



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Broadcasters Letter

Office of Communications

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Friday, July 6, 2012
Creative Media & Broadcast Center
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BROADCASTERS LETTER

#3673.2012

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(July 6)

MIDWEST FARMERS MAY GET TEMPORARY RELIEF FROM THE HIGH HEAT

Midwest farmers may get a temporary reprieve from high heat by the weekend.

Radio Story: [Midwest Farmers May Get Temporary Relief From High Heat](#)

EARLIER CALF WEANING MAY LESSEN DROUGHT IMPACTS

Some cattle producers are moving weaning of calves to an earlier period, in part because of concerns over drought and available forage. Chris Reinhardt of Kansas State University Extension explains how cattle producers, cows, and calves, can benefit from the practice of earlier calf weaning.

Radio Story: [Earlier Calf Weaning May Lessen Drought Impacts](#)
[ACTUALITY: On Benefits Of Earlier Calf Weaning](#)

HONEYBEE HEALTH AN IMPORTANT SUBJECT OF AGRICULTURE RESEARCH

Researchers are looking into the many factors linked to the health of honeybees and pollinators. Agricultural Research Service entomologist, Bart Smith, explains some of the honeybee health research taking place in USDA facilities across the country.

Radio Story: [Honeybee Health An Important Subject Of Ag Research](#)
[ACTUALITY: Some Examples Of USDA Research On Honeybee Health](#)

(July 5)

**HEAT MAY THREATEN
NEW
CROP AREAS NEXT
WEEK**

Searing heat will continue to bake the same areas that have been sizzling for several days and the heat may be expanding northward.

Radio Story: [Heat May Threaten New Crop Areas Next Week](#)

**LIVESTOCK
PRODUCERS COULD
BE
HIT HARD AS
PASTURES DRY UP**

It's not only corn and soybeans that are being hurt by this summer's heat and drought. Brad Rippey, USDA meteorologist, says farmers and ranchers in some areas are seeing a repeat performance of heat and drought. This brings the tally to two bad years in a row.

Radio Story: [Livestock Producers Could Be Hit Hard As Pastures Dry Up](#)
[ACTUALITY: Some Areas Hit By Drought Two Years In A Row](#)

**MAPLE SYRUP
PRODUCERS,
NOT SUCH A GREAT
SEASON FOR MANY**

Is climate change the reason for a poor maple syrup production in many areas this past season? One expert at the Smithsonian's Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C. says it's certainly possible.

Radio Story: [Not A Great Season For Many Maple Syrup Producers](#)

(July 4)

**FOURTH OF JULY
INDEPENDENCE HOLIDAY**



(July 3)

**WESTERN WILDFIRES
TO REMAIN A
THREAT
THROUGHOUT THE
SUMMER**

While some progress is being made, the wildfire threat continues to grow this summer throughout the West.

Radio Story: [Continuing The Battle Against Western Wildfires](#)

**CURRENT FIRE
AREAS DUE FOR
WEATHER RELIEF,
WHILE FIRES MAY
MOVE WEST**

Weather relief could come to current fire areas, helping to control those fires, but that may not be the end of the fire problem.

Radio Story: [Current Fire Areas Due For Weather Relief. Fires Could Move West](#)

nuisance nationwide. As the stink bug problem spreads across the nation, members of Congress are paying attention. Tracy Leskey, USDA research entomologist, says that it will take more than one approach, more than one tactic, to get the stink bug populations under control.

Radio Story: [The Stink Bug Invasion Takes The Nation By Storm](#)
[The Chinese Stink Bug Has Been Gettin' Around](#)
[ACTUALITY: Controlling Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Populations](#)

**IT'S THE INVASION OF
THE STINKERS**

The unpleasant stink bug, which came to this country from China, is becoming a

(July 2)

**NEW INVESTMENTS TO ADVANCE BIOFUELS INDUSTRY
AND ENHANCE AMERICA'S ENERGY SECURITY**

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Energy Steven Chu and U.S. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced new funding available to pursue new innovations in biofuels technologies, increase production of U.S. biofuels, strengthen the Nation's energy security and rural America. The \$30 million in federal funding will be matched by private investments in commercial-scale advanced drop-in biofuels.

Advancing commercial-scale drop-in biofuel substitutes for diesel and jet fuel is a major part of the [Blueprint for a Secure Energy Future](#). The Obama Administration said competitively-priced drop-in biofuels will help improve America's energy security, meeting the fuel needs of U.S. armed forces, as well as the commercial aviation and shipping sectors. The Funding Opportunity Announcement ([FOA](#)) is made possible through the Defense Production Act (DPA). The funding opportunity enhances national security by supporting the creation and commercial viability of a defense-critical domestic biofuels industry to advance alternatives to petroleum. DPA is an authority that dates back to 1950 and has been used to boost industries such as steel, aluminum, titanium, semiconductors, beryllium, and radiation-hardened electronics.

"DPA is a critical component of strengthening our national security, and energy is a national security issue," said Mabus. "Our reliance on foreign oil is a significant military vulnerability and it would be irresponsible not to address it. Pursuing a viable, domestic alternative is the best way to preserve the budget for operational necessities like training and shipbuilding, and this

funding opportunity is an important step in accelerating an economically self-sufficient alternative fuels market."

The FOA comprises a two-phased approach, with government and industry sharing in the cost. In Phase 1, applicants will submit a design package and comprehensive business plan for a commercial-scale biorefinery, identify and secure project sites and take additional required steps spelled out in the announcement. Awardees selected to continue into Phase 2 will submit additional information for the construction or retrofit of a biorefinery.

Agencies participating in this initiative will make additional funding requests to Congress to support the initiative, including President Obama's FY 2013 budget request of \$110 million. "This is an important time for the biofuels industry to step up and show the Department of the Navy how they have developed biofuels that are certified and certifiable for military use," said Vilsack. "The ability for U.S. industry to make, create and innovate has never been more important to our national and energy security. I know that through this DPA effort the nation will be able to harvest an aviation biofuels industry to satisfy the world's needs, not just our U.S. military."

The Energy Department also announced a total of \$32 million in new investments for earlier stage research that will continue to drive technological breakthroughs and additional cost reductions in the industry. Twelve million dollars will support up to eight projects focused on researching ways to develop biobased transportation fuels and products using synthetic biological processing. Synthetic biological processing offers an innovative technique to enable efficient, cost-saving conversion of non-food biomass to biofuels. These projects will develop novel biological systems that can enhance the breakdown of raw biomass feedstocks and assist in converting feedstocks into transportation fuels.

"Advanced biofuels are an important part of President Obama's all-of-the-above strategy to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil and support American industries and American jobs," said Secretary Chu. "By pursuing new processes and technologies for producing next-generation biofuels, we are working to accelerate innovation in a critical and growing sector that will help to improve U.S. energy security and protect our air and water."

The projects will be led by small businesses, universities, national laboratories and industry and will seek to overcome various technical and scientific barriers to cost-competitive advanced biofuels and bioproducts.

Contact: USDA Office of Communications (202) 720-4623

Story Info: [USDA Newsroom](#)

Radio Story: [New Investments To Advance The Nation's Biofuels Industry](#)
[Developing Price Competitive Biofuels For Military Use](#)

[Keeping The Costs Down On Renewable And Biodiesel Fuels](#)

[ACTUALITY: What Energy Department Money Provides For Renewable Energy](#)

For more agriculture news visit www.USDA.gov



[The Latest USDA Blog Posts](#)

- “Ask Karen” Tweets to Reduce Foodborne Illness at Fourth of July Barbecues (**FSIS**)
- Ask Karen Ranks As Top Ten Best Federal Mobile Apps (**FSIS**)
- How to Protect Your Family from a Surprising July 4th Danger (**FSIS**)
- FAS Names Western U.S. Companies Mexico Exporters of the Year (**FAS**)
- Bringing a Glimpse of Argentina to the States (**AMS**)
- What Anglers Can Do To Fight Invasive Species (**APHIS**)
- Top Reasons to Shop at a Farmers Market (**NAL**)



Learn more about President Lincoln's agricultural legacy [here](#).

[USDA Celebrates 150 Years](#)

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

(Feature Line-Up Subject To Change Prior to Update On July 10, 2012)

AGRICULTURE USA CD # 28.12 – Many believe fostering the ability of women farmers in developing nations to produce more food will create greater food, social, and political security around the world. In part two of a two part series, Rod Bain looks at some of the tools in use to create a greater level of equality and sustainability for these ag producers in this edition of "Agriculture USA".

CONSUMER TIME CD # 28.12 – Award Winning School-Based Health And Fitness Program, Bat Myth Busters, The Proper Place For Squirrels Is Outside Your Home, Mosquito Control Fads And Follies, Houseplant Survival During Your Vacation.

AG UPDATE CD # 28.12 – The Joys And Challenges Of Starting A Farm, Early Calf Weaning – Benefits And Challenges, Studying Honeybee Health Is Important, FSA County Committee Nomination Process Underway, 4-H Plays A Part In Assuring Global Food Security.

UPCOMING ON THE USDA RADIO NEWSLINE – July 10 – Crop Weather Report (WAOB). July 11 – Crop Production Report (NASS) and World Agricultural Supply And Demand Estimates (ERS-WAOB). July 12 – Oilseed, Rice, and Cotton Outlooks (ERS-WAOB); Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Outlooks (ERS-WAOB). July 13 – Feed Grain and Wheat Outlooks (ERS-WAOB). July 16 – Crop Progress Report (NASS). **These are USDA reports we know about in advance. The USDA Radio Newsline carries many stories every day that are not listed in this lineup.**

USDA Radio Newsline, 202-720-6776, 5:00pm ET

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[USDA Radio and TV Programming](#)

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

Keeping Bees Buzzing And Busy

USDA researchers are working to help people learn about bees while trying to figure out why some bee colonies are disappearing

FTP Download instructions:

The host: <ftp://ocbmtcmedia.download.akamai.com>

User name: usdanews

Password: Newscontent1

Filename for **TV Feature**: bee research

The new file is in QuickTime Movie (H.264), MPEG 4, MPEG2 and HDV

YouTube: [bee research](#)

Video Podcast: [bee research iTunes](#)

RSS Page: [bee research RSS](#)

Please email Bob.Ellison@OC.USDA.gov if you have problems or suggestions

Also, use this free ftp client if you have problems

<http://filezilla-project.org/download.php?type+client>

Broadcasters if you have any humanitarian or community service events you'd like to share please forward to susan.carter@oc.usda.gov.

We love to hear about what you're doing and share it with others in the farm broadcaster family.

From all of us to all of you ... thank you for what you do

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