

FEATURE – FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH AT USDA CALIFORNIA FACILITY

INTRO: From fundamental studies on crop plants to a training ground for young scientists, a U-S-D-A facility near San Francisco, California is contributing to progress and research. The USDA's Bob Ellison has more from Albany, California. (1:37)

THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S WESTERN REGIONAL RESEARCH CENTER IN ALBANY, CALIFORNIA SERVES FARMERS, PLANT BREEDERS AND CONSUMERS WITH VALUABLE RESEARCH. U-S-D-A AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE SCIENTISTS HERE DO RESEARCH THAT IS SHARED WORLDWIDE.

Sarah Hake, Center Director, USDA ARS Plant Gene Expression Center: Our goal is to have information that is used by other plant scientists as well as breeders and people in industry.

HAKE SAYS THE RESEARCH HERE DEALS WITH THE FUNDAMENTALS OF PLANT GENETICS.

Sarah Hake, Center Director, USDA ARS Plant Gene Expression Center: If you don't do the fundamental research you don't have sure fixes.

I think we all enjoy cheap and healthy food and so the fundamental research we do has application towards that very goal of having cheap and affordable and nutritious food.

AND WHILE THE RESEARCH FOCUSES ON PLANT GENETICS, HAKE SAYS THE FINDINGS CAN APPLY TO MANY AREAS.

Sarah Hake, Center Director, USDA ARS Plant Gene Expression Center: One of our scientists works on disease resistance in plants and some of the discoveries she's made are also applicable to disease resistance in humans.

The mechanisms are so fundamental that it can be used across plant and animal barriers.

THE CENTER ALSO SERVES AS A TRAINING GROUND FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS WHO GO ON TO A VARIETY OF FIELDS.

Sarah Hake, Center Director, USDA ARS Plant Gene Expression Center: We might have fifty young people who might be working here, who get their foot in the door in terms of understanding what research is all about and heading off for careers as graduate students and post-docs. People in industry as well as professors.

Bob Ellison, USDA: The Western Regional Research Center cooperates greatly with the University of California-Berkley. The facility has been around since nineteen thirty nine and was instrumental in the development of frozen foods. In Albany, California I'm Bob Ellison for the U-S Department of Agriculture.