

-Special Announcement-

FOOD SAFETY GRANT FUNDING INCREASED TO \$3.5 MILLION

Funding Dedicated to Enhance Food Safety

Davis, Calif., June 11, 2009 –

DAVIS, (DATE) - The Center for Produce Safety at UC Davis (CPS) is increasing the availability of competitive grant funds of up to \$3.5 million to address critical food safety issues. The availability of additional funds combines public and private financial commitments to the competitive grant process.

"Leveraging the potential of federal and private funds is allowing the Center for Produce Safety to aggressively invest in food safety research," said CPS Executive Director Bonnie Fernandez-Fenaroli. "The generous support will be used to accelerate research into our industry's most challenging questions."

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and CPS recently partnered to develop a competitive grant review process focusing on food safety as part of the department's specialty block grant program. This partnership leverages the availability of federal funds with private financial commitments.

CPS, as part of the agreement with the department, has issued a request for food-safety grant proposals, will assemble a technical review committee to reviews proposals and will make recommendations for funding to CDFA. The two organizations will collaborate on the announcement and dissemination of research results.

The increase in competitive grant funding up to \$3.5 million from \$2 million reflects the commitment of public and private sources to enhance food safety. Partners on the competitive grant process include: California Department of Food and Agriculture; University of California Agricultural and Natural Resources (UC-ANR); Almond Board of California; California Melon Research Board/California Cantaloupe Advisory Board; California Pistachio research Board; California Walnut Commission; Florida Tomato Committee; Taylor Farms; and the Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission.

About CPS

The Center for Produce Safety is focused exclusively on providing the produce industry and government with open access to the actionable information required to continually enhance the safety of produce. Established by public and private partnership at University of California, Davis, CPS funds original research; is creating a searchable database of global produce safety research; and will develop industry training and outreach programs. Initial funding for CPS was provided by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the University of California, the Produce Marketing Association and Taylor Farms. www.cps.ucdavis.edu.

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