

# Message from the Chair



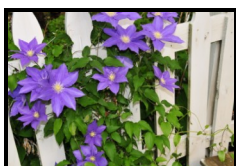
ARD UPDATES

Dear Colleagues:

My message this month is brief. It is simply one of thanks for all who contributed to the invaluable productivity that took place at the Sheraton Four Seasons in Greensboro, North Carolina as about eighty of you convened to develop proposals for a seed grant to be funded by the ARD. Examples of hard work, dedication and networking can be seen in the photos below. There were five consortium planning teams in the areas of small farm systems, STEM/STEAM, obesity prevention, biofuels/bioproducts and food safety. The final proposals are due April 30th. No matter which team is selected to receive the ARD seed money, it was the general consensus after the meeting that the proposals coming forth will be the launching of continued proposal development and enhanced opportunities for spin-off initiatives. The ARD is very optimistic that this consortium planning session will lead to exceptional collaborative initiatives. Great appreciation is extended to the participants who worked extremely hard and will continue to do so and to the NC A&T team for serving as the hosting campus. You made that Aggie Pride infectious.

Sincerely,

Dyremples Marsh, ARD Chair



*The FAMU Center for Water and Air Quality announces A One-Day Workshop on Small/Rural Watersheds in Southeast United States*

**When:** Thursday, April 19, 2012; 8:00 am to 3:30 pm

**Where:** Teleconference Center, FAMU Campus, Tallahassee, FL (Corner of Osceola and Pinder Streets)

**Purpose:** To focus on the issues, problems and management of small/rural watersheds in the Southeast and to explore the effects of land-use changes, climate change and socioeconomic factors on water quality and water quantity on such watersheds.

**Who should attend?** - Small/limited resource farmers, extension workers, scientists, students, environmental concern individuals or groups, state and federal workers involved in water resource issues and other individuals.

**NO REGISTRATION FEE!!! However, space is limited, therefore, please preregister.**

**Accommodations:** Please visit the website at <http://www.watershedinitiative.com>

Contact information: **Dr. Sunil Pancholy, Director—Phone: 850-561-2302 -Email: [s.pancholy@famuc.edu](mailto:s.pancholy@famuc.edu)**

Please visit the ARD website-

[www.umes.edu/ard](http://www.umes.edu/ard)

or contact us using [cbbrooks@umes.edu](mailto:cbbrooks@umes.edu)

# ARD UPDATES



## FY2012 AFRI Stakeholder Listening Session Webinars **Challenge Area**

**Food Safety**, 4/10/2012, 3 – 4:30 p.m., <http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/challeIngeareafoodsafety/>

**Childhood Obesity Prevention**, 4/11/2012, 1 – 2:30 p.m.,  
<https://connect16.uc.att.com/usda/meet/?ExEventID=84896371>

**Sustainable Bio-energy**, 4/18/2012, 12:30 to 2 p.m., <http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/cabioenergy/>

**Climate Variability and Change**, 4/18/2012, 2 to 3:30 p.m., <http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/caclimatechange/>

**Food Security**, 4/25/2012, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., <http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/cafoodsecurity/>

## **Foundational Program Webinars**

**Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health**, 4/10/2012, 1 – 2:30 p.m., <http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/fpfoodsafety/>

**Agriculture Systems and Technology**, 4/17/2012, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.,  
<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/agsystems/>

**Renewable Energy, Natural Resources, and Environment**, 4/18/2012, 3:30 to 5 p.m.,  
<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/caenergy/>

**Animal Health and Production and Animal Products**, 4/25/2012, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.,  
<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/fpanimalhealth/>

**Plant Health and Production and Plant Products**, 4/26/2012, 1:30 – 3:00,  
<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/fpplanthealth/>

## **NIFA Fellows Program**

NIFA Fellows Program, 4/17/2012, 1 – 4 p.m., <http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/nifafellows/>



April Deadline: Projects funded through the Biomass Research and Development Initiative (BRDI) - a joint program through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Energy Department (DOE) - will help develop economically and environmentally sustainable sources of renewable biomass and increase the availability of renewable fuels and biobased products that can help replace the need for gasoline and diesel in vehicles and diversify our energy portfolio.

Funding available: \$35 Million

Applications Due: April 23<sup>rd</sup>

Contact Carmela Bailey at NIFA ([cbailey@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:cbailey@nifa.usda.gov)) for any questions. (Note there are cost sharing requirements)

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/biomassresearchanddevelopmentinitiative.cfm>

REEport will not be deployed this year. However, please participate in the NIFA Reporting Web Conference on 4/12/12 at 2 PM. Topic: Plan of Work Update and REEport Update. This information will also be covered at the Administrative Officers Conference. The first due date for the formula grant projects Annual Progress Report via REEport is March 1, 2013 for the 2012 project year. See [http://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/pp\\_formula\\_projects.html](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/pp_formula_projects.html) for more information.

*Congratulations to Dr. Orlando McMeans who is to be named Vice President for Research and Public Service at West Virginia State University !!!!!!!*

