Welcome Dr. Zhen Cai, UMCA Economist

Dr. Zhen Cai has joined UMCA as an Assistant Research Professor in the School of Natural Resources with a research focus on agroforestry economics and marketing. She will be responsible for the economic and financial analysis of practices associated with agroforestry and forestry, the examination of consumer preferences to agroforestry products, and the economic valuation of ecosystem services from agroforestry practices. She will also be responsible for teaching UMCA’s online course on agroforestry economics. Dr. Cai earned her Ph.D. in forest economics from University of Missouri in 2012. Her research interests include consumer preferences to wood products, economic analysis of certified wood products price premiums, and non-industrial private forest owners’ land management preferences. Before joining UMCA, she worked as a post-doctoral research fellow in the Department of Forestry at University of Missouri.

GIFTS

The lab of Dr. Chung-Ho Lin has recently received gifts from the following organizations in support of his multi-faceted, interdisciplinary research portfolio: NutrapetSystems LLC; CaribbeanProbiotics LLC; SCD Probiotics; Elemental Enzymes LLC; Proviera Biotech; Tiger Energy; Barnes & Associates Attorney LLC; Bartimus Frickleton Robertson Goza; Kelly Foods Corporation; Proviera Biotech; and AgriGro.

Visting Science Intern

Nahom Taddese Ghile, under the sponsorship of the MasterCard Foundation, is visiting Dr. Chung-Ho Lin’s lab until 12/30/15 for a research internship. Nahom comes from Earth University Costa Rica (originally from Ethiopia). He will be working on a project isolating/characterizing the antioxidant phenolic compounds from spent coffee grounds (waste materials).
EPA Phase I seed project award:
“Water quality monitoring at hydraulic fracturing sites using molecularly imprinted porous hydrogels” (2015-2016, $15,000) PI: Maria M. Fidalgo MU Engineering, Co-PIs: Chung-Ho Lin, UMCA and Susan Nagel, MU School of Medicine.

NIH/NIEHS R21 program grant award:
“Endocrine disrupting activity associated with hydraulic fracturing” (2 years, $420,000). Susan Nagel (PI)- Obstetrics, Gynecology and Women’s Health, School of Medicine; Co-PIs: Donald Tillitt- USGS Columbia Environmental Research Center; Chung-Ho Lin-MU Center for Agroforestry; Jane A. McElroy- MU Family and Community Medicine; Avner Vengosh- Geochemistry and Water Quality, Water and Air Resources program at the Nicholas School of Environment, Duke University; Robin Kruse- MU Family & Community Medicine; Christopher Kassotis- Obstetrics, Gynecology and Women’s Health, School of Medicine.

New Publication:
Christopher D. Kassotis, Donald E. Tillitt, Chung-Ho Lin, Jane A. McElroy, and Susan C. Nagel. 2015. Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals and Oil and Natural Gas Operations: Potential Environmental Contamination and Recommendations to Assess Complex Environmental Mixtures. Environ Health Perspectives. DOI:10.1289/ehp.1409535

Southwest Center Field Day
Attendance was good and questions were many during the Tree Nut Production and Agroforestry Field Day held Sept. 19 at the University of Missouri’s Southwest (SW) Research Center at Mt. Vernon. The event brought together key people from the Missouri Nut Growers Association, the Southwest Missouri Fruit and Nut Growers Association, Hammons Products Co., Missouri State University, University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry, Kansas State University, and of course, numerous tree nut producers – from well-seasoned to beginning and even potential growers. The meeting focused on pecan, black walnut, and chestnut production, but attendees also had the opportunity to taste freshly-harvested pawpaws from research orchards at the SW Center, which inspired lively discussions on their market potential. Hammons Products Co. demonstrated its new prototype black walnut harvester-huller that harvests and hulls black walnuts in a single pass, greatly increasing the potential profitability of black walnut cultivation. Indoor technical sessions on nut production, agroforestry, and economics in the morning were followed (after lunch) by a terrific grower panel describing their successes and travails with nut production, and then tours of the SW Center’s black walnut and pecan research orchards.

Upcoming Events

**Introduction to Silvopasture**
October 8
3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (Registration begins at 2:30 p.m.)
MU Wurdack Research Farm, 164 Bales Rd. Cook Station, MO 65449
For more information – Call: 573-775-2135; Email: harperlin@missouri.edu, or earneyp@missouri.edu

**Mushroom Cultivation: You Can Do It!**
October 10
9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Registration begins at 9 a.m.)
Wurdack Research Farm, 164 Bales Rd. Cook Station, MO 65449
Cost of the workshop is $20, includes lunch and an inoculated log to take home.
For information -- phone: 573-775-2135; Email: harperlin@missouri.edu or earneyp@missouri.edu

**Missouri Walnut Council Fall Meeting**
October 9-10
http://www.walnutcouncil.org/state-chapters/missouri.html
RSVP to mowalnutcouncil@gmail.com or 913-704-5210 by October 1st.

**Missouri Chestnut Roast**
October 17
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center, New Franklin, MO.
Roasted chestnuts, cooking demonstrations, fresh chestnuts and nut trees for sale, farm tours, music, children’s activities, Hickman House tours, many producers and exhibitors.
www.centerforagroforestry.org

**UMCA Agroforestry in Action Webinar Series**
October 21
11 a.m. to 12 p.m. (CDT)
“Silvopasture in the Northeast USA” by Joe Orefice, Assistant Professor at Paul Smith’s College
To register: https://events-na12.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/1329284834/en/events/event/shared/default_template_simple/event_registration.html?soo-id=1407930120&charset_=utf-8
http://www.agroforestryinaction.org/#!live-webinar-schedule/c10d6
Questions--contact Gregory Ormsby Mori: ormsbyg@missouri.edu

**Forrest Keeling’s Annual Chestnut Roast**
October 24
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Forrest Keeling Nursery
http://www.fknursery.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/calendar.main/