

ACTION IN AGROFORESTRY

monthly newsletter of the University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry

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Michael Gold and Michelle Hall, editors

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UMCA Awarded Grant to Develop Elderberry Marketing Strategies

The University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry has been awarded a grant from the North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education, "Developing Successful Marketing Strategies for Elderberry Growers and Value-Added Processors: A Model for Specialty Crop Development in the U.S. Midwest."



The grant will use an integrated approach to contribute to the creation and development of an elderberry regional industry as a model for specialty crop development in the Midwest U.S., said project coordinator and UMCA associate director, Mike Gold.

The project will increase knowledge about the elderberry market in the region. An elderberry financial decision tool will be developed to support producer decision making for on-farm and associated enterprise opportunities. A comprehensive outreach program will disseminate results of this project.

In addition to Gold, key players in the grant include Ina Cernusca, UMCA marketing specialist; Francisco Aguilar, assistant professor of forest economics, MU Forestry

Department; Larry Godsey, UMCA economist; Elizabeth Barham, rural sociologist, University of Arkansas Agricultural Economics Department; John Brewer, president and co-founder of Wyldewood Cellars Winery; Terry Durham, organic farmer, Eridu Farm, Hartsburg, Mo.; Andrew L. Thomas, research assistant professor in horticulture, MU Southwest

Research and Education Center; Patrick L. Byers, MU Extension, horticulture specialist; Julie Rhoads, UMCA event planner; Michelle Hall, UMCA senior information specialist; and Park Bay, agricultural lender and Vice President of Business Development, First National Bank & Trust (now Landmark Bank), Columbia, Mo.

Only 9 percent of the initial pre-proposal submissions were ultimately funded by NCSARE.

"All funding is very competitive these days," Gold said. "We are excited to have received this award are ready to move ahead on our elderberry project."

The award is for \$105,427 and will run 2010-2013.

UMCA HOSTS CONFERENCE FOR FOREST LANDOWNERS

UMCA co-sponsored the 30th annual Missouri Tree Farm Conference April 10 at the Jackson/Cape County Extension Center.

Ninety landowners and natural resources professionals from around the state attended the conference, which featured morning presentations by Tim Lowrimore, Davis Garvin Insurance; Lisa Allen, Missouri Department of Conservation; Terry Cunningham, National Timber Consultants; and Mark Nussbaum, the 2009 Missouri Tree Farmer of the Year.

In the afternoon, the group took a bus tour of the 480-acre Nussbaum Farm located in nearby Bollinger County. The farm has been a certified Tree Farm for 11 years and Mark's primary objectives include timber production, family recreation and creation of wildlife habitat. While at the farm, the tour group watched an acorn and

black walnut direct seeding demonstration, viewed three grade/veneer oak stands that had undergone different timber stand improvement practices, and viewed a tulip poplar and black cherry seedling planting at the farmstead.

HICKMAN HOUSE FEATURED IN MU ALUMNI MAGAZINE

The Hickman House was featured in the 20-page spread, "Our beloved CoMo," alongside other historic local homes in the Spring 2010 issue of MIZZOU magazine.

The article also includes profiles of restaurants, recreation, festivals and more.

MIZZOU is the magazine of the MU Alumni Association. See the article and all the profiles online at <http://mizzoumag.missouri.edu/2010-Spring/features/quintessential/index.php>

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KUDOS

Chung-Ho Lin is a collaborator on the grant "Integrating disciplinary diversity in graduate student education to support forest resource management decisions." The funding is from the USDA National Needs Program and is for \$256,000.

OUTREACH

The **Iowa State University Agroecology Issue Team** provides tours of Bear Creek National Restoration Demonstration Watershed throughout the year. In 2009, the team hosted foresters from India, study abroad students from Korea and China, and an editor from Progressive Farmer Magazine, for example. In addition, the team presented an Intensive Program in Biorenewables short course, hosting 50 graduate students from across the U.S. and world-wide with interests in the bioeconomy.

RESEARCH

A special issue of the journal *Agroforestry Systems* with articles from the 11th North American Agroforestry Conference has been published. UMCA hosted the conference; **Ranjith Udawatta** and **Larry Godsey**, both Center staff, served as editors for the special issue.

Agroforestry Systems. Volume 79(1): 1-122. May 2010.

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Jose, S. (ed.). 2009. *Agroforestry for Commodity Production: Ecological and Social Dimensions*. Springer Science, The Netherlands. 250p.

Agroforestry systems have been touted as sustainable production systems that alleviate many of the environmental problems associated with modern production systems. Are they indeed ecologically and economically sustainable? Using case studies from around the globe, this book highlights the potential of

COMING SOON...

August 17 UMCA Chestnut Workshop Series #3
Orchard Maintenance, Weed Control, Insect Scouting, Pest Management and Disease Control
Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center,
New Franklin
Contact Julie Rhoads, 573-882-3234 or
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agroforestry systems to produce a broad range of commodities. In addition to addressing the biophysical and socioeconomic dimensions of producing traditional food, fodder and fiber crops, this volume examines the potential to integrate biomass crops, botanicals and ornamental plants into agroforestry practices.

IMPACT

Research on herbicide bioremediation performed by **Chung-Ho Lin** and **Bob Lerch** has shown tree/shrub/grass riparian buffers to be one of the most-cost effective approaches to alleviate non-point source pollution from adjacent crop lands. These studies will provide tools for government agencies to optimize cost-effective buffer strip design and improve effectiveness of buffer strips for bioremediation of herbicides.

Many small drinking water treatment plants in the region are not equipped to eliminate herbicides from drinking water, since removal requires expensive chemical adsorption procedures. For larger, well-equipped drinking water treatment plants, the compliance costs can be substantial to meet EPA standards. For instance, St. Louis County estimated the costs of compliance for their five treatment plants by the installation of granular activated carbon, at a capital cost of \$164 million, with operation and maintenance costs of \$7 million per year.



The University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry and MU Forestry Extension co-hosted the Missouri State FFA Forestry Career Development Event April 16 at the Thomas Baskett Wildlife Area. One-hundred thirty-three high school-age contestants from around the state attended the forestry contest, held during the annual State FFA Convention. The contestants were tested in their knowledge of topographic map reading, timber stand improvement, timber cruising, forestry tool identification, tree identification, and general knowledge of forestry and agroforestry practices. The top placing teams were from Columbia, Forsyth and Neosho.



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