students were said to be mature, articulate, and committed to the college and supportive of a family atmosphere enjoyed in the college; faculty was said to be dedicated and enthusiastic, with teaching perceived to be highly valued. The college's minority and summer research opportunities were deemed highly effective. Finally, the team found the veterinary social work program to be outstanding.

Recommendations for improvement primarily focused on capital improvement needs with respect to the large animal hospital. Improvements in large animal bio-containment isolation facilities and surgical facilities and flooring are needed. The college and the Institute are still working to secure funding for Phase II of the hospital expansion project which will expand and improve its large animal teaching hospital.

Reviews like this are good for us because they help show us where we're succeeding and identify areas where we need to improve. I want to thank everyone in the college for pulling together and for the hard work put into this effort.

All the best,



THE UNIVERSITY of  
**TENNESSEE** **UT**  
INSTITUTE of  
AGRICULTURE

101 Morgan Hall  
Knoxville, TN 37996-4505



*Ag mechanics and more—FFA members master the basics of plumbing and maneuvering a tractor during a career development event hosted by the Department of Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science. More than 100 FFA members from 16 schools competed in 18 events.*

*Academic departments within CASNR have been hosting FFA career development competitions for more than 50 years.*



photos: Mary Ellen Pautler

**DOE GRANT, from page 1**

includes \$135 million that Oak Ridge National Laboratory received from DOE in 2007 for its new Bioenergy Science Center.

“We appreciate the additional investment by DOE,” said **Joe DiPietro**, UT vice president for agriculture.

“These funds, in tandem with funds already secured from the state, will lead to even greater discoveries and secure Tennessee at the forefront in development of the biofuels industry.”

The new DOE grant will support Tennessee's efforts to demonstrate how farm-based production of energy crops can supply a biorefinery and will support research to enhance the

commercial feasibility of converting biomass crops into fuels and other products. UT, UT Research Foundation, and Genera Energy are partners with Mascoma in the award.

Genera Energy is a limited liability company recently formed by the UT Research Foundation for the purpose of managing the research, development, and demonstration operations of the cellulosic ethanol biorefinery in Vonore. Genera Energy will help transform the technological developments made by researchers into products for the marketplace.

—Patricia McDaniels

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