UT Martin receives $252,000 in grants for agriculture projects

The University of Tennessee at Martin recently was awarded three grants totaling $252,000 from the Southern Region Sustainable Ag Research and Education (SARE) program, the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center (NSIIC) through United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Soybean Checkoff Research Fund. The grants will fund faculty agriculture projects over the next three years. Dr. Richard Joost, associate professor of plant and soil science in the Department of Agriculture and Natural Sciences, will serve as project director. The SARE program will allow evaluation of the current status of the goat industry in the mid-South and develop production systems that will support a continuous supply of uniform goat meat. In the project funded by the Tennessee Soybean Promotion Board Joost will supervise several undergraduate students in the Department of Agriculture and Natural Sciences as they research soybean rust. The study will demonstrate weed population and disease development responses associated with a variety of soybean management practices, to students and area soybean producers. (Excerpts from April 13, 2005, UT Martin University Relations News)

UT Martin receives grants for turkey, goats, and wild turkey projects

Dr. Richard E. Joost and Kyle Rozeboom, Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, have a total match award of $100,500 for the Pasture Systems for Meat Goat and Sheep Production: A Research-Education Model, sponsored by USDA, National Sheep Industry Improvement Center. The objectives of this study are to develop a 36-acre pasture facility with state-of-the-art animal handling equipment to evaluate the adaptation of new forages to Tennessee and the mid-South and their utility in supporting efficient goat production. Dr. Eric Pelren, Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, has been awarded $22,470 for his project Evaluation of Eastern Wild Turkey Nesting Habitat, sponsored by the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge. The goals of this study are to ascertain differences in eastern wild turkey nesting success between the two source populations, and differences in nesting and early brood-rearing habitat in forests managed for increased mid-story and under-story components versus forests not managed for increased structural diversity. The area of study will be Compartment 4 of the Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, Henry County. (Excerpts from February 2, 2004, UT Martin University Relations News)