New soybean variety suitable for growing, eating at home

By Jim Barlow
News Bureau Staff Writer

Putting soy on the table is about to get a whole lot easier. As an eager as this fall, some family gardeners will have grown soybeans available as a family-sized crop in the fall, he said. “While all soybeans are edible, certain soybean varieties with larger seeds and milder taste have been developed for human food usage, especially in Japan and Korea,” he said. “Those Asian food varieties have desirable seed traits but are not well adapted to our climate, insects and diseases.”

The new soybean varieties were developed for growing in home gardens, said Richard Bernard, professor emeritus of crop sciences and plant breeder at the University of Illinois Soybean Research Laboratory. The seeds are being distributed in free sample packs to anyone who requests them, but supplies are limited, said Bernard, whose research has led to several commercial lines of soybean seeds. The seeds can be planted through late June and still grow into a family-sized crop in the fall, he said.

The new lines range in size from 50 percent larger than average seeds to those that are twice as large as the common grain types now grown in Illinois. Yields are expected to be about 60 to 80 percent that of average commercial varieties. “These beans can be harvested and used like any dry bean, but probably the best way to use them is to pick the immature pods while green, after the seeds have reached full size, but before any yellowing begins,” he said. “They should be boiled for about four minutes, after which the seeds are ready to eat and can be easily squeezed out of the edible shell. They can be eaten as finger food or be added to soups, salads, fried rice or other dishes.”

After cooking, the soybeans also can be frozen in or out of the pod for later use. When used as a dry bean, they should not be pre-soaked, which may cause a rancid taste, but rather placed directly into boiling water and allowed to boil for about 30 to 40 minutes. The immature beans, Bernard said, do have another advantage beyond their taste and easy cooking. They won’t contain oligosaccharides, a hard-to-digest group of carbohydrates.

The demand for soy products has increased in the wake of studies showing cholesterol-lowering and cancer-fighting benefits. “Eating the whole soybean is an easy and inexpensive alternative and supplement to the many soy-derived products now on the market,” Bernard said.

At least 16 states’ pension funds well below ‘optimal values’

By Mark Reutter
News Bureau Staff Writer

Over the next few decades, millions of state and local government workers will find out how well their pension plans are funded. Some may be in for a shock.

There is no uniform funding level of public employee pension systems. “Unlike private pension plans, there are no federal regulations mandating minimum funding requirements for state pension plans. What’s more, unlike private plans, there is no insurance coverage in case a public pension fund goes into insololvency,” said Stephen P. D’Arcy, a professor of finance at the University of Illinois.

To get a handle on the appropriate funding levels for the state plans, D’Arcy developed current and optimal funding ratios after 10 and 40 years. Enough data were available for the UI professor to examine 48 state pension plans. (Massachusetts and West Virginia were excluded because of missing data.)

The results varied “drastically,” with 14 state pension systems found in good shape, 18 states in satisfactory shape and 16 states “at levels well below the optimal values, which creates the potential for serious problems in the future.”

The 14 states with strong pension systems included Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, North Dakota, Rhode Island and Tennessee. These states currently funded their pension plans at 100 percent or higher and had enough of a projected tax base to sustain future benefit increases.

In the satisfactory category were clustered many of the larger states, among them, California, Illinois, Florida, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Texas. These states had plans that, although not currently funded at the 100 percent level, showed a pattern in which the projected tax base and cost of future pension benefits would cover the cost of the benefits earned.

Examining the Illinois State Universities Retirement System, D’Arcy noted that pension funding legislation enacted in 1995 has led to a current 90 percent funding ratio, which is a significant improvement over the 63 percent level in 1992. Based on the recent relationship between the growth in the state’s tax base and pension costs, the optimal funding level, however, appears to be 97 percent.

Connecticut, Michigan, New Jersey and Ohio were prominent among the 16 states D’Arcy found in trouble. The states had not only currently underfunded plans, but the gap between pension expenses and state revenues remained wide over projected 10- and 40-year periods.

In Washington, Texas and Wisconsin, were noted as needing to increase pension funding. Even though they fund their public pension plans in excess of 100 percent, pension costs are growing faster than the states’ tax bases. So even higher funding levels are needed to avoid a funding crisis. D’Arcy said Texas needed a funding ratio of 129 percent in 10 years to adequately finance its pension program.

“Given these flush economic times, states should consider targeting a higher funding level than at present to protect both future taxpayers and future retirees,” he said. The research by D’Arcy and two assistants was published in the Journal of Risk and Insurance.

States rated Stephen P. D’Arcy, a professor of finance, evaluated the pension plans of 18 states. Illinois was among 16 states rated satisfactory. These states had plans that, although not currently funded at the 100 percent level, showed a pattern in which the projected tax base and cost of future pension benefits would cover the cost of the benefits earned.
**New Disability Research Institute to open at UI**

By Craig Chamberlain

News Bureau Staff Writer

The UI will be the site of a new national Disability Research Institute supported by the U.S. Social Security Administration.

The federal agency announced this week the awarding of a five-year, $5.25 million grant to the institute, starting with $1.25 million for the year beginning June 1, when the institute will open.

The institute will be based in the College of Applied Life Studies on the UI’s Urbana-Champaign campus, under the direction of Chirsann Schiro-Geist, a professor of community health. It also, however, will involve other campus units, as well as units or researchers at six other schools. (See chart at right.)

Being designated as the site for the institute is “a recognition of the leadership role that we have served in disability,” said Tanya Gallagher, dean of the College of Applied Life Studies and co-principal investigator on the grant. “We’ve long been a campus involved with issues related to disability,” so the institute will serve as “a place where we have our historical strength, and it represents a whole new phase of dealing with these issues.”

The college is home to the first-of-its-kind Division of Rehabilitation-Education Services, which began pioneering work on disability issues and services more than 50 years ago.

The campus has been listed by several publications in recent years among the top 10 most disability-friendly in the nation. New Mobility magazine listed the UI as No. 1.

Establishment of the institute marks the first time the Social Security Administration has created an organized research agenda in the area of disability, according to Schiro-Geist, who will serve as both the institute’s director and co-principal investigator with Gallagher on the grant investigator.

“The institute” will be the focal point for the whole country where researchers in disability and public policy will come together to share ideas,” Schiro-Geist said.

As a research arm of the SSA, the institute will analyze agency data on more than 8 million recipients of income-support funds tied to disability. Gallagher said: “The institute will prepare and make data available and interpretable to a number of groups and academics to do research, [as well as] to policy-makers and the public, with the goal that we better serve the needs of these individuals.”

Training will be another goal, Schiro-Geist said. “We’re also going to create training options – including training Social Security’s own workforce – in the things that we learn.”

The grant will pay mostly for establishing the institute. Additional funds for specific projects are expected to come from the SSA and elsewhere.

Gallagher and Schiro-Geist are optimistic the institute will continue beyond five years.

“They [SSA] have been quite clear,” Gallagher said, “that they are interested in a long-term relationship, and that this will only build.”

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**Disability Research Institute**

College of Applied Life Studies, UI’s Urbana-Champaign campus

University affiliate partners

- University of Chicago, through its National Opinion Research Center
- Northwestern University, through its medical center’s Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago
- Rutgers University

Other schools or units involved outside the UI campus

- UI at Chicago
- Northwestern University’s Institute of Health Services Research and Policy Studies
- Southern University in Baton Rouge, La.
- University of Wisconsin at Stout

Other institute partners on the UI campus

- Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations
- Office of Continuing Education
- Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences
- Institute of Government and Public Affairs
- National Center for Supercomputing Applications

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**Job market**

The Office of Academic Human Resources, Suite 420, 807 S. Wright St., maintains listings for faculty positions. Most complete descriptions are available in that office during regular business hours. The Employment Center lists the academic professional positions available on all six campuses at www.uhr.uiuc.edu/jobs. Faculty job opportunity information is updated weekly and can be found on the Web at www.hr.uiuc.edu/jobs/index.asp.

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**Faculty**


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**Academic professional**

*Animal Sciences.* Network analyst. Bachelor’s degree in computer science or related field (or MS and equivalent experience) and related work experience employing a variety of technical skills and networks. Experience in peer-reviewed scientific journals and conference presentations. Available immediately. Contact Carolyn Tichopp, 333-3247. Closing date: When filled.

*Computational Science and Engineering.* Principal research scientist. Ph.D. in a technical field (or MS and equivalent experience) with 5 years related work experience employing a variety of technical applications, publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals and conference presentations. Available immediately. Contact Carolyn Tichopp, 333-3247. Closing date: When filled.

*Environmental Council.* Visiting program specialist (75 percent time). Ph.D as environmental sciences, policy or related field preferred. Must qualify as a specialist. Available immediately. Contact Kwasa Trowe, 333-4178, k-trowe@uiuc.edu. Closing date: June 10.

*Human Resources Development.* Office of (Chicago). Training specialist. Bachelor’s degree in education, human resources development or a similar area with a minimum of 3 years’ related experience. Available immediately. Contact G. Smith, 312-996-5504, dsmith@uic.edu. Closing date: June 19.

*Intercollegiate Athletics.* Head varsity coach men’s track and field. Bachelor’s degree in a related field and 5 years’ collegiate coaching experience. Available immediately. Contact Ken Gauer, 333-3651. Closing date: June 8.


*Libraries and Sciences Administration.* Management analysts. Bachelor’s degree in a relevant area or bachelor’s degree with related 5 years’ relevant work experience required. Available immediately. Contact Jerry Davis, 333-4447, davisj@uiuc.edu. Closing date: June 23.

*Operation and Maintenance Division.* Network support specialist. Bachelor’s degree in an information technology field and 3 years’ relevant experience required. Must have a working knowledge of NT server system administration, scheduled maintenance and repair of networked equipment. Available immediately. Contact William McKenney, 244-4999. Closing date: June 23.

*Supercomputing Applications, National Center.* Network engineer and support specialist. Bachelor’s degree in computer science or related field and 3 years’ related experience required. Must have training in the support and support of related technologies such as network management or UNIX system administration and experience with TCP/IP or similar routed network protocols. Available immediately. Contact NCSA Human Resources. 333-6085, career@ncsa.uiuc.edu. Closing date: June 19.

*Veterinary Pathology.* Veterinary research specialist. Bachelor’s degree in veterinary medicine or other discipline in life sciences required. Must have experience in laboratory procedures, ethics and regulatory requirements. Available immediately. Contact D.M. Wegiel, 244-1685. Closing date: June 15.

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**Staff**

*Personnel Services Office.* Located at 52 E. Gregory Drive, Champaign. For information about PSO’s Employment Information Program, which provides information to those seeking staff employment at the university, visit the Personnel Services Office website at www.psso.uiuc.edu. To complete an online employment application and to submit an exam request, visit the online Employment Center at www.uhr.uiuc.edu/jobs.

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**Inside Illinois**

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Visit us at www.admin.uiuc.edu/NE/lainless.html or through the UI home page: www.uiuc.edu.

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**Miscellaneous**

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Mark Rutter; business, law

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**Peter Siegel named campus CIO**

By Becky Mabry

Assistant Editor

Peter M. Siegel of Iowa State University has been chosen to be the new chief information officer for the UI’s Urbana campus. UI Provost Richard Herman announced May 19.

Siegel is the director for academic information technologies at ISU in Ames, where he oversees a full-time professional staff at the ISU Center for Academic Information Technologies, along with a geographical information systems group and a high-performance computing research group.

“Peter Siegel brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to Illi- nois,” Herman said. “In addition, he greatly impressed those who met with him during the interview process. He has a proven record of accomplish- ment as well as a vision for the future of information technology in the aca- demic arena. We look forward to working with him in the years ahead.”

Siegel is the first permanent Chief Information Officer on the Urbana campus. The position was created in 1998 to ensure a coordinated vision for information technologies for the campus.

Hassan Aref, a UI physics professor and the head of the department of theoretical and applied mechanics, has served as interim CIO.

“The campus is most grateful that Hassan agreed to step in on short notice and provide vital leadership for this key area on campus,” Herman said.

Prior to joining ISU in 1998, Siegel was director of networking and computing systems for Cornell Information Technologies, where he was responsible for direct support of the campus networks central computing systems for administrative, research and library needs, and executive director of the Cornell Theory Center.

Siegel’s academic background is in linguistics. He will assume his duties as CIO in August.
On the job Penny McKinney

What does it mean to the students and players to have someone on hand to pick up the animals when they are needed and to provide them with food?

Penny McKinney is a fan of wildlife and has a deep appreciation for the role she plays in ensuring that the animals receive proper care and attention. She believes that the players and students benefit from the presence of these animals, as they are able to bond with them and learn from their interactions. McKinney is also dedicated to the maintenance of the Varsity Room, which is a hub for students and athletes to gather and socialize.

What is the significance of the Varsity Room in the lives of the students and athletes?

The Varsity Room is a central hub for students and athletes at the University of Illinois. It serves as a social gathering place, a study area, and a place for athletes to relax and bond with each other. The presence of the wildlife in the Varsity Room adds to the unique atmosphere of this space, and it is a source of pride for the students and athletes who frequent it.

In what ways does Penny McKinney contribute to the University of Illinois as a whole?

Penny McKinney is a valued member of the University of Illinois community, contributing to the campus in a variety of ways. Her dedication to the care of the wildlife in the Varsity Room is just one example of her commitment to the University and its students. McKinney's role as a taxidermist and wildlife rehabilitator is also a source of pride for the University, as she brings her unique skills and expertise to the campus.

What are some of the challenges that Penny McKinney faces in her role as a taxidermist and wildlife rehabilitator?

Penny McKinney faces a range of challenges in her role as a taxidermist and wildlife rehabilitator. She must be knowledgeable about the natural history and behavior of the animals in her care, and she must be able to provide them with the best possible care. McKinney must also be able to work with a variety of species, and she must be able to adapt to the needs of each individual animal. In addition, McKinney must be able to maintain a high level of care for the animals, even when they are in distress or require medical attention.
calendar

June 1 to June 18

**theater**

**16 Friday**

"Barefoot in the Park." Peter Zapp, director. 8 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. A newlywed couple faces a period of adjustment in their tiny New York apartment in this Neil Simon romantic comedy. Admission charge.

**17 Saturday**

"Morder at the Howard Johnson." 8:30 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Arlene, her husband and her lover – the family dentist – plot each other’s demise. Admission charge.

**music**

**12 Monday**

Doctor of Musical Arts Recital. Alexandre Dujoljinec. piano. 8 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall.

**14 Wednesday**

Doctor of Musical Arts Recital. Sonjeok Je. piano. 8 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall.

**15 Thursday**

Master of Music Recital. Yoojung Kim, piano. 5:30 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall.

**16 Friday**

"Black Women in Africa and the African Diaspora: Identity, Culture and Politics." 8-9:30 p.m. Illinois Union. For more information or to register, call 333-2888 or visit www.aasp.aiuc.edu/bwad.html. Continues through Sunday. African Studies and Afro-American Studies and Research.

**Saturday**

"Black Women in Africa and the African Diaspora: Identity, Culture and Politics." 8-9:30 p.m. Illinois Union. For more information or to register, call 333-2888 or visit www.aasp.aiuc.edu/bwad.html. Continues through Sunday. African Studies and Afro-American Studies and Research.

**Sunday**


**2 Saturday**

"Impressions of Latin America: A Photographic Exhibit." Featuring the works of Richard Freeman. 7 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Illinois Union Art Gallery. Through June 28. www.spackbar.aiuc.edu

**organizations**

Classified Employees Association Fair. 4-5 p.m. first Thursday monthly. For more information, contact Kay Busboom, 244-6231 or kayb@uiuc.edu

Contra Dancing To live fiddle music for singles, couples and families. Visit www.pratienet.org/contra@ or e-mail j-siever@uiuc.edu for more information.

Illini Folk Dance Society 8-10 p.m. Tuesday and Saturday. Illini Union. Teaching dances first hour; beginners welcome. Telephone 355-4447.

Language classes: Beginners’ Vietnamese 6-7:15 p.m. Mondays. 194 Lincoln Hall. For more information, e-mail nguyan@uiuc.edu or call 255-6478.

Lifetime Fitness Program Individual and group activities. Weekdays, 6:30-10 p.m. Kinesthetics, 244-4100.

Normal Person’s Book Discussion Group 7 p.m. 319 Illini Union. Read “A gute of Repose” by Wallace Stroget for June 8; “The Red Tent” by Anita Diamant for July 6. For more information, call 355-1367.

PC User Group 7 p.m. June 13, 1310 Digital Computer Lab. Call Mall Zarow, 244-1289, or David Harley, 333-5668, for more information.

Scandinavian Coffee Hour 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Illini Union. Phone 333-3221. Free; a $2 donation is suggested.

Secretariat 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. third Wednesday monthly. Illini Union. Phone 333-4447

Women’s Club Information about upcoming meetings and interest groups posted on the Web at http://nx3.cn. uiuc.edu/wc/uiuc/ or call 333-3221.

**Arch supports**

Workers remove the supports from the arched truss earlier this week. The truss is an innovative way that archbuilders decided to support the roof of the new Indoor Football Practice Facility, under construction in the field northeast of Memorial Stadium. The facility, which will be completed this fall, will hold an 89-yard football field and one end zone, replacing the existing bubble over the stadium’s football field that has been used during inclement weather. The football, baseball, softball and soccer teams will use the building for practices. The $12.5 million project is being funded with gifts to the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics.

**deaths**

Elwood F. Atherton, 90, died May 11 at Clark-Lindsey Village, Urbana. Atherton joined the Illinois State Geological Survey in 1937. He retired in 1978 but was associated with the organization for 60 years.

Richard Lyfe Fisher, 67, died May 19 at the Carle Arbours, Savoy. He was a sound technician for the UI’s Division of Operation and Maintenance. He came to the UI in 1963 and retired in 1993.

Ray D. Hatch, 90, died May 14 at his Urbana home. Hatch, who joined the faculty in 1951, was a professor of veterinary clinical medicine and retired in 1976. Memorials: Shimer’s Children’s Home.

Edward H. Hill, 80, died May 20 at his Champaign home. Hill, a painter in the Housing Division, retired from the UI in 1976 with 27 years of service. Memorials: American Diabetes Association.

Edward G. Perkins, 65, May 19 at Barnes Hospital, St. Louis. Perkins was a professor of food science and human nutrition from 1962 until he retired in 1999. He was then named professor emeritus of food chemistry. Memorials: American Oil Chemists Society scholarship fund or the UI College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences scholarship fund.

Leonard Ralph Rexroad, 92, died May 19 at Hospice of Dayton. He was a master airport mechanic at the UI’s Institute of Aviation for 20 years, retiring in 1971. Memorials: Hospice of Dayton, P.O. Box 3509, Dayton, OH 45401-3509.

Thomas E. Tuttle, 87, died May 22 at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center, Coles County. Tuttle, a storekeeper in the Division of Operation and Maintenance for 20 years, retired from the UI in 1980. Memorials: Leader Dog School in care of Lions International.

William J. Webb, ’79, died May 17 at the Carle Arbours, Savoy. Webb was a building service worker in the UI’s Division of Operation and Maintenance for 40 years retiring in 1983. Memorials: American Heart Association or the American Lung Association.

**Classics department hosts German scholars**

Two promising young German scholars have won prestigious fellowships from a German foundation to work at the UI on the correspondence of two of the most brilliant German humanists of the 19th century.

The scholars, Stephan Heilen and Markus Dubischar, are recipients of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation of Germany’s postdoctoral Alexander von Humboldt Scholarship. They are working in the UI classics department for a year with their host, classics professor William M. Calder III, on a project to publish the first edition of the correspondence of two German humanists from Ulm: Ulrich von Wilamowitz-Moellendorff and Georg Kinkel.

Ollies/Weidmann Verlag in Hildeshheim will publish their edition of the correspondence.

Calder, the W.A. Abbot Oldfather Professor of Classics, is a world authority on Heinrich Schliemann, the 19th century German archaeologist of Troy.

**et cetera**

**1 Thursday**

"Black Women in Africa and the African Diaspora: Identity, Culture and Politics." 12:30-4:30 p.m. Illinois Union. Featuring speakers, panel discussions and the presentation of academic papers plus an exhibit at Krannert Art Museum. Continues through Sunday. For more information or to register, call 333-2888 or visit www.aasp.aiuc.edu/bwad.html. African Studies and Afro-American Studies and Research.

**2 Friday**


**7 Saturday**

Will Radio Vintage Vinyl Used Record Sale. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. former Black’s Hardware Store, corner of Randolph and Green Streets, Champaign. Used records, tapes and CDs, along with used audio equipment. For more information, call 244-5072.

**9 Saturday**


**11 Monday**

"Impressions of Latin America: A Photographic Exhibit." Featuring the works of Richard Freeman. 7 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Illinois Union Art Gallery. Through June 28. www.spackbar.aiuc.edu