



IN THIS ISSUE:

- *Ancient Foods*
- *New Federal Law*
- *Hometown Pride*

NEWSLETTER OF THE DANFORTH CENTER

Legacy Society

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1: SPRING 2021

ANCIENT FOODS, FUTURE SUCCESS

What foods do you eat? Just 15 crop plants provide 90 percent of the world's food energy, with rice, corn, and wheat making up two-thirds. When confronting climate change, researchers know we need more diversity. Traditional crops, among them the so-called "ancient grains," are being reevaluated as versatile, nutritious, and hardy.



Teff, a kind of millet, is an ancient grain grown widely in northeast Africa. More than 100 million people rely on teff for sustenance and nutrition. It is drought tolerant and well suited to the challenging growing conditions in the region. It is also gluten-free, iron-rich, and contains high-quality protein. If you've ever eaten *injera* crepes in an Ethiopian restaurant, you have likely eaten teff.

But despite its many advantages, teff has a problem. Much like unimproved wheat, teff tends to grow tall and fall over, diminishing yields by up to 25 percent.

Dr. Getu Beyene Duguma, PhD, is working to change that. Senior Research Scientist at the Danforth Center's International Institute for Crop Improvement, Dr. Duguma grew up in Kokofe, Ethiopia, where the local grain crop is teff. Now, he's hoping to improve the grain of his childhood. Using cutting-edge precision breeding tools at the Danforth Center, Dr. Duguma is helping do for teff in East Africa what the Green Revolution did for wheat in the West: dramatically improve yields and raise living standards for farmers.

ANCIENT FOODS, FUTURE SUCCESS *cont.*

When you support the Danforth Center, you are helping find sustainable solutions to feed the world and heal the planet.

Planned gifts can create a legacy of support for projects with real-world impact. Call 314.587.1071 for more information.

“Improved teff will benefit farmers across northeast Africa, including my family in Ethiopia, and can provide a better standard of living.”

Getu Duguma, PhD,
Senior Research Manager,
Danforth Center



CHARITABLE GIVING IN A PANDEMIC

Congress has provided several economic incentives to help address the far-reaching effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including additional tax incentives to encourage charitable giving. Here are some things to keep in mind:

- You may deduct gifts of cash to most public charities to offset as much as **100% of your income**. (Ordinarily the limit is 60%.)
- If you don't itemize you, may still **reduce your taxable income by \$300** for your charitable contributions in 2021.

- Qualified charitable distributions (or **IRA rollovers**) are still a great way to make contributions if you are 70½ or older – especially since the required minimum distribution has resumed in 2021.

When you are ready, we will be here to help you shape a charitable gift plan that suits your needs and ensures your legacy at the Danforth Center. Please contact Joyce Pluhar at JPluhar@danforthcenter.org or call 314.587.1234 to learn about the many ways you can support Donald Danforth Plant Science Center.

HOMETOWN PRIDE: SUSAN AND CICARDI BRUCE

Ask Susan and Cicardi Bruce which charities they support and you'll be met with a chuckle. "How long have you got for the list?" he asks.

With service on an estimated 35 to 40 boards over the years, including the Saint Louis Zoo's Marlin Perkins Society, American Cancer Society, and the Saint Louis Ambassadors where he's currently chairman, Cicardi views helping his hometown as a personal mission: "I'm a fourth generation St. Louisan. My family prospered in St. Louis with our commercial printing operation, and I want to give back."

The Bruces learned of the Danforth Center through the philanthropic community. When they attended their first Conversations event, there were several friends waiting to greet them. "We walked in and here were all these people we knew," says Susan. "We realized the Danforth Center must have something special going on."

Cicardi and Susan have been Danforth Society members since 2018. They have also created a legacy of support by adding the Danforth Center to their estate plans.

Cicardi explains: **"Of all the work that I've done with nonprofits, the most important of any of them is the Danforth Center.** We can't feed the people we have now—how are we going to feed 3 billion more by 2050? The Danforth Center is not only helping feed people, they are bringing new business and technology to St. Louis. It's a win-win."



▲ Cicardi and Susan Bruce, Legacy Society members

When you make a planned gift to the Danforth Center, you create a legacy of hope for people around the globe and new companies and jobs for people in St. Louis. For more information, call Joyce Pluhar at 314.587.1071.

