

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL CENTER

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PLANT AND ANIMAL GENETIC ENGINEERING RESEARCH AND EDUCATION POLICY

Purpose

The purpose of this LSU Agricultural Center policy statement is to define and establish guidelines for research, educational, and outreach programs involving genetically engineered plants and animals.

Definition

The LSU Agricultural Center research, educational, and outreach programs addressed by this policy statement include forms of technology such as genetic engineering, genetic transformation, transgenic technology, recombinant DNA technology, and other genetic modifications.

Background

The LSU Agricultural Center develops educational and research programs that enhance the health and well being of humans and animals in Louisiana, the nation, and the world. Advances in biotechnology will be instrumental in achieving this goal in the future. Among the benefits derived from genetically engineered plants and animals are increased agricultural production without further increasing land under cultivation or grazing, pest resistant plants and animals resulting in decreased use of pesticides in the environment, improved medicinal products for treatment of human and animal diseases, crops that provide new sources of energy, decrease soil erosion and greenhouse gas emissions, and more nutritious plant and animal food

products for addressing malnutrition, allergic reaction to foods, and nutritional disorders.

General Policy

Underlying these benefits is the belief that advances in food, fiber and forestry through biotechnology are necessary, but a privilege with accompanying responsibilities. These responsibilities include compliance with state, federal and international regulations governing the conduct of experiments and demonstrations involving transgenic plants and animals. To ensure that such responsibilities are carried out throughout the LSU AgCenter, a Genetic Engineering Review Committee composed of research scientists, extension specialists, and administrators, appointed by the Chancellor, is established. This committee reviews and ensures that research and demonstration protocols, proposals, and intellectual property issues associated with genetically engineered plants and animals meet statutory requirements, as well as scientific and social soundness. The committee also maintains a network of product/technology stewards to include consumers, technology providers, government regulators, and other stakeholders to foster communication for developing trust among technology users, providers and regulators.