

help Gulf Coast rice farmers feed the world. Originally a partnership between Acadia Parish, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, it was the first experimental rice research station in the country.

Now operating under the LSU AgCenter, scientists and farmers work in tandem to contribute to improvements in rice growing. A significant part of the center's funding comes from the Louisiana Rice Research Board, which receives a voluntary payment from area rice sales to ensure the station's work continues.

Rice farmers along the Gulf Coast face difficult conditions as weather and disease can devastate even the most promising crop. However, Louisiana's agricultural communities persevere and possess a richness of culture matched by none. The state's rice industry added \$550 million to Louisiana's economy in 2008 alone. Rice farming will continue to be a way of life for thousands in Louisiana thanks to the work done at the Research Station.

Again, congratulations to the LSU AgCenter Rice Research Station at Crowley, Louisiana, for helping rice farmers throughout the Gulf Coast for 100 years and counting."

HONORING MECHANICVILLE HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. SCOTT MURPHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

Mr. MURPHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today to congratulate the Mechanicville High School Softball team who, in addition to winning an impressive five New York State titles in Class C this decade, have recently captured the Class B State Championship.

The Red Raiders faced tough competition, in addition to quite a bit of rain, to pull out a 3–1 victory against Fredonia at Waterloo High School. I would especially like to recognize the impressive performance of sophomore Anna Arcenau, who allowed just one run while winning two games in the final four.

Arcenau's efforts were aided by freshman Alysa Russell and sophomore Kelsey Hines, two of the team's most outstanding hitters. Leading Mechanicville's young team to victory was head Coach Dan Arcenau, who will have the opportunity to repeat this success next year with the same roster of outstanding athletes.

On behalf of the citizens of the 20th District of New York, we congratulate the Mechanicville Red Raiders softball team and their coaches for an outstanding display of teamwork and athleticism.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of

H.R. 2997, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman FRANK D. LUCAS

Bill Number: H.R. 2997

Account: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service, Research and Education

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Oklahoma State University

Address of Requesting Entity: 101 Whitehurst, Stillwater, Oklahoma, USA

Description of Request: I have received \$209,000 for the Pilot Technology Transfer project. This funding will be used to provide technology transfer services and engineering assistance to small, rural manufacturers with the goal of improving their profitability and enhancing the economy in rural communities.

Requesting Member: Congressman FRANK D. LUCAS

Bill Number: H.R. 2997

Account: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service, Research and Education

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Oklahoma State University

Address of Requesting Entity: 101 Whitehurst, Stillwater, Oklahoma, USA

Description of Request: I have received \$274,000 for the Animal Waste Management project. This funding will be used to develop sustainable, environmentally safe, and ecologically healthy animal waste management practices in semiarid ecosystems that contribute to economic development in rural communities.

Requesting Member: Congressman FRANK D. LUCAS

Bill Number: H.R. 2997

Account: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service, Research and Education

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Oklahoma State University

Address of Requesting Entity: 101 Whitehurst, Stillwater, Oklahoma, USA

Description of Request: I have received \$839,000 for the Biomass-based Energy Research project. This funding will be used to find an alternative to traditional fuel sources, and to enhance rural economic development through the use of plant materials. A consortium of three universities (Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma University, and Mississippi State University) is working to refine and commercialize a unique gasification-fermentation process utilizing biomass to produce liquid fuel.

Requesting Member: Congressman FRANK D. LUCAS

Bill Number: H.R. 2997

Account: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service, Research and Education

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Oklahoma State University

Address of Requesting Entity: 101 Whitehurst, Stillwater, Oklahoma, USA

Description of Request: I have received \$223,000 for the Expanded Wheat Pasture project. This funding will be used to develop science and technologies, uniquely adapted wheat varieties, decision-support economic models, and extension education programs to increase profitability of the many dual-purpose wheat enterprises.

Requesting Member: Congressman FRANK D. LUCAS

Bill Number: H.R. 2997

Account: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service, Research and Education

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Oklahoma State University

Address of Requesting Entity: 101 Whitehurst, Stillwater, Oklahoma, USA

Description of Request: I have received \$382,000 for the Food Safety project. This funding will be used to conduct research and testing to develop rapid and efficient methods for detecting and controlling food borne pathogens throughout the food chain from point of origin to consumption.

Requesting Member: Congressman FRANK D. LUCAS

Bill Number: H.R. 2997

Account: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service, Research and Education

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Oklahoma State University

Address of Requesting Entity: 101 Whitehurst, Stillwater, Oklahoma, USA

Description of Request: I have received \$177,000 for the Integrated Production Systems project. This funding will be used to conduct research to develop and refine crop management techniques that enable environmentally sound and economically feasible production of alternative crops that will best utilize natural resources as they produce organically grown vegetable crops and crops for the biofuel industry.

Requesting Member: Congressman FRANK D. LUCAS

Bill Number: H.R. 2997

Account: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service, Research and Education

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Oklahoma State University

Address of Requesting Entity: 101 Whitehurst, Stillwater, Oklahoma, USA

Description of Request: I have received \$174,000 for the Preservation and Processing Research project. This funding will be used to emphasize research, development and implementation of integrated cropping, harvesting, storage and processing systems to facilitate new crop endeavors and assist new business development, to maintain and improve profitability for horticulture.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to state for the record that I was on an official leave of absence from the U.S. House of Representatives on the account of illness and unable to vote on rollcall vote 477 to H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted "nay" as the bill represents a partisan step in the wrong direction and a massive energy tax on the American people.

I was pleased to vote against H.R. 2454 when it was considered before the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Like many