



\$24 m. in NIFA animal health grants to improve productivity & environmental performance

By Agri-Pulse Staff

© Copyright Agri-Pulse Communications, Inc.

Washington, Feb. 3 – USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has announced \$24 million in grants to study animal health, reproduction, breeding, genetics and nutrition. The grants are designed to strengthen the agriculture animal industry which plays a central role in the U.S. economy, accounting for 42 percent of forecast U.S. agricultural receipts in 2009.

“The agriculture animal industry faces increasing challenges from animal diseases, reduced fertility, low nutrition and growth and non-tariff trade barriers,” said Roger Beachy, NIFA’s director. “These grants will help the United States maintain a strong, internationally-competitive animal agriculture industry and lead to safer and more affordable animal products.”

NIFA awarded the grants through four program areas of the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI): Animal Reproduction Program; Animal Genome, Genetics, and Breeding Program; Animal Growth and Nutrient Utilization Program; and Integrated Solutions for Animal Agriculture Program. AFRI funds research, education, and extension grants and integrated research, extension, and education grants that address key problems of national, regional and multi-state importance in sustaining all components of agriculture.

Animal programs at NIFA address several critical issues, including children’s health, food safety, international food security, and environmental protection. They help reduce childhood obesity and improve human nutrition by providing higher quality sources of animal protein with reduced fat content. The programs are also designed to reduce the dependency on the feeding and use of antibiotics and hormones for domestic animals.

Overall, the NIFA programs are intended to ensure a safer food supply by targeting the reduction in pre-harvest food-borne pathogens. As well, they are aimed at improving international food security by supporting research to reduce the incidence of diseases in animals and improving the production efficiency of agriculturally important animals. Finally, NIFA points out that its programs play a critical role in global climate change and environmental stewardship by promoting the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions,

including reducing nitrogen and phosphorus emissions through improved systems of livestock management and more efficient use of nutrients fed to animals.

Fiscal Year 2009 grants were awarded to:

Animal Reproduction Program

- Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, Colo., \$125,000
- Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, Colo., \$340,000
- Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, Colo., \$349,082
- University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla., \$349,260
- Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., \$315,000
- Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich., \$349,782
- North Dakota State University, Fargo, N.D., \$10,000
- North Dakota State University, Fargo, N.D., \$28,633
- North Dakota State University, Fargo, N.D., \$320,000
- Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa., \$325,000
- University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn., \$349,503
- University of Texas, Austin, Texas, \$325,000
- Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, \$338,086
- Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, \$349,287
- University of Texas Marine Science Institute, Port Aransas, Texas, \$124,610
- West Virginia University, Morgantown, W.V., \$337,835
- West Virginia University, Morgantown, W.V., \$330,000
- University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyo., \$25,000

Animal Genome, Genetics, and Breeding Program

- Auburn University, Auburn, Ala., \$800,000
- Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., \$970,000
- University of Georgia, Athens, Ga., \$388,343
- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Ill., \$10,000
- Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, \$449,939
- Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Beltsville, Md., \$341,755
- Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Beltsville, Md., \$625,000
- Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Beltsville, Md., \$749,975
- University of Maryland, College Park, Md., \$681,145
- Agricultural Research Service, USDA, East Lansing, Mich., \$625,000
- Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich., \$443,491
- Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich., \$689,921
- University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo., \$10,000
- University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo., \$130,000
- North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N.C., \$749,502
- Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa., \$450,000
- Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, \$597,902
- Utah State University, Logan, Utah, \$930,000
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University,
Blacksburg, Va., \$908,280
- University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisc., \$449,747

Animal Growth and Nutrient Utilization Program

- Auburn University, Auburn, Ala., \$348,836

- University of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz., \$349,326
- California State University, Fresno, Calif., \$349,560
- University of North Florida, Jacksonville, Fla., \$350,000
- University of Idaho, Moscow, Id., \$134,079
- Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, \$349,421
- University of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky., \$149,707
- Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., \$349,983
- Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, \$350,000
- Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Okla., \$125,000
- Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa., \$349,476
- Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa., \$349,992
- South Dakota State University, Brookings, S.D., \$319,883
- Utah State University, Logan, Utah, \$260,987
- West Virginia University, Morgantown, W.V., \$350,000
- University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyo., \$10,000

Integrated Solutions for Animal Agriculture Program

- University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla., \$1,000,000
- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Ill., \$900,000
- University of Vermont, Burlington, Vt., \$470,894
- Washington State University, Pullman, Wash., \$629,106
- University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisc., \$1,000,000

For more NIFA information, go to: www.nifa.usda.gov.

For other *Agri-Pulse* news stories, go to: www.agri-pulse.com.

#30