



INSIDE AGROMEDICINE

Partners for Health & Safety in Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries

ISASH 20/20 Rescheduled Conference Due To COVID-19



The ISASH Board of Directors, in consultation with the 2020 Conference Planning Committee, has determined that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is in the best interest of their members to cancel the in-person ISASH Conference, scheduled for June 22-26, in Asheville, North Carolina.

The fast-moving events of recent days, including notice that some organizations have employee travel bans through June 30, has negatively impacted the ability to plan and promote the conference.

It is disappointing that the group won't be together in Asheville this June. However, the Board and Professional Improvement Committee are exploring alternate ways to deliver oral and poster presentations.

Rural Health Symposium Speakers Discuss Pertinent Topics

The Rural Health Symposium – Eastern AHEC was held on February 28 in Greenville, NC on the AHEC campus. The 8am to 3:15pm conference saw many individuals in attendance to hear speakers on some of today's most pertinent topics in rural health.

The following provides a breakdown of the topics and conference speakers:

- **"NC Medicaid Transformation – What's to Come in 2020 and Beyond"** – Kelsi Knick, and Kenneth Bausell
- **"Poverty Stimulation"** – Julie S. Kulas, Molly Robinson, Kelli S. Russell and Rose Haddock
- **"Bertie County Dental Project"** – Rachel R. Stewart and Jennifer L. Buck
- **"Start to Breathe: Interactive Opioid Overdose Reversal Training"** – Walter C. Robey III, William Meggs, Jennifer Parker-Cote, Bryson Shelton, and David Schiller
- **"SASMHA Grant Project: NC 4-H Opioid Prevention"** – Amy Chilcote, Paul Toriello, Anne Greenaway and Autumn Guin



Darla Tyler McSherry, MS, discussing data on Farmer Suicide rates.

- **"Telepsychiatry and Teletherapy: Bridging the Gap for Rural North Carolina"** – Nick Galvez, Renee Clark, Robyn McArdle, Erika Taylor, Meghan Lacks
- **"Ask in Earnest: Candid and Compassionate Conversations about Suicide for the Farm and Ranch Community"** – Darla Tyler-McSherry
- **"Farm Dinner Theater: Addressing Agricultural Health & Safety"** – Deborah B. Reed
- **"Maternal & Child Health Panel Discussion: National, State and Local Perspectives"** – Michael Warren, James deVente, Belinda Pettiford and Kelly Kimple

Farewell to Dr. Crystal Kyle



Dr. Crystal Kyle

It is with bittersweet emotions that we say farewell to Dr. Crystal Kyle, NC AgrAbility Partnership Director and NC A&T State University Agromedicine Campus Coordinator. Dr. Kyle will begin a new position in June as a Biological Scientist with the United States Department of Agriculture – National Institute for Food and Agriculture. A valued member of the Agromedicine team, Dr. Kyle has worked tirelessly to meet the needs of individuals farming with a disability. She is recognized as a leader across the state and nation for farmer veterans. We honor Dr. Kyle for her military service and commitment to agricultural health and safety.

Farm Theater A Symposium Highlight



Pictured from left to right: Mac Hodges, District Field Representative of the NC Farm Bureau; Tami Thompson, AgriSafe Outreach Specialist at the Institute; LaMar Grafft; Kyle Peaks, Owner of Coastal Carolina Seed, Williamston.

A Farm Theater event was held during the Rural Health Symposium in Greenville, NC. Farm Theater was developed at the University of Kentucky by Dr. Deborah Reed with support from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The goal of the program is to influence farmers to make behavior changes that will improve their health and the health of their families and to prevent injuries to themselves and others. Community members read from a script based on stories woven from real-life experiences to share serious health & safety messages in a relaxed, non-threatening way. Props are minimal so that the audience can focus on what is being said and not on the set. At the conclusion of the script, a facilitated discussion takes place with the audience about what they heard, how it relates to them and resources they can access for more information. The Institute is pleased to be partnering with Dr. Reed and other colleagues across the U.S. to expand Farm Theater. Expansion is made possible with funds from the Alex & Rita Hillman Foundation.

Interested in having a Farm Theater in your area?
Contact the Institute at 252.744.1008 or email
Dr. Robin Tutor Marcom, tutorr@ecu.edu

Congratulations Randall Etheridge!

Recipient of a \$299,454 Grant From The National Science Foundation



The National Science Foundation awarded Randall Etheridge, Faculty Member of ECU's College of Engineering and Technology, with a \$299,454 grant to lead a research and development project aimed at finding solutions to coastal flooding in eastern North Carolina. Other than his time spent in Raleigh obtaining numerous degrees from North Carolina State University, Etheridge has lived in eastern North Carolina for the entirety of his life. His desire to help surrounding communities, matched with his love for the environment and his engineering expertise, has allowed him to become the mastermind behind this project.

Beginning in August, Etheridge will lead ECU students, along with local experts, to cultivate three different practical and cost efficient design models to control coastal flooding. Etheridge and his team hope to find a fix that will allow small coastal areas to designate future funding and apply for specific grants that will help them reach a solution in the near future.

Two New Grants Awarded

Building Team Science to Support Sustainable Animal Agriculture in North Carolina

DPH and NC Agromedicine Institute faculty member Dr. Sinan Sousan was awarded \$55,812 by the UNC System. Dr. Sousan serves as co-investigator on the research project in collaboration with Dr. Guy Iverson (Department of Health Education and Promotion at ECU) as the Principal Investigator. In addition, the research team consists of other faculty from ECU and NCSU. The goals of the project are to initiate and grow an interdisciplinary team of UNC-system scientists and educators and to execute a pilot study that will quantify air and water quality benefits from alternative agricultural practices.

A Low-Cost Mobile Air-Pollution Sensor with Geospatial Mapping: A Tool for Community Engaged, Environmental Health Disparity Research

DPH and NC Agromedicine Institute faculty member Dr. Sinan Sousan was awarded \$25,000 from the Center for Human Health and the Environment (CHHE) to explore the use of low-cost sensors, coupled with interactive web maps, to enhance underrepresented communities' awareness of air pollution. Dr. Sousan serves as co-Principal Investigator on the research project in collaboration with Dr. Yoo Min (Department of Geography, Planning, and Environment at ECU) as the Principal Investigator. The researchers expect that enhanced awareness will positively motivate underrepresented communities to take collaborative action in eliminating polluting sources.

Congratulations to Dr. Kearney 2020 Annual Distinguished Graduate Faculty Mentor Awardee Masters Category



Congratulations to Greg Kearney, PhD, MPH, Faculty Member at the Department of Public Health in the Brody School of Medicine who was selected as this year's winner of the 2020 Annual ECU Distinguished Graduate Faculty Mentor Award.

Dr. Kearney is recognized for his success in mentoring graduate students in their intellectual growth; helping them develop independent research interest; and fostering development of their communication skills, interpersonal skills, research skills, and professional skills.

COVID-19 Resources

Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) continues to be spreading across North Carolina, the United States and the world. The best way to protect yourself, your family, your workers and others from COVID-19 is to know how it spreads. Wash your hands often, practice social distancing, clean/sanitize frequently, avoid touching your face, nose, eyes and mouth, and know how to recognize symptoms and seek medical attention if you think you are getting sick. To learn more about COVID-19 and steps you can take to stay healthy, visit:

- Centers for Disease Control
- The COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide
- NC Department of Health and Human Services
- You can also:
Call **211** or **1.888.892.1162**
Text **COVIDNC** to **898211**

COVID-19: Stop the Spread

If you have:



Take the Following Steps:



IN CRISIS?

CALL THE NATIONAL SUICIDE
PREVENTION HOTLINE AT

1-800-273-TALK

OR

TEXT 741741

The USDA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program: Financial Aid for Agricultural Producers to Neutralize Coronavirus Hardships

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has responded to COVID-19 induced burdens faced by North Carolina agricultural producers by enacting the USDA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). Eligible applicants include farmers and ranchers who are in need of financial assistance after enduring losses related to COVID-19. This program was designed to counteract coronavirus deficits by providing \$16 billion to agricultural producers through need-based direct payments. CFAP applicants must have suffered a price decline of at least five percent, and experienced major losses due to lower product demand, excess product, and changes in product marketing. Farmers must apply before August 28, 2020, to be considered for assistance.

Agricultural producers who are approved will receive 80% of the payment immediately, and the remainder will be provided at a later date as the year advances. An online calculator tool and more information regarding the program can be located on farmers.gov/cfap, to assist farmers with determining their eligibility based on their sales and inventory reports. Consultations with USDA staff members are also available by calling (877) 508-8364 for help. Get in touch with your local FSA office, as they will be collecting all applications and will be available for more information regarding your specific eligibility. If you choose to fill out the application using the online calculator, find out if your local FSA office accepts online applications, or if you need to provide them with a printed copy. Additional finance and property records may be requested to review prior to submitting your application.

The USDA is also requesting help from the public to identify other commodities they believe deserve financial aid consideration – even if they are not currently deemed eligible for CFAP. According to the USDA, these agricultural commodities must be thought by the public to have either:

1. Suffered a 5% or greater price decline between mid-January and mid-April as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic
 2. Shipped but subsequently spoiled due to loss of marketing channel
- Or...
3. Not left the farm or remained unharvested as mature crops.

Visit farmers.gov/cfap or call **(877) 508-8364** for the most recent information regarding the USDA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program. Make certain to call or visit your local FSA office to find out their application preferences.

Donate to the Institute

East Carolina University / ECU

Make check payable to "East Carolina University Medical & Health Sciences Foundation Inc." with memo designation "NC Agromedicine Institute Fund". You can also make a donation in "Memory of or in Honor of Someone Special" either by check or secure online donation. If mailing check, please include a note telling who the donation is made for, "in Memory Of or in Honor Of" and who you would like the acknowledgment card mailed to. Mail to NC Agromedicine Institute, c/o Director, 1157 VOA Site C Road, Greenville, NC 27834.

Make a secure online donation at ncagromedicine.org/donate-support.php

NC State University

Make check payable to NC Agricultural Foundation and include a notation as for either North Carolina State University Agromedicine Endowment (for long-term sustainability of Institute) OR North Carolina State University Agromedicine Enhancement Fund (for current and ongoing activities).

Mail to NC Agricultural Foundation, c/o Chris Wessel, Campus Box 7645, Raleigh, NC 27695-7645.

Make a secure online donation at www.cals.ncsu.edu/givenow

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