The North Central Regional-SARE has allocated about $400,000 for the 2011 Farmer/Rancher Grant Program. There are three types of competitive grants:

- Individual ($7,500 maximum)
- Partner grants for two farmers/ranchers from separate operations working together ($15,000 maximum)
- Group grants for three or more farmers/ranchers from separate operations who are working together ($22,500 maximum).

Projects must be completed in 24 months. These grants provide opportunities for farmers/ranchers to use sustainable agriculture practices and their own innovative ideas to solve problems on the farm or ranch, and to share their ideas. Any farmer/rancher or group of farmers/ranchers who farm or operate a ranch in the North Central Region may apply. (A farmer/rancher is someone who raises crops or livestock, especially as a business.)

Since the start of the Farmer/Rancher Grant Program in 1992, over 800 grants have been awarded to farmers/ranchers studying topics such as alternative grain crops as animal feed, alternative uses for CRP land, biological weed & pest control, energy alternatives & conservation, health and safety of employees, holistic management, labor issues, livestock & crop production systems, marketing, organic farming, quality of life issues, rotational grazing, soil conservation, waste management, water quality, and water conservation.

The farmer/rancher grants are for sustainable agriculture research, demonstration, and education projects; NOT everyday expenses.

- Applicants must identify specific problems and potential solutions.
- Maximum duration for grant projects is 24 months.
- Projects that involve whole farm systems and/or a youth component are encouraged.
- Livestock projects need to comply with reasonable animal care requirements to insure that animals are properly cared for.

Characteristics of Successful Proposals:

- Clearly define a problem that can be addressed and evaluated within the time and financial limits of the project. (Don’t take on too much – these are small grants.)
- Involve cooperators who assist with project planning, evaluation, and outreach. Cooperators may include...
“SARE Grant Program” continued……

Extension educators; staff of non-profit groups, local conservation districts, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); network coordinators; and soil consultants.
• Involve local or state groups which help share project results.
• Emphasize outreach such as field days, publications, videos, websites, and workshops.

A webinar will be offered by the SARE state coordinator on September 12. This will cover an Overview of the Farmer/Rancher Grant. Go to http://univmissouri.adobeconnect.com/r1k1mmdfelf/ using high speed internet access and log on as a guest if you are interested.
Debbie Kelly, Extension Associate, University of Missouri Extension, Columbia, MO.

For a copy of the Open Call for Proposals for the SARE Farmer/Rancher grant go to http://www.northcentralsare.org/content/download/62425/850529/FRG_CFP_2011.doc

Congratulations

The Agriculture Community in Southeast Missouri says congratulations to……

Roger Eakins.

On October 1 Roger will be an official retiree. Over his 34 years of service to extension he has been in southeast Missouri for 27. His work with professionals, farmers and the community has been appreciated. Thank you for your service. Enjoy!!!!!

http://extension.missouri.edu/butler/MoAgNews.aspx
Sensitive Crop Registry through MDA

The Pesticide-Sensitive Crop Registry and Locator is a new, voluntary online service from the Missouri Department of Agriculture that provides a place for producers of pesticide-sensitive crops to list their crop locations. Pesticide applicators can search the registry by county and crop so they can be aware of where crops sensitive to pesticide drift are located.

Examples of some specialty crops that are known to be sensitive to some pesticides are grapes, apples, strawberries, cane fruits, melons, tomatoes, broadleaf vegetables, some nursery crops and certified organic crops. Honeybees are also vulnerable to drift from insecticides so hive locations can be listed.

To be listed on the registry, the crops:

- Must be for commercial use.
- Must meet minimum total acre requirements of: (1/2 acre for fruits and vegetables or 1 acre for vineyards, orchards or certified organic crops)
- Honeybee hives for commercial purposes can be listed. Multiple hive locations can be mapped.

Producers can join this registry by completing the registration form. Multiple locations can be listed for a single producer. If you grow several sensitive crops at the same location you only need to list the primary crop; however, list the total acreage of the combined crops.

Sensitive crop entries will include maps and a location description to make it easier for pesticide applicators to know where the crops are when they use the search feature. If you have problems making your field maps, check the box on the form and someone will contact you.

To keep the registry current, you will be notified annually to confirm registration and provide updates in January. For assistance, contact the Integrated Pest Management Program at (573) 751-5505 or go to the web link to fill out the registry form at http://mda.mo.gov/plants/ipm/sensitivecrops/

Applicators are able to search the database for sensitive crops before they spray by going to http://mda.mo.gov/plants/ipm/sensitivecrops/search.php. Here you can select a map by county and search in your area.

Anastasia Becker, IPM Program Manager, Missouri Department of Agriculture, Jefferson City, MO.
Preparing for Rice Harvest

In preparation to get rice to maturity (22 % moisture) I mentioned last month that some yield loss could result from unsynchronized pollination due to increased nighttime temperatures. Temperatures remained high and it appears that rice that was watered well will yield well. Also, it appears that later planted rice could do well if the temps don’t drop too low for too long in September. A few fields are approaching maturity. Consider ceasing pumping 10 to 14 days after heading if you have an adequate flood to prevent drought stress for proper grain fill. Some lighter soils dry very quickly so don’t stop pumping or drain too soon. Drain dates should be delayed five days for rice heading after September 1. Prepare to get rice on a schedule to maturity and harvest at 22 % moisture.

We had a situation last week that first appeared to be an outbreak of bacterial panicle blight that turned out to be strong wind damage. They look very similar, with rice seed bracts having a reddish maroon color. Bacterial panicle blight results in a dull darker color at the base with noticeable decay. Strong winds caused a clear reddish color with no decay and is darker at the tip. It appears most of the rice seed in the storm areas will fill and wind damage should be light. On the other hand if you have bacterial panicle blight it could result in grain quality and yield loss.

Keep scouting for stink bugs on late maturing rice. Although stink bugs have dropped in most areas we recommend you spray as needed until maturity. Products labeled for control include: Declare, Karate Z, Mustang Max, Methyl Parathion and Sevin XLR or 4E. All of these products provide fairly quick knockdown and should reduce populations below threshold. Controlling stink bugs the first two weeks of heading will maintain yield. Controlling them the second two weeks is to avoid “pecky” rice quality discounts. The threshold drops to one stink bug per sweep or 10 stink bugs per 10 sweeps the third and fourth week of heading. It is my understanding that several of the rice buyers have tightened down on peck, so it is very important to keep rice stink bugs at below threshold levels in the crop to maintain yield and avoid harsh discounts. So scout for developing populations and spray when thresholds are reached until maturity.

Sam Atwell, Agronomy Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, New Madrid, MO.

http://extension.missouri.edu/butler/MoAgNews.aspx
The Missouri Department of Agriculture has issued a new state animal health law affecting breeding bulls. After September 1, 2011 bulls must be tested for trichomoniasis, also called trich, before being sold or leased for breeding purposes. Trich has caused 40 to 70 percent loss of pregnancies in some Missouri cow herds according to Dr. Craig Payne, University of Missouri Extension veterinarian. Payne also said that the disease has been found in more than 30 Missouri counties and incidences will increase because of the testing requirement.

Trich is a protozoan organism that lives in the lining of the penis and sheath of the bull. The bull and the cows will show no signs of infection. Symptoms of an infected herd are increased calving interval or open cows. Exposed cows will typically abort 15-80 days after exposure then return to heat one to three months later. However, some cows may take up to six months to clear the infection. Rarely cows can remain chronically infected, deliver a normal calf and infect a bull the next breeding season. Bulls less than 4 years of age may clear themselves of the infection but bulls older than 4 years tend to be infected for life.

There is no treatment or cure for trich and vaccines have proven to be ineffective. Prevention is the best way to manage the disease, which is why the focus is on bulls. According to the rules non-virgin bulls and all bulls 24 months or older going to livestock auctions must be tested if they are not going to slaughter. Also, non-virgin bulls and all bulls 30 months or older sold off the farm, leased, traded or bartered must be tested within 30 days prior to change of ownership. Any bull testing positive must go to slaughter and the cow herd will be quarantined. Contact your local veterinarian if you need a trich test performed.

Kendra Graham, Livestock Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, Greenville, MO.

More information about the disease can be found at http://extension.missouri.edu/p/G2122.

The link to the official rules from the Missouri Department of Agriculture can be found at http://www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/2csr/2c30-2.pdf
While bacterial fruit blotch (BFB) is usually not an issue for pumpkins, watch for it this year as it has been prevalent in our area. Symptoms of BFB on pumpkins include elongated tan lesions along the vein of the leaf. Lesions on fruit are similar to those on watermelon with water soaked, cracked areas. Copper based products should be used to help reduce the spread of the disease. These products will not help with gummy stem blight.

Sarah Denkler, Horticulture Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, Poplar Bluff, MO.

Harvest is close at hand for pumpkins. Maintain good scouting practices to prevent a pest breakout. Be on the lookout for insects such as rindworms, cucumber beetle and aphids. The insect larva known as rindworms can really cause cosmetic damage to the color and appearance of the pumpkin while cucumber beetle and aphid can spread disease quickly through the field.

Control for pests is shown in the Midwest Vegetable Production Guide of Commercial Growers. The following are listed for aphids and cucumber beetle: Asana, Assail, Baythroid, Brigade, Diazinon, Endosulfan, Pounce, Voliam Xpress and Warrior II.

Also be leery of diseases that have shown up in our area this summer. We have seen gummy stem blight and root rot in the area. Of course downy mildew usually gets to our area now as temperatures drop below 68°F and we have wet, dew covered mornings. Scout in the early morning for angular, yellow lesions on the leaf or fuzzy areas on the underside of the leaf.

Applications for control of downy mildew could be one of the following rotated every 10 to 14 days: Acrobat, Aliette, Cabrio, Bravo, Echo, Flint, Manzate, Dithane, Phostrol, Presidio, Quadris, Ranman, Ridomil Gold or Tanos.

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Copper based products should be used to help reduce the spread of the disease. These products will not help with gummy stem blight.
That headline got your attention didn’t it? The sad part is goats and sheep die every day due to heavy parasite loads. Parasite control for sheep and goats seems to be a never-ending battle. Management is the key to keeping worms at bay. One management practice that helps in identifying worm infestation is a fecal analysis. A fecal analysis basically consists of taking feces, mixing it with a solution and looking for worm eggs under a microscope. It is not as simple as it sounds so the University of Missouri Extension has enlisted the help of Dr. Charlotte Clifford-Rathert, DVM and State Small Ruminant Extension Specialist from Lincoln University, to demonstrate how to do a fecal analysis. Dr. Clifford-Rathert will also conduct a training using the FAMACHA eye chart. The FAMACHA training is a parasite management approach to reduce the use of dewormers to avoid resistance. When parasite resistance occurs, the dewormer will be unable to kill the parasite.

**GOAT PARASITE WORKSHOP TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 27**

5 p.m. at the Greenville High School

Registration for the FAMACHA training is **$15 per farm** including the FAMACHA eye chart and $4 for each additional person.

Please pre-register before September 22, by contacting the Wayne County Extension Center at 573-224-5600 ext. 8.
2011 Missouri Fair Schedule

Reynolds County Fair - September 1 to 3 in Centerville, MO
Ripley County Fair - September 7 to 10 in Doniphan, MO
Southeast Missouri District Fair - September 10 to 17 in Cape Girardeau, MO
Carter County Fall Festival - September 17 in VanBurens, MO
Stoddard County Fair - September 20 to 24 in Dexter, MO
East Perry Community Fair - September 23 to 24 in Altenburg, MO
Wayne County Fair - September 23 to 25 in Silva, MO
Delta Fair - September 27 to October 1 in Kennett, MO
Bollinger County Fall Festival - September 29 to October 1 in Marble Hill, MO
Madison County Fair - October 6-8 in Fredericktown, MO

Equal opportunity is and shall be provided to all participants in Extension programs and activities, and for all employees and applicants for employment on the basis of their demonstrated ability and competence without discrimination on the basis of their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran. This policy shall not be interpreted in such a manner as to violate the legal rights of religious organizations or military organizations associated with the armed forces of the United States of America.