

## **FEATURE – USDA STUDIES GRAPEFRUIT JUICE AND DRUG INTERACTION**

INTRO: USDA researchers say they have found a way for people taking statin drugs to be able to drink grapefruit juice again. The USDA's Bob Ellison has more from Winter Haven Florida. (1:34) (refeed)

STATIN DRUGS ARE USED TO TREAT CONDITIONS THAT CAUSE CHEST PAIN, HEART ATTACKS AND STROKES. HOWEVER, A FEW YEARS AGO SCIENTISTS MADE A STARTLING DISCOVERY...GRAPEFRUIT JUICE INCREASES THE RISK OF ADVERSE SIDE EFFECTS IN STATIN TAKERS. U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RESEARCHERS IN WINTER HAVEN FLORIDA SAY THIS A PROBLEM FOR GRAPEFRUIT GROWERS.

Dr. John Manthey, Research Chemist, USDA ARS: With the advent of the discovery of these interactions the per capita consumption of grapefruit juice has fallen through the floor and we need to generate a grapefruit juice that doesn't have these furanocoumarins so that people can resume drinking grapefruit juice.

BUT U-S-D-A AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE SCIENTISTS HAVE FOUND A WAY TO MAKE GRAPEFRUIT JUICE SAFE FOR STATIN TAKERS. THEY ARE USING PROPERTIES FOUND IN EDIBLE FUNGI TO REMOVE COMPOUNDS THAT CREATE THE ADVERSE PROPERTIES THAT ARE FOUND IN GRAPEFRUIT JUICE.

Manthey: First of all we have to select different types of edible fungi and then we grow them and then we do binding studies to determine the effectiveness of the different types of fungi and then we use various instrumentation....to measure the removal of these compounds from grapefruit juice.

MANTHEY SAYS HE AND HIS TEAM HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL.

Manthey: Preliminary results show that the process works and that the properties of the juice are still pretty much like the original so we're hopeful that this process will be used commercially someday. And now we're trying to get the word out to processors about this method that we've discovered.

Bob Ellison, USDA: I'm Bob Ellison in Winter Haven Florida for the U-S Department of Agriculture.