AGFACS LINK

Fall 2010



Tennessee State University
School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences



School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences 3500 John A. Merritt Blvd. Nashville, TN 37209

October 25, 2010



Dear Alumni and Friends:

Two years ago, in my first newsletter message to you, I told you that I had been asking, "How can we get better?" Since that time, our faculty has been very busy: they have met in a number of forums, debated/argued/speculated a lot, a new strategic plan was created, potential new academic programs have been developed, we have pursued a new vision, and have implemented new expectations for our faculty and our students. Some of you attended our first Strategic Planning Workshop in August 2008, some of you have participated in our new annual Homecoming events and Agricultural Week activities, and some of you have just dropped by my office to share your thoughts. In that same first newsletter, I also commented that if the School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences is to succeed, it must become more than the sum of its parts; indeed, the two academic departments, the Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Research (IAgER) and the Cooperative Extension Program (CEP) must work together to create a first class organization for our students and the citizens of Tennessee.

During my initial visit to campus in April 2008, President Johnson and then Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Robert Hampton told me that I had five years to restructure the School into a better state than where it was then. In this newsletter, I want to take stock of where we are with the *Transformational Change*, the theme I embarked on soon after my arrival in June 2008. The members of the School's Executive Team have contributed a series of data points in this issue to answer that very question.

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We have successfully integrated the research faculty (IAgER faculty) and extension faculty (CEP faculty) into the academic departments. We have almost doubled the overall student enrollment of the School to 520 students and multiplied the graduate student enrollment by several fold to 99 (pages 18-19). Our Cooperative Extension Program continues to grow; TSU now has more specialists (17) and more agents (28), and doubled the number of counties in which we have agents (23) resulting in a phenomenal growth in outreach to stakeholders (pages 14-17). We will continue to pursue our goal of representation in all 95 Tennessee counties to serve the needs of all Tennesseans.

We also have expanded our research capacity. The addition of six new faculty members in vital areas such as bio-fuels and food safety has placed us at the forefront of research in these areas (pages 24-26). Funding for the School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences has also increased dramatically with increased support from the federal and state governments and with increased faculty efforts in garnering external funds; our funding has grown from about \$11 million to \$16 million in four years (pages 16-17). In addition to increasing our human resources, we are also improving our physical resources: adding six new greenhouses to our Main Campus Research and Education Center, adding new facilities to support our landscape design and agricultural communications programs, rebuilding our flood-damaged Research and Education Center in Cheatham County, and moving ahead on construction plans for a new biotechnology building (page 20).

As you can see, we have experienced unprecedented growth. The new School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences has met with approval from all corners of the campus and community. I am quite excited and thankful to the good fortune and good team of people working with me in the School and the administrative support I am receiving from President Johnson and his team. However, we have been disappointed in one area: our inability to start new academic programs in the time frame we initially envisioned. But we have not given up on these programs, and I hope to be able to report our success in this area to you very soon!

Sincerely,

Chandra Reddy, PhD.

Un hely

Dean and Director of Research/Administrator of Extension



Flood Devastates Research and Extension Farms

he School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences suffered catastrophic losses to its Cheatham County and Main Campus Research and Extension Centers during the May floods. The manager of the Cheatham County facility, Chris Robbins and his family had to be rescued by boat; flood

waters completely covered 20 foot tall structures at the farm. At the main campus facility, Dr. Richard Browning was caught in rapidly rising flood waters while trying to rescue animals. Overburdened emergency personnel could not

respond to Dr. Browning's plight. TSU President Dr. Melvin Johnson utilized his whitewater rescue training to save Dr. Browning.

Monetary damages to buildings and equipment are in the hundreds of thousands of dollars; the research programs of students and faculty

suffered major setbacks. Altogether, the goat project lost 134 animals, including 92 does and 29 kids, more than a third of their entire stock. "It set us back," says Dr. Browning. The F1 crossbreeding project, which took the hardest hit, made up the bulk of a graduate student's thesis work. Browning hopes to help him salvage

the work. "We'll just have to draw a line of demarcation right through [our research] at the flood, and do some assessment with what we already have in the books," says Browning.

"There were pretty extensive losses," states Dr.

Chandra Reddy, Dean, "the university is working with the state insurance program to recoup some of the losses, but some things are not replaceable". Between the two sites, the flood affected the research of over 15 scientists, he adds.

"There were pretty extensive losses. The university is working with the state insurance program to recoup some of the losses, but some things are not replaceable"





SACS Hosts Second Annual Ag Week

he School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences held its Annual Food, Agriculture and Consumer Sciences Week April 5-9, 2010, on Tennessee State University's Main Campus, using the theme "Transforming the Agricultural Environment and Changing Lives." Activities for the week included tours of the school's laboratories, presentations by faculty, a student cookout, an awards luncheon, and a series of informational sessions for students, faculty and staff.

Dr. Chandra Reddy, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences, and Director of Land-Grant Programs, commented on the successful week of events "This week has been remarkable, with so many outstanding programs and enthusiastic participation of our students, staff, faculty, colleagues and students from other areas of the University and our partners from the local schools, the USDA, and Purdue University." The first day of Ag Week focused on recruiting and sharing information about the School's programs with local high-school stu-

dents. On Tuesday, USDA experts presented to our current students the professional opportunities with the Natural Resource Conservation Service. On Wednesday, colleagues from Purdue University participated in presentations and discussions designed to build new, synergistic relationships between the School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences and Purdue University. The relationship and collaborations with Purdue will enhance the research, teaching and extension capabilities of both institutions, and provide TSU with a partner to pursue new grants and programs not attainable on our own. The public was invited to a timely discussion on Thursday concerning childhood obesity and to presentations from outstanding scholars from Meharry Medical College and Mississippi State University. The week culminated with recognitions of the accomplishments of our top students, faculty and staff, who, based upon evaluations from colleagues, have truly excelled in their respective fields. The honorees included:

Christopher Conner - Outstanding Undergraduate Student Agricultural Sciences

Ashley Danielle Dale - Outstanding Undergraduate Student Family and Consumer Sciences

Amber Clayborne - Outstanding Undergraduate Student School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences

James Tyus - Outstanding Graduate Student School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences

Cassandra Williams - Outstanding Administrative Staff Member

Dr. Surendra Singh - Outstanding Teacher

Dr. Jason Oliver - Outstanding Researcher

Christel Brooke Kidd - Outstanding Extension Agent

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TSU: Helping To Change The World

SACS Selected as Peace Corps Partner

Tennessee State University and the School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences has been selected to become a partner school in the Peace Corps Master's International program. Master's International produces Peace Corps Volunteers with additional education and skills to serve overseas. After completing initial course work and receiving a Peace Corps placement, students travel to their respective sites and begin training. While overseas, the student's primary responsibility is the project and community to which they have been assigned; their academic require-

ment grows out of their Volunteer work. The benefits of the Master's International Program can be countless, comprehensive and can last a lifetime. Students in this program have an unparalleled opportunity to live and work overseas while completing a Master's Degree in their field of interest. By completing this program, our students have the advantage of having applied theory to practice, while working overseas. They will return with a changed world view and the skills and education to continue to make a difference in the world in which we live.

TSU Helps Curb Elder Abuse

Tennessee State University Cooperative Extension Program and Lauderdale County Commission on Aging sponsored a World Elder Abuse Awareness Day event on Tuesday June 15, 2010 at Tennessee Technology Center in Ripley, TN. Over 50 residents of the community attended the event to learn from a panel of experts about how to recognize and prevent elder abuse. Representatives from various federal, state and local agencies were present to provide additional information to the attendees. Nearly 9,500 reports of adult abuse, neglect and/or financial exploitation were reported last year to the Tennessee Department of Human Services' Adult Protective Services (APS) unit. The number of reports has grown 23 percent in just five years.

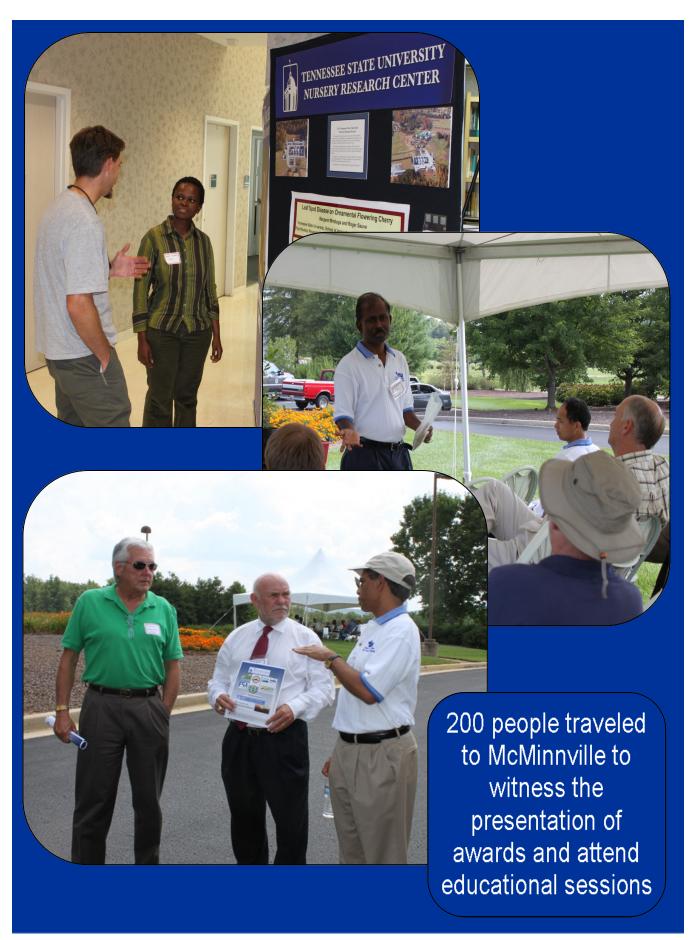


NEED Grant – Energy Education Grant



This year through a partnership with Murfreesboro City Schools ESP program, 4-H conducted National Energy Education Development programs at John Pittard Elementary and Scales Elementary School in Murfreesboro. The programs are funded by a grant from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Energy Policy. The purpose of the program is to increase youth knowledge of our energy and energy conservation. Some of the lessons conducted were wind power, windmills, endothermic/exothermic reactions, light reflection, and the visible spectrum. Rutherford County 4-H reached over 400 youth through this educational program.

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Sixth Annual Small Farm Expo Honors Outstanding Farmers

he Tennessee State University School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences recently named Chris Rinehart, Scarlett Mulligan and Stephen Rinehart the Overall Tennessee Small Farmers of the Year at its Sixth Annual Small Farm Expo and Tennessee Small Farmer Recognition Program.

The Rhineharts and Mulligan are owners of Riverview Mounds Century Farm which is located along the Cumberland River near Clarksville, TN. The farm has been in the family for over 175 years and is home to two authentic Mississippian Era Mounds that overlook the river. Winners in the Alternative Enterprises Category, the Rhineharts and Mulligan opened their farm for agritourism in the Fall of 2008. In addition to Mound Tours they offer seasonal activities such as hayrides, pumpkins, farm animals and a nine acre corn maze. Other farmers recognized at the event include Alvin and Shirley Harris of Shelby County who won in the area of Best Management Practices (Category of less than \$50,000 annual gross income), and Carl and Michelle Hoefer of Anderson County (Category of \$50,00 to \$250,000 annual gross income) who also won in the area of Best Management Practices.

Sponsored by the School of Agriculture and



Consumer Sciences, this year's Small Farm Expo and Small Farmer Recognition Program took place at the TSU Otis Floyd Nursery Research Center in McMinnville, Tenn. The event has traditionally been held at the Agricultural Research and Education Center in Cheatham County, but was moved due to flood damage at the facility.



Approximately 200 people traveled to the alternate site in McMinnville to witness the presentation of awards and attend educational sessions on organic crop production, plant diseases and insects, new forages, marketing small farm products, new hydrangeas, grafting and budding, as well as grants and other funding for small farm operations. Attendees had the opportunity to visit various agricultural agency exhibits and participate in laboratory tours. A special after-lunch session highlighted correct pesticide storage techniques and a demonstration of the new greenhouse plastic recycling program at the Nursery Research Center. "This was a great event", said Dr. Nick Gawel Superintendent of the Nursery Research Center, "our attendees had very informative educational opportunities, and the award recipients are great examples of successful farming in Tennessee".

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What Are SACS Students Up To?

Students Receive National Scholarships

Mr. Toney Tillman, Jr. and Mr. Christopher Conner, students in the School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences received \$1000 scholarships from the National Organization of Professional Black Natural Resources Conservation

Service Employees. The awards were announced at the NOPBNRCSE Annual Conference held in Kansas City, Missouri during March 15-19, 2010. Mr. Tillman is a freshman with a 3.8 GPA and majoring in Plant and Soil Science and Mr. Conner is a sophomore with a 3.5 GPA and majoring in Agriculture Business.

The NOPBNRCSE Scholarship Program provides ten (10) college scholarships each year to deserving students who are pursuing a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Sciences or related fields and who are currently enrolled or planning to attend an 1890 land-grant college and/or university. Floyd Hooker, USDA Agricultural Liai-

son Officer submitted the scholarship applications on behalf of the Tennessee Chapter of NOPBNRCSE. Hooker also assists the students with securing summer employment with USDA.

Both of the scholarship winners have NRCS

roots. Christopher is the son of retired NRCS Soil Scientist, Clarence Conner and Toney is related to James Tillman, State Conservationist for Georgia. Toney has accepted a Soil Conservationist Trainee position under the 2010 Summer Internship Program with the USDA - Natural Resources Conserva-

tion Service in California.

The purpose of the scholarship program is to strengthen the long-term partnership between the Organization, USDA and the 1890 institutions and to increase the number of students studying agriculture, natural resource sciences and other related disciplines.

James Tyus Wins Award: Chosen to Serve on National Board

James Tyus, a graduate student in animal science working with Dr. Samuel Nahashon, was awarded the prestigious *Certificate of Excellence (1st place in Breeding and Genetics)* by the Poultry Science Association for his presentation "Comparative Genomics: The Guinea Fowl Satiety Center" at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Federation of Animal Science Societies. As a result, he has been invited to submit a manuscript to *Poultry Science*; in addition his picture and biography will be published in the December issue of the journal.

In a separate matter, Mr Tyus has also been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Poultry Science Association for a term of two years.

He is responsible for representing the interests of the nearly 400 student members of the 3,000 member Poultry Science Association. Mr Tyus is one of 13 Board members and is the first member from an 1890 university to serve on this Board.



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Students Participate in National Conference

Tennessee State University students recently participated in the Research Poster Contest during the 2010 Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) Conference held on March 24-27, 2010 in Orlando, Florida. The poster entitled "Assessment of water quality in two creeks of the Collins River Sub-Watershed dominated by nursery crop production" was presented by (left to right) Christian Ransom, Nicholas Williams and Steven



Morris. The students are working with Dr. Sam O. Dennis, Research Associate Professor. Mr. Will Nesby, Recruiter and Mr. Floyd Hooker, USDA Liaison chaperoned 13 students to the conference.

SACS Students Compete in Research Symposium

The 32nd Annual University Wide Research Symposium was held on the TSU campus March 15 - March 19, 2010. Under the theme of "Building Bridges to Discovery by Creating a Culture of Inquiry", graduate and undergraduate students from the School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences presented award-winning papers based upon their research. Congratulations to our winners!

Graduate Oral Presentations:

Tuesday Morning Session

Caleb Kersey 1st Place, "Characterization of A Tn5 Mutant of The Soft Rot Bacterium *Pectobacterium carotovorum*" Advisor: Dr. Korsi Dumenyo

Lakesha Glover 2nd Place, "Evaluation of Optimum Calcium And Phosphorus Requirement of The Pearl Grey Guinea Fowl" Advisor: Dr. Samuel Nahashon

Thea Boatswain 3rd Place, "Influence of Diet Induced Obesity on Avian Cardiomyopathy" Advisor: Dr. Samuel Nahashon

Tuesday Afternoon Session

Paul Agyemang 3rd Place, "Initial Characterization of Plant Metabolites Inducing Virulence In Soft Rot Pathogen, *Pectobacterium* Spp." Advisor: Dr. Charles K. Dumenyo

Graduate Poster Presentations:

Agriculture and Consumer Sciences

Stephen Lewis 1st Place "Could Potassium Ion Provide the Needed Abiotic Resistance in Plant Production?" Advisor: Dr. Dharma Pitchay

Stephen Lewis 2nd Place "Impact Of Nitrogen and Phosphorus Concentrations on Container Grown Crape Myrtle" Advisor: Dr. Dharma Pitchay

Niharika Ojha 3rd Place "Spatial Analysis of Switch Grass Yield Productivity in United States" Advisor: Dr. Surendra Singh

Biological Sciences

Carl Darris 3rd Place "Utilizing Recombinant IGY in the Development of a Surface Plasmon Resonance Biosensor for *Salmonella typhimurium*" Advisors: Dr. Samuel Nahashon and Dr. Fur-Chi Chen

Undergraduate Poster Presentations:

Health, Education and Social Sciences

Alex Frederick 1st Place "Examination Into the Microbiological Safety of Irrigation Water Used By A Local Small Farmer" Advisors: Dr. Sandria Godwin, Dr. Fur-Chi Chen and R. Stone

Amber Clayborne 3rd Place "Food Safety Knowledge And Practices Among Pregnant Women" Advisors: Drs. Sandria Godwin and Margaret Machara



SACS Graduate Reception

Dean Reddy and the faculty and staff of the School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences hosted the School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences Reception for its graduates on Friday, May 8, 2010, in the Farrell-Westbrook Research and Extension Complex. The following graduates were presented by Agricultural Sciences Department Head Dr. Constantine L. Fenderson, and Family and Consumer Science Department Head Dr. Gearldean Johnson:

Agricultural Sciences

Randall Bigham, B.S., Animal Science/Pre-Veterinary Medicine

Brittany Carter, B.S., Pre-Veterinary Medicine

Dawnn Dixon-Lewis, B.S. Pre-Veterinary Medicine

Lance Stuckey, B.S. Agribusiness

Erika Boyland, M.S. Agribusiness

Steven Nowlin, M.S. Agribusiness

Emily Rotich, M.S., Animal Science

Thyneice Taylor, PhD Biological Science/Agricultural

Biotechnology

Family and Consumer Sciences

Zareefa Abdul-Adl (Child Development)

Tamira Rumph (Fashion Merchandising)

Charisse Adams (Child Development)

Ida Thomas (Child Development)

Donna Alexander (Child Development)

Michelle Wade (Early Childhood)

Crystal Baker (Fashion Merchandising)

Antoinette Walker (Child Development)

Kelly Burdell (Child Development)

Shayna Wright (Child Development)

Ashley Dale (Design)

Sharita Fanning (Child Development)

Kiana Frazier (Child Development)

Lakishia Harris (Child Development)

Vanessa Joda (Child Development)

Kara Johnson (Child Development)

Rashante Lee (Fashion Merchandising)

Traci Miller (Child Development)

Charlene Northington (Fashion Merchandising)





Each student was presented with a School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences gift bag. The graduates were urged to assist the School in its recruiting efforts by replacing themselves with the best and brightest students that they can find. Each graduate also completed an information card to assist the School Alumni Organization in keeping the new alumni informed of School activities. Following the presentations, a reception was held for the graduates and their families and friends.

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SACS Educational Opportunities

Design

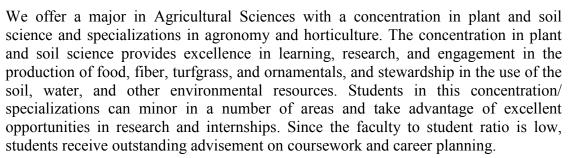
The Design Program at Tennessee State University prepares students for careers in interior design, textile design and fashion industries. This is a creative, as well as a technical field, with tremendous opportunities for growth in all areas. A broad curriculum provides a foundation for students to gain insight into how the principles and elements of design can be manipulated to create a functional and aesthetically pleasing interior space or a garment that will compliment the client's best features. Students may focus on a particular area of design, with their coursework culminating in an internship in their chosen field. Interior design firms, retail chains, specialty stores, and manufacturers have all selected graduates from our program. As a designer you may even be employed in a design division of a corporation or institution or open your own design studio.

Designers work in a variety of areas analyzing a client's needs and goals. As a professional, the designer integrates these findings with knowledge of design acquired through coursework and internship experience. The designer formulates designs that are appropriate, functional, aesthetic and creative and presents design recommendations through appropriate presentation media. Both interior and fashion designers possess a thorough knowledge of textiles and textile properties and have skills in manual and computer drawing applications.



Plant and Soil Science







The Department of Agricultural Sciences is fortunate to have outstanding facilities, including well-equipped teaching, research, and computer laboratories, high-tech twenty-first century classrooms, state-of-the-art greenhouses and plant growth chambers, library holdings, pleasant areas for students to study and socialize, and three farms with more than 300 acres for research and hands-on experiences. We are also fortunate to be strongly allied with state and federal agencies, private industry, and other educational institutions that enhance our teaching, research, and job placement capabilities.

Please call the following numbers for more information about our academic programs:

Department of Agricultural Sciences - 615.963.5435

Department of Family and Consumer Sciences - 615.963.5617

School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences - 615.963.7561

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West Tennessee



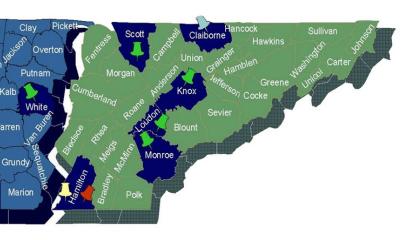
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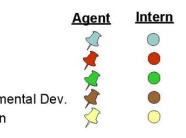
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4-H Youth Development
Community Resource & Environr
Food Stamp & Nutrition Educatio

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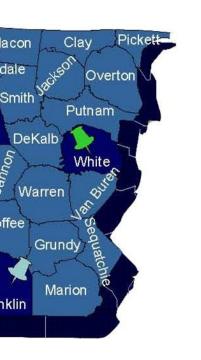


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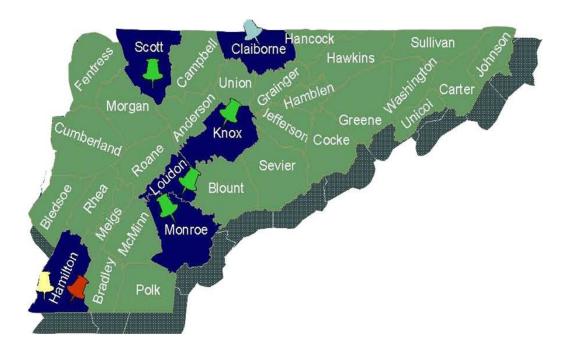




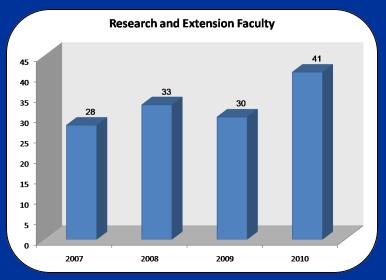
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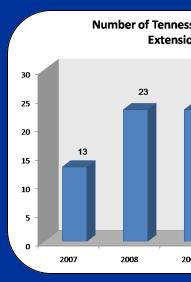
East Tennessee



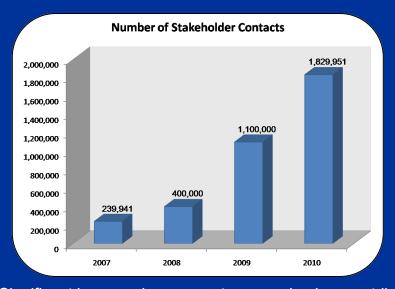
Growth School of Agriculture and



The School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences has been successful in recruiting high quality research and extension faculty in the areas of nutrition, food science agronomy, remote sensing and spatial analysis, landscaping architecture, plant breeding and genetics, and agriculture and extension education.

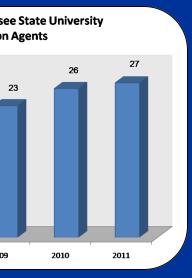


The cooperative Extension Proincrease in the number of countries

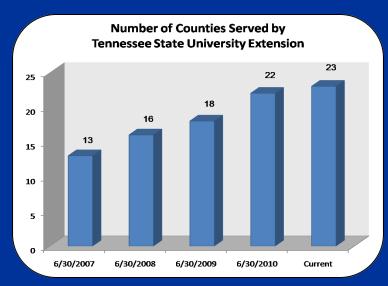


The Significant increase in our county expansion has contributed to the substantial growth in stakeholder contacts.

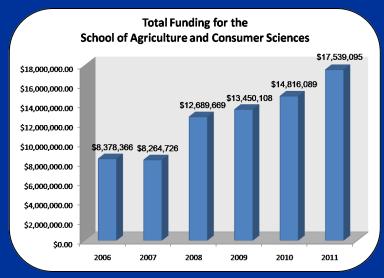
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gram has experienced a 108% y agents employed since 2007.

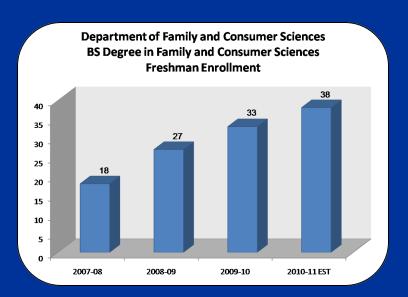


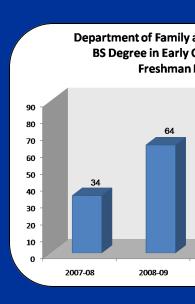
Since 2007, there has been an increase of 77% in the number of counties in which the Tennessee State University Cooperative Extension Program is active.

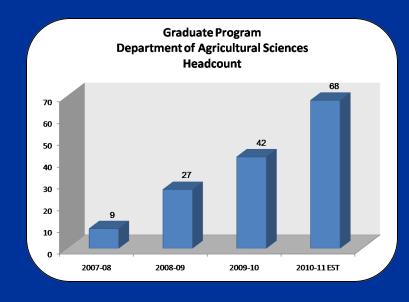


Total funding to the school has doubled since 2006.

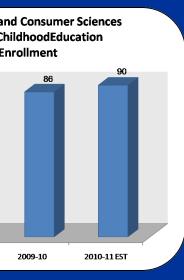
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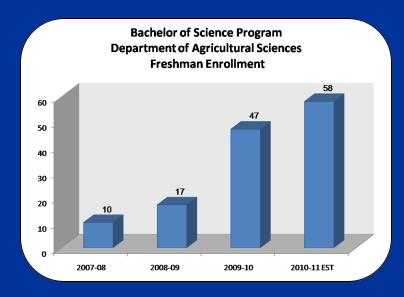


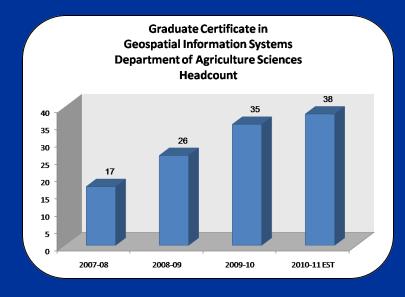




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Landscape Design Studio

A 1,400 ft² landscape architecture studio and a 4,000 ft² Agriculture Education Complex have been designed. The Agriculture Education Complex will contain an office, a classroom, restrooms, a tool room, and a 3,000 ft² workshop equipped with both metal and wood working equipment.

In addition to these two structures, an existing head-house area is being converted into a student work area and a small wet lab for plant science students. The laboratory will be equipped with ovens for drying plant material and equipment to measure soil pH and soluble salt content. The renovation of the head-house and the construction of the equipment storage and agriculture education complexes are projected to cost \$350,000 - 400,000.

How The School Of AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SCIENCES IS CHANGING!

New Biotechnology Building

A new 30,000 ft² biotechnology building is in the design phase. This building will house nine modern laboratories and a multidisciplinary central core laboratory. This building is being funded through USDA grants and is projected to cost between \$7 to 8 million.

New Research Greenhouse Complex

A six bay gutter-connected research greenhouse complex will be erected at the main campus farm. Each greenhouse bay will be of the open-roof design and will have 9,000 ft² of bench growing space. The projected cost for this complex is \$500,000.

Upgraded Research Centers

A new 6,000 ft² equipment and pesticide storage complex is being added at the Main Campus Research and Extension Center. This complex will be divided into 7 sections, an equipment repair bay, pesticide storage for new and spent pesticides and 5 equipment storage sections. This structure is projected to cost \$100,000 - \$150,000.

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Dean's Accomplishments

Dr. Reddy Named Soil Science Fellow



The Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) will recognize Dr. Chandra Reddy as a member of the 2010 class of SSSA Fellows at a special Awards Ceremony during their Annual Meeting on Oct. 31-Nov. 3 in Long Beach, CA. Members of the Society nominate worthy colleagues based on their professional achievements and meritorious service. Only 0.3% of the Society's active and emeritus members may be elected Fellow. Dr. Reddy is being recognized as an active promoter of minority education in agricultural sciences, for his service on the editorial board of the Soil Science Society of America Journal and for his research on crop production, environmental quality, and international agriculture.

The (SSSA) is a progressive, international scientific society that fosters the transfer of knowledge and practices to sustain global soils. Founded in 1936, SSSA is the professional home for 6,000+ members dedicated to advancing the field of soil science. It provides information about soils in relation to crop production, environmental quality, ecosystem sustainability, bioremediation, waste management, recycling, and wise land use.

Dr. Reddy Appointed to National Advisory Board



U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the appointment of Dr. Chandra Reddy to serve on the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board. Dr. Reddy's appointment to this board provides further evidence of the emergence of the SACS as a national leader in the agricultural sciences. This Board advises the Secretary of Agriculture and Land-Grant colleges and universities on top national priorities and policies for food and agricultural research, education, extension and economics. "We appreciate the

contributions that these individuals are making to help advance agricultural research, education, extension, and economics within the Department," Vilsack said. "Their expertise and advice is valuable in the development of long- and short-term research, extension, education, and economic priorities in the food, fiber, and fuel systems."

In addition to providing program and policy advice to USDA on its Research, Education and Economics mission area, the Board reports to Congress, holds stakeholder listening sessions, evaluates the Agricultural Research Service scientific peer review process for national programs, conducts an annual review of all agricultural research, extension, or education activities conducted or funded by the Department for relevance to national priorities and adequacy of funding, and provides input on Specialty Crops and Renewable Energy priorities though respective mandated subcommittees.

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Future Students Of The School Of Agriculture And Consumer Sciences

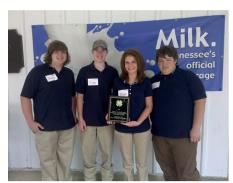
High School Intern Wins Award at State FFA Convention

Mr. Alex Pack, a Warren County High School student who interned at the Otis L. Floyd Nursery Research Center in the summer of 2009 presented research results generated during his internship at the 2010 Tennessee FFA convention in Gatlinburg, TN. Mr. Pack won First Place in his division and will now go on to compete at the National FFA convention in to be held in Indianapolis, IN in October. Alex performed his internship under the guidance of Dr. Donna Fare, a USDA/ARS scientist at the NRC; the title of Alex's research presentation was "Irrigation timing and emitter selection affects irrigation efficiency and plant growth". We all wish Alex the best at Nationals!



4-H Junior High Team Places Second in the State Dairy Quiz Bowl

A four member 4-H team from Claiborne County recently traveled to Nashville, TN to participate in the State Dairy Quiz Bowl. Team members Blaine Coffey, Megan Crawford, Travis Martin, and Bryan Loop were determined to do well in the contest. The team placed first in a preliminary qualifying test to advance to the first round of the bowl, which they won to qualify them for the championship round. Facing a group from Bedford County, the Clairborne team kept the competition close; coming down to a 5 point lead by Bedford at the last question. Bedford answered the last question correctly giving them the Champion plaque and Claiborne the Reserve Champion plaque. It was a



well battled quiz bowl and we would like to congratulate our 4-H members for their accomplishments.

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High School Students Intern with Scientists



his summer, high school students from across the state had the opportunity to experience life as a TSU research scientist. A total of 16 students from high schools across the state (Big Picture High School- Nashville, Fayette-Ware High School -Somerville, Kenwood High School- Clarksville, East Literature High School - Nashville, Brighton High School - Covington, Douglas High School - Memphis, Hunters Lane High School -Nashville, Germantown High School - Germantown, and Cane Ridge High School - Antioch) spent the summer on the TSU main campus to participate in research activities carried out by our faculty members. An additional five students from Warren County High School spent one month working with faculty members at the TSU Nursery Research Center in McMinnville, TN. Students and faculty were pleased with the program. "It has been a lot of fun, and I learned a lot," stated Abby Barlow, an intern with Dr. Samuel Ochieng, "the research is fascinating, and I learned a lot about TSU". Dr. Ochieng said "The students were very good – they were enthusiastic and were able to work right along with us in the lab and the field." The School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences provided assistantships to the high school students, who are either rising seniors or recent high school graduates with a major in Agricultural Sciences, Consumer Sciences, and Food Sciences. During their internships, each student completed a research project. Some of the research results will be used in the students' classes this school year, some will be presented at the 2010 Tennessee Future Farmers of America Meeting, and some will be presented at the annual TSU Research Symposium.

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SACS's New Faculty

The School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences is proud to announce the addition of a number of new research and extension faculty. Our new faculty contribute expertise in timely areas to our academic, research and extension programs.

Dr. Guorong Zhang Research Assistant Professor

Plant Breeding and Genetics Farrell-Westbrook 202N (615) 963-5824 gzhang@tnstate.edu

I received my PhD degree in Plant Breeding & Genetics at North Dakota State University in 2007, MS degree in Genetics at Zhejiang University in 2001, and BS degree in Agronomy at Zhejiang Agricultural University in 1994. I was once a barley breeder in China and have worked on barley breeding for about nine years. I did my post-doctoral training in both soybean and sweet cherry breeding programs at Michigan State University from 2007 to 2010. I am experienced at both traditional plant breeding and molecular marker technology. My major research interest in Tennessee State University is to develop bioenergy crop varieties.

Dr. Jason P. de Koff
Extension Assistant Professor
Bioenergy Crops
Farrell-Westbrook 202K
(615) 963-4929
idekoff@tnstate.edu

I was born in Charlottesville, VA and raised in upstate NY in a small farming town of around 5,000 people. I received my B.S. degree in chemistry in 2000 from Ithaca College in Ithaca, NY. I then moved west and attended graduate school in California where I received my M.S. in soil and water sciences in 2004 from UC Riverside. I ventured back east to get my doctorate in agronomy from Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN in 2008. My dissertation focused on the reuse of waste materials (foundry sands, composts) as soil amendments. For the next two years I worked as a post-doctoral research associate for the USDA-ARS in Fayetteville, AR. My research was focused on the use of organic fertilizers for forage production and their environmental effects on soil and water quality. As a new faculty member at TSU, my extension and research interests are focused on the development of sustainable bioenergy crop production systems.

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Dr. John Ricketts

Extension Associate Professor

Agricultural and Extension Education Lawson Hall 205B (615) 963-7620 jricket1@tnstate.edu

I came to TSU from the University of Georgia where I coordinated the Agricultural Education program for seven years. My primary area of scholarship is student achievement. Specifically, my research centers around the achievement variables of critical thinking, leadership development, and academic success. I earned a PhD with majors in Agricultural Education/Leadership from the University of Florida. My Animal Science (B.S.) and Vocational-Technical Education (MVTE) degrees from MTSU prepared me for my first educational positions as a high school agriculture instructor/football coach at Lebanon and Gallatin High Schools here in the Middle Tennessee area. My new position at TSU has returned me and my family [Jennifer (wife), Jamey (5), and Jackson (2)] to our beef cattle farm in Mt. Juliet, TN.

Dr. Junming Wang Research Assistant Professor

Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis Farrell-Westbrook 202 G (615) 963-1386 jwang2@tnstate.edu

I am a new Research Assistant Professor in Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis in the Department of Agricultural Sciences, Tennessee State University. I graduated from the University of Connecticut where I earned my PhD (Natural Resources Management and Engineering: Micrometerology) and MS (Computer Sciences) degrees. Prior to joining TSU, I worked for New Mexico State University as a post-doctoral associate and then as an Assistant Professor. My research areas include Remote Sensing, Agricultural Meteorology, Plant Growth, Irrigation and Fertilization, Gene Flow, and Air Quality.

Dr. Olive Li

Research Assistant Professor

Food Process Engineering Farrell Westbrook 202 H (615) 963-5616 oli@tnstate.edu

My passion for food science & technology started with my B. Eng. degree obtained in China in 1990. With another Master's degree in Biochemical Engineering, I immigrated to Canada in 2001. I then studied and obtained my M.A.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Food Engineering at University of Toronto. With 20 years experience in teaching and research I have acquired expertise in food chemistry, biochemistry, nutrition, food processing, and biochemical engineering. This multidisciplinary background allows me to interact with professionals in a broad variety of related fields, including agricultural science, human nutrition, pharmacology, and as an integral part of engineering – economics.

Dr. Solomon Haile Extension Assistant Professor

Agroforestry/ GIS / Carbon sequestration Farrell-Westbrook 214C (615) 963-5445 shaile@tnstate.edu

I am originally from Eritrea. My role in SACS is as an Extension Assistant Professor in Forestry and Agroforestry, holding BSc from Alemaya University, Ethiopia; an MSc from Wagningen University, The Netherland and a PhD from University of Florida. My extension and applied research focus includes environmental services of trees inside and outside forest lands, carbon sequestration, bioenergy and application of Geospatial information. I completed my post doctoral research at the Soil and Water Science, University of Florida where I studied biogeochemical interface between plant communities, with emphasis on environmental services of trees. My PhD study was on soil carbon sequestration in tree-based pasture agroforestry systems in Florida. Prior to my PhD study, I was a teaching faculty in the Department of Plant Science, University of Asmara, Eritrea for five years. My research works have been published in some of the world's leading peer-reviewed research journals, including Global Change in Biology, Journal of Environmental Quality, and Scientia Agricola.

Dr. Hongwei Si **Research Assistant Professor**

Family and Consumer Sciences Farrell-Westbrook 204I (615) 963-5443 hsi@tnstate.edu

I earned my PhD degree in Human Nutrition, Foods and Exercise from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) in 2007, and I then pursued my postdoctoral training at the same university before joining TSU. Both of my PhD and postdoctoral research focused on the mechanisms of food-derived compounds in cardiovascular health. I also have a MS degree and a BS degree majoring in Microbiology & Immunology and Veterinary Medicine respectively. As a new faculty at TSU, my major research is to investigate how functional foods and food-derived components on human cardiovascular disease, obesity and diabetes prevention.

Dr. Olasunmbo Ajavi **Post-doctoral Research Associate**

Family and Consumer Sciences Lawson Hall 14 (615) 963-2566

oajayi@tnstate.edu

I am a post-doctoral research associate in the School of Agriculture and Consumer Science. I am a recent graduate from Alabama A & M University, where I received both MS (2007) and PhD (2010) degrees in Food Science with emphasis on food microbiology and food safety. My dissertation focused on the epidemiology of foodborne pathogens and surveillance. My BS degree is in Biology from University of Missouri. As a new addition to the Food and Nutrition Science program, my goal is to contribute to the growth of the program as it strives to educate the consumers on food safety.

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Employee Anniversaries

Congratulations to the employees from the School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences who were recognized at the 18th Annual Awards Celebration Luncheon held this spring. They were:

35 Years 10 years

Allie Gooch Anonya Akuley Amenyenu

William Hayslett Ahmad Aziz

Dixie Crawford
Sherry Crudup
Sarabjit Bhatti
Jayne Howse
Barbara Watkins
Eddie Williams
Rabie Neal

25 Years 5 Years

Carter Catlin Nakesha Brown

Cortney Holloway

20 YearsDave NealRoy AverySamuel Ochieng

15 Years Retirees

Finis Stribling Emmanuel Nnodu
Carol Wade

Faculty Updates

Dr. Fisseha Tegegne has been named a member of the Advisory Committee for a newly established National Center for Targeted Studies in the South, housed at the Southern Rural Development Center.

Dr. Fisseha Tegegne received the Distinguished Professional Contribution Award from the Southern Agricultural Economics Association.

Dr. Fur Chi Chen was appointed by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection for 2010-2012.

Dr. Nick Gawel was named Committee Chair of the Year by the Tennessee Nursery and Landscape Association for his work in assisting the Association organize and host the Annual Tennessee Green Industry Field Day.

Alumni Update

Vanessa Joda, a Child Development graduate has been hired as the Lead Teacher for Early Head Start

Antoinette Walker, a Cum Laude Child Development graduate has been hired as a Family Service Specialist for Early Head Start

Cedria Hawke a 2008 graduate reports that she received a Masters degree in Child Development and Family Studies on June 11 from Ohio University.

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New Grants

Faculty in the School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences have been the recipients of a number of new grants to support the research, education and extension activities of the School.

Alternatives to Conventional Pesticide in Disease and Pest Management in Nursery Production System. Mmbaga, M. T.; Oliver, J. B. \$199,997

Development of Biological based IPM for Powdery Mildew in Flowering Dogwood. Mmbaga, M. T.; Ochieng, S.; Sauve, R. J. \$299,981

Bringing Sustainable Environmental Consumer Practices to the Community and the Classroom. Ballard de Ruiz, A. S.; Machara, M. E. \$149,774

Proteomic Analysis of Campylobacter Surface Antigens for Developing an Innovative Fingerprinting Scheme. Chen, F.; Zhou, S.; Nahashon, S. \$299,998

Building Capacity in Graduate Agricultural and Extension Education: Curriculum and Instructional Delivery. Singh, S. P.; Comer, S.; Pitchay, D.; Hinsey, J.; Ekanem, E. \$149,301

Characterization of Novel Hydrolytic Enzymes for Improving Conversion Efficiency of Lignocellulosic Biomas. Zhou, S.; Sauve, R. J.; Vercruysse, K.; Johnson, T.; Lee, C. \$299,999

A Molecular Model for Tolerance to Toxic Metal Ions in Plants. Sauve, R. J.; Zhou, S.; Stewart, J.; Thannhauser, T.; Mueller, L. \$299,992

Developing and Evaluating Sustainable Production of Eastern Gamagrass as Complementary Bioenergy. Dzantor, E. K.; Tyler, D. D.; Tegegne, F.; Hui, D.; Clardy, A. \$423,287

Building Capacity of Youth - Active and Media Savvy. Oates, V. J.; Ekanem, E.; Fleming, R. \$563,992

Water Smart: Watershed Academy for County Agents in Tennessee. Dennis, S. O.; Byl, T. \$188,000

Characterization of Root Proteomes for Drought and Salt Tolerance in Wild Tomato Species. Zhou, S. P.; Sauve, R. J.; Thannhauser, T. \$ 124,552

Development of New Methods and Treatments to Certify Field-Grown Nursery Plants Against Imported Fire Ants. Oliver, J.B.; Ochieng, S. \$29,972

Identification of Factors Predisposing Woody Ornamentals to Ambrosia Beetle Attack. Oliver, J.B.; Ochieng, S.; Ranger, C.M. \$40,000

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New Extension Publications

Oliver, J.B., S. Ochieng, M. Halcomb, and N. Youssef. 2010. Imported fire ant control in production nurseries with baits. Tennessee State University School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences Department of Agricultural Sciences and The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture Extension.

Publication No. TSU-10-0034(A)-3-61065.

Vail, K., and J. Oliver. 2010. Managing fire ants in and around Tennessee's schools. University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture Extension and Tennessee State University School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences Department of Agricultural Sciences. PB1788.

Refereed Publications

Amenyenu, A., F. Tegegne, S.P. Singh, and E. Ekanem. "Knowledge of the 2005 Dietary Guidelines and Food Consumption Habit of African Americans in Tennessee," *Journal of Food Distribution Research*, Volume XLI, Number 1, March 2010.

Aziz, A. Naseer 2010. Isolation and DNA-Marker Based Fingerprinting of Individual Pollen Grains. Methods in Molecular Biology series volume on Genotyping Protocols (editor: Tracey A. Bodo Slotta). Springer, New York, NY. (Accepted).

Browning, R., Jr. and M. L. Leite-Browning. 2009. Reproductive, growth, and fitness traits among Boer, Kiko, and Spanish meat goats semi-intensively managed in the southeastern United States. Tropical and Subtropical Agroecosystems. 11:109-113.

Mmbaga, Margaret T., Li, Yonghao; and Sauve R, 2010. First Report of Myrothecium roridum in hydrangea macrophylla in the USA. Plant Disease Journal. 94: Accepted.

Nahashon, S. N., S. E. Aggrey, N. A. Adefope, A. Amenyenu and D. Wright. 2010. Gomperts-Laird model prediction of optimum utilization of crude protein and metabolizable energy by French guinea fowl broilers. Poultry Science 89:52-57.

Oliver, J.B., D.C. Fare, N.N. Youssef, S.S. Scholl, M.E. Reding, C.M. Ranger, J.J. Moyseenko, and M.A. Halcomb. 2010. Evaluation of a single application of neonicotinoid and multi-application contact insecticides for flatheaded borer management in field grown red maple cultivars. J. Environ. Hort. In Press

Reding, M., J. Oliver, P. Schultz, and C. Ranger. 2010. Monitoring ambrosia beetles in ornamental nurseries in Ohio, Tennessee, and Virginia: Influence of trap height. J. Environ. Hort. 28: 85-90.

Presentations

Appleton, N. S. Factors associated with multifunctional land stewardship among Tennessee's minorities and limited resource landowners Tennessee State University Wide Research Symposium March 19, 2010.

Amenyenu A., S. P. Singh, F. Tegegne and E. Ekanem. "Increasing Diversity of U.S. Black and Minority Farm Operations in the South." University Wide Research Symposium, March 15-19, 2010.

Aziz, A. N. S. Kebe, C. K Dumenyo and M. Jabar-Muhammad. In Vitro and In Vivo responses of Atlantic and Norchip Potatoes to Simultaneous Exposure to Various Heat Stress Regimes and *Erwinia carotovora* Mutants. American Journal of Potato Research. 87(1): 112, 2010. (Abstract).

Boatswain, T. and S. Nahashon. 2010. Influence of diet induced obesity on avian cardiomyopathy. Tennessee State University 32nd Annual University-Wide Research Symposium Abstracts.

Branham, K. and S. Nahashon. 2010. Evaluation of progression and amelioration of furazolidone induced cardio-myopathy in chickens. Tennessee State University 32nd Annual University-Wide Research Symposium Abstracts.

Brown, B. and S. Nahashon. 2010. Altered cardiac function in furazolidone-induced cardiomyopathy in chickens. Tennessee State University 32nd Annual University-Wide Research Symposium Abstracts.

Browning, R., Jr. 2010. *Invited talk*. What different types/breeds of goats have to offer your enterprise. Profitable Meat Goat Conference. March 26-27, Indianapolis, IN.

Browning, R. Jr. and M. L. Leite-Browning. 2010. Sire and dam breed effects on postweaning growth of pasture-raised meat goat kids. J. Anim. Sci. 88(E Suppl):#106. Southern Section Meeting, American Society of Animal Science. Feb. 6-9, Orlando, FL.

Coppings, R. and S. Godwin. 2010. Service Learning in Microbiology! Food Safety Evaluation and Education of Independently Living Elderly Persons in West Tennessee. Food Safety Educators Conference, March 24-26.

Cates, S. and S. Godwin. 2010. Characteristics of Older Adults With Risky Food Safety Behaviors. Food Safety Educators Conference, March 26.

Darris, C., S. Nahashon and F. Chen. 2010. Utilizing recombinant IgY in the development of a surface Plasmon resonance biosensor for salmonella typhimurium. Tennessee State University 32nd Annual University-Wide Research Symposium Abstracts.

Dennis S. O, A. Clardy, T Tsegaye and D. Eskandarnia. 2010. Temporal distribution of nutrients in creeks of the Collins River sub-watershed dominated by nursery crop production. American Soiety of Agronomy Southern Branch. Orlando FL. February 2010. (Poster).

Dumenyo K.C, C Kersey, S.O. Dennis and D. Eskandarnia 2010. Survey for bacterial pathogens in creeks at the Collins River subwatershed. *In Press* Southern Nursery Association Research Conference. Proceedings. Vol 55: 0000

Duseja, D., and S. Dennis. 2010. Long-term effects of two tillage systems on soybean (Glycine max (L.) Merrill) (var. Forrest) production, soil properties and plant nutrient uptake. Full Paper accepted for publication: World Congress of Soil Science. Pp

Ekanem, E., M. Mafuyai-Ekanem, F. Tegegne and S.P. Singh. Internet Marketing Opportunities and Problems for Tennessee Nursery Product Growers," *Southern Nursery association Research conference Proceeding*, Volume 55, 2010.

Gibson Christy and A. Naseer Aziz. 2010. Effects of Temperature Stress on *Solanum* Host for the Spread of Soft-Rot Infection. Southern Nursery Association Research Conference Proceedings. (In press).

Godwin, S. L.; Harrison, R., Speller-Henderson, L., Cates, S. C.; Kosa, K., Pearson, L., Stone, R., and Draughon, F. A. 2010. Development and Evaluation of a Multi-faceted Food Safety Education Program for Older Adults. Food Safety Educators Conference, March 26.

Godwin, S., L. Speller Henderson, R. Coppings, S. Cates and K. Kosa. 2010. Consumer Readiness for Keeping Food Safe during and after an Emergency. Food Safety Educators Conference, March 24-26.

Glover, L. and S. Nahashon. 2010. Evaluation of optimum calcium and phosphorus requirement of the Pearl Grey guinea fowl. Tennessee State University 32nd Annual University-Wide Research Symposium Abstracts.

Hansen, J., W. Klingeman, J. Oliver, K. Moulton, N. Youssef, and J. Basham. 2010. Seasonal flight activities of economically and aesthetically important buprestid beetle species in Tennessee. In W. Klingeman (ed.), Proc. 55th Annual Southern Nursery Assoc. Research Conf. 21-22 Jan. 2010. Mobile, AL. (Proceeding and Poster Presentation)

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Kelley, G, and S. Nahashon., F. Chen and X. Wang. 2010. A genomic and proteomic approach for identifying genes associated with fat accretion in poultry. Tennessee State University 32nd Annual University-Wide Research Symposium Abstracts.

Kosa, K., S. Cates, S. Godwin, and L. Speller-Henderson. 2010. Are Consumers Prepared to Ensure Food Safety During Power Outages? Results of a National Survey. Food Safety Educators Conference, March 25.

Lewis, S, S. Garcia, D. Pitchay, and D. Duseja. 2010. Impact of nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations on container grown crape myrtle. Poster Paper, presented: AG WEEK; School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences, Tennessee State University, April.

Morris S, C Ransom, N Williams, and S. O. Dennis. 2010. Assessment of water quality in two creeks of the Collins River sub-watershed dominated by nursery crop production. MANRRS Conference. Orlando FL. March 2010. (Poster).

Mmbaga M. T., Y. L, R Trigiano, RJ. Sauve, M.T. Windham. 2010 Phoma Leaf spot In Big Leaf Hydrangea. Southern Nursery Association Res. Conf. Proceed. 55: (In press)

Mmbaga M. T. 2010. *Myrothecium Roridum* In Garden Hydrangea. Southern Nursery Association Res. Conf. Proceed. 55: (In press)

Mmbaga. Margaret and Roger Sauve 2010. Leaf spot Disease on Ornamental Flowering Cherry Southern Nursery Association Res. Conf Proceed. 55: (In press)

Mmbaga M. T. 2010. Myrothecium roridum as a new disease In Garden Hydrangea. Tennessee State University, Nashville TN. April, 2010

Mmbaga Margaret and Roger Sauve 2010. Leaf spot Disease on Ornamental Flowering Cherry Tennessee State University, Nashville TN. April, 2010

Mmbaga M. T., Y. Li, and .S. M. Reed 2010. Identification of Phoma Leaf spot In Big Leaf Hydrangea Tennessee State University, Nashville TN. April, 2010

Nahashon, S. N., N. Adefope, D. Wright and A. Amenyenu. 2010. Growth performance of pearl grey guinea fowl subjected to varying floor densities from hatch to eight weeks of age. International Poultry Scientific Forum Abstracts PP49.

Nahashon, S. N., N. Adefope and D. Wright. 2010. Evaluation of optimum floor space requirement of the Pearl Grey guinea fowl. Tennessee State University 32nd Annual University-Wide Research Symposium Abstracts.

Ochieng, S.A., F.A. Mrema, and J. Tyus. (2010). Co-existence of red and hybrid fire ants in Middle Tennessee. Annual Imported Fire Ant and Invasive Ant Conference, Little Rock, AR. April 19-22, 2010.

Oliver, J.B., D. Fare, C.M. Ranger, S. Ochieng, N. Youssef, S. Scholl, M.E. Reding, J. Moyseenko, M. Halcomb, P. Schultz, L. Castrillo, and J. Vandenberg. 2010. Update on research to manage imported fire ants, Japanese beetle, and other nursery-impacting pests. Tennessee Nursery & Landscape Association Winter Educational Workshop, 1-2 Feb. 2010. Pigeon Forge, TN. (Invited Oral Presentation)

Oliver, J.B., D.C. Fare, N.N. Youssef, S.S. Scholl, M.E. Reding, C.M. Ranger, J.J. Moyseenko, and M.A. Halcomb. 2010. Evaluation of insecticides for flatheaded borer management in field grown red maples. In W. Klingeman (ed.), Proc. 55th Annual Southern Nursery Assoc. Research Conf. 21-22 Jan. 2010. Mobile, AL. (Proceeding and Oral Presentation)

Singh, S. P., F. Tegegne, E. Ekanem, and A. Amenyenu. "Use of Computers and Information Source Preference for Selected Landscaping Businesses in Metropolitan Nashville, Tennessee, *Southern Nursery Association Research Conference Proceeding*, Volume 55, 2010.

Tegegne F., S. Nahashon, A. Aziz and K. Dumenyo. "Perceptions and Knowledge about Biotechnology by farmers, Consumers and Extension Agents in Ghana" University Wide Research Symposium, March 15-19, 2010.

Tegegne F., R. Bullock, D. Duseja, S. P. Singh, E. Ekanem, E. Williams, C. Robbins and A. Amenyenu. "The Pigeonpea Project: Preliminary Findings and Planned Activities" SACS Seminar, April 14, 2010.

Tegegne F., R. Bullock, S. P. Singh, D. Duseja, E. Ekanem, E. Williams. "Benefits of Adopting Pigeonpea as a Niche Crop by Farmers," Presentation made at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Rural Sociological Association. Orlando, Florida. February 7-9, 2010.

Young, J. and S. Nahashon. 2010. Developing a rapid technique for sex differentiation of the guinea fowl at early age. Tennessee State University 32nd Annual University-Wide Research Symposium Abstracts

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Tennessee State University
School of Agriculture and
Consumer Sciences

3500 John A. Merritt Blvd.
Nashville, Tennessee 37209
(615) 963-7561
http://agfacs.tnstate.edu/
Dr. Chandra Reddy, Dean

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Editors: Dr. Nick Gawel Richard W. Stone

Thanks to all contributors.

Tennessee State University
School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences

3500 John A. Merritt Blvd. Nashville, Tennessee 37209



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