CAFNR Research Advances PVAMU, USDA, AgInnovation, and CAFNR Strategic Priorities

PRAIRIE VIEW, Texas – Prairie View A&M University's College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (CAFNR) is advancing research aligned with PVAMU 2035: Journey to Eminence, USDA's 2026 research priorities, AgInnovation's national priorities and CAFNR's 2025–2030 strategic plan, "From Root to Fruit."

CAFNR Research advances interdisciplinary work in agriculture, food systems, natural resources, animal sciences and emerging technologies. Its work supports CAFNR priorities to transform lives and communities through experiential education, groundbreaking research and innovative outreach.

At the center of this effort is CAFNR Research's **Vision of Excellence in Research**, guided by a **3+1 mission framework**:

1. **Pursuit of Innovative and Relevant Research** – advancing discovery that supports CAFNR's goals for research excellence, sustainable agri-food systems, environmental resilience, food and nutrition security, and U.S. agricultural competitiveness.
2. **Attainment of External Grants for Impactful Research** – strengthening research capacity, infrastructure, partnerships and proposal development to expand innovation, investment and public impact.
3. **Publications and Presentations** – expanding scholarly visibility, stakeholder engagement and national leadership in agriculture, food, natural resources and community development.
4. **+1: Integrative Linkages for Broader Impact** – connecting research with academic excellence, student success, experiential learning, extension outreach, workforce development, partnerships and community development.

The framework reflects CAFNR's "From Root to Fruit" philosophy: strong roots in land-grant service, people and place produce visible fruit in student success, innovative research, outreach and community impact.

Leading this vision is **Dr. Erdogan Memili, Executive Associate Director of CAFNR Research**, whose career spans veterinary and animal sciences, genomics, reproductive biology, biotechnology, industry and higher education. Before joining PVAMU, Memili served on the faculty at Mississippi State University and conducted advanced research and training associated with institutions including the University of Wisconsin–Madison, Harvard University, and Cornell University. His scientific work has included systems biology approaches to enhance livestock fertility and food security.

Since assuming leadership of CAFNR Research, Memili has focused on strengthening an environment in which interdisciplinary research, collaboration, student development and external partnerships work together to expand the College's research impact.

"**Our goal is to advance practical, high-impact research that supports producers, students and communities while contributing to PVAMU's Journey to Eminence, CAFNR's From Root to Fruit strategic plan, USDA's national priorities, and AgInnovation's vision for a stronger agricultural future and national security,**" said Memili.

That vision is supported by CAFNR Research's multidisciplinary research enterprise, prominent scientists and students, and specialized centers and resources, which provide environments for fundamental and applied research, experiential learning and collaboration. The College's research activities span areas ranging from animal systems and food security to natural resources, plant science and emerging technologies.

Recent CAFNR research includes work to develop resilient livestock, and transform agricultural biomass into biochar for soil health for food security. These projects reflect CAFNR priorities in food and nutrition security, environmental resilience, sustainable agri-food systems, workforce preparation and practical solutions for communities.

For Memili, advancing CAFNR Research is ultimately about building an ecosystem in which researchers are equipped to compete, students are prepared to become the next generation of scientists and discoveries move beyond the laboratory to create broader societal value. In addition, he also serves as the Director of the Governor Bill and Vara Daniel Farm and Ranch which is a hub for research, students success, and Extension outreach.

Through its Vision of Excellence and 3+1 framework, CAFNR Research is helping advance PVAMU's Journey to Eminence and CAFNR's 2025–2030 strategic goals by linking research excellence, academic success, partnerships, outreach and land-grant impact.