

ScienceWatch

New developments from the LSU AgCenter

LSU AgCenter: A Research Partner for Business and Technology

Goats that produce a protein in their milk for use in heart medication, varieties of rice that will revolutionize Louisiana growing methods, and a sugarcane waste material treated to “eat” an oil spill in the marsh – these are some of the end-products of high-tech research at the LSU AgCenter.

The LSU AgCenter is the campus of the Louisiana State University system dedicated to research on food and fiber production, animal health, natural resources and the environment. Headquartered on the LSU A&M campus in Baton Rouge, the AgCenter includes a statewide network of 20 research stations and 64 parish extension offices.

“The LSU AgCenter is positioned to meet the needs of an increasingly technology-driven society,” says Dr. Paula Jacobi, who manages intellectual properties. “We have a long-term focus on applied research and a proven ability to develop beneficial products. We also have excellent relationships with local industry, and in the past several years have moved successfully into the national and international markets.”

The LSU AgCenter is an ideal partner for industry interested in sponsoring innovative research. The campus offers access to high-tech equipment and state-of-the-art facilities along with extensive expertise in a variety of areas, including biotechnology. Examples of



Brett Reggio, doctoral student, poses with three of the first baby goats cloned to produce a heart medication in their milk.

some of the most recent discoveries include:

Cancer control. Researchers are doing work with novel proteins and/or the genes expressing these proteins that can be used to selectively kill human prostatic, mammary and ovarian cancer cells.

Natural termite deterrent. A naturally occurring compound that fends off termites, called nootkatone, has been isolated from vetiver grass.

Partly refined sugar for industry. Through a unique filtering process, raw sugar can be partly refined so it can be used for certain

industrial purposes at much less cost than when fully refined.

Dental equipment cleaning. Scientists found a powerful, two-step way to sanitize the ultra-fine plastic tubes of dental equipment. The research was partially funded by NASA.

Fabric dyes from precious metals. This dyeing technique for fabrics needs only the most miniscule amounts of precious metals to create lush colors that are permanent and not susceptible to bleaching or fading.



for information

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