

## CPS Grants First Research Awards in Record Time

### Important Step Forward in Providing Industry with the "Best Science" to Enhance Food Safety

Davis, CA - November 14, 2008 - The Center for Produce Safety at UC Davis announced today the recipients of the first research awards aimed at providing the produce industry with the best science available to enhance food safety systems from field to fork. Over \$500,000 in research funds were awarded to the following recipients who will engage in critical research projects over the next year.

"A Sensitive and Specific Molecular Testing Method for Live *Salmonella* in Produce", Principal Investigator: Beilei Ge, Louisiana State University.

"Enhancing the effectiveness of human pathogen testing systems for the advancement of practical produce safety research and commercial management" Principal Investigator: Carol D'lima, University of California, Davis.

"Environmental effects on the growth or survival of stress-adapted *Escherichia coli* 015:H7 and *Salmonella* spp. in compost", Principal Investigator: Xiuping Jiang, Clemson University.

"Examination of the survival and internalization of *E. coli* on spinach under field production environments", Principal Investigator: Steven T. Koike, University of California Cooperative Extension.

Dr. Bob Whitaker, Chief Science Officer for the Produce Marketing Association, and Chairman of the CPS Technical Committee that granted the awards noted, "These awards represent a critical first step in achieving CPS's mission of funding new scientific studies to provide the industry with the information it needs to continually enhance food safety measures."

Tim York, Chairman, CPS Advisory Board added, "I am immensely proud of the speed in which the dedicated industry, government, and academic volunteers that make up the Technical Committee were able to develop and award the research funds. We committed to setting a new standard in creating timely research to produce data that could be quickly translated into production practices - and the Technical Committee has helped us deliver on that commitment."

Data from the research is expected by December 31, 2009. The Center for Produce Safety Technical Committee will work with the principal investigators to translate the project findings into useful and useable information for the industry.

All scientists that submitted proposals will receive a summary of comments about their proposal from the CPS Technical Committee. The CPS will issue three requests for additional proposals within the next 30 days, including a joint proposal with the United States-Israel Agricultural Research and Development Fund, and the California Leafy Greens Research Program.

## About Center for Produce Safety

The Center for Produce Safety was established as a private and public partnership at UC Davis to fund new scientific studies aimed at enhancing the safety of fresh fruits and vegetables, create and manage a global clearinghouse of existing produce safety research, as well as develop industry training and outreach programs. The Center came about through a collaborative effort with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the University of California and financial contributions from the Produce Marketing Association and Taylor Farms.

### Center for Produce Safety

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