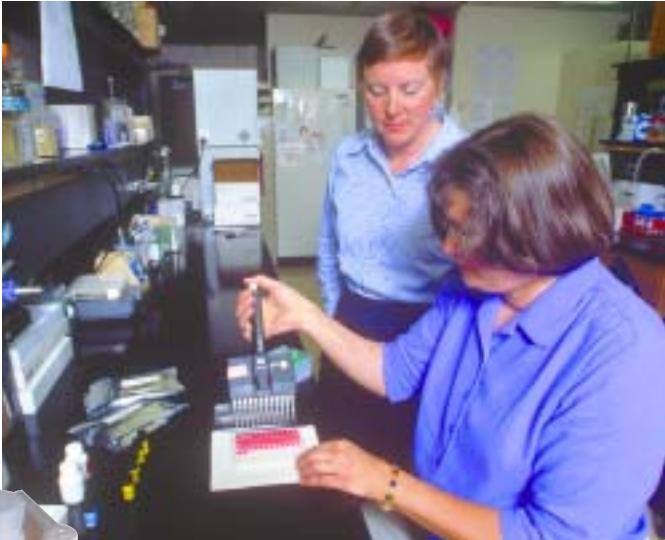


# food allergies



Brett Hampton

food varies country to country, depending mainly on how widely that food is eaten.

The team recently finished a threshold study on eggs. Trials for peanuts, shrimp and hazelnuts are in progress.

Another recent FARRP study funded by the United Soybean Board is good news for soybean growers and soybean allergic individuals. Conducting similar clinical trials, scientists determined that this widely used oil doesn't cause reactions in people allergic to soybeans. Preliminary results show none of the soybean allergic volunteers tested worldwide reacted to soybean oil.

That's because soybean oil contains no protein, the trigger for allergic reactions, Taylor said.

Food companies worldwide now look to FARRP for information about how best to protect allergic consumers and control allergens, Taylor said. The team also works with the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network, which promotes food allergy education, awareness and research.

"This is the most successful food industry-funded consortium in the United States right now," Taylor said. "It has made the country and world a safer place for food allergic consumers."

A USDA grant funds part of this research.

— Vicki Miller

*Above: Food Scientist Sue Hefle watches as Debra Lambrecht, a research technologist, uses an NU-developed test to check for the presence of hidden milk in a non-milk food product. IANR scientists working in the university's Food Allergy Research and Resource Program conduct a variety of food allergy-related research and develop fast, accurate tests the food industry can use to check for traces of allergenic foods on equipment and products. One such kit is pictured at left.*



# In pig feed, GMO and conventional corn perform same

When it comes to pig feed, there's no difference between genetically modified and conventional corn, University of Nebraska research shows.

Phil Miller, swine nutritionist, and animal science graduate students compared pig growth and percent lean in pigs fed Bt corn for rootworms or conventional corn. In another study, they compared nutritional value and nitrogen digestibility for young pigs fed Roundup Ready corn and those fed conventional corn.

Neither study revealed significant differences, Miller said. Pigs fed genetically modified corn perform as well as those fed conventional corn.

As more acres are planted to genetically engineered crops, livestock producers want to know the feed value of genetically modified grains.

"As a scientist, it's easy to say there shouldn't be any differences between genetically modified corn and non-genetically modified corn, but we need to demonstrate that to the general public," he said.

Researchers evaluated 72 barrows and 72 gilts for the Bt study.

Pigs were weighed and feed intakes were measured biweekly to determine average daily gain, average daily feed intake and feed efficiency. After slaughter, backfat depth and carcass traits were measured.

Results showed Bt corn does not affect pig performance. There were statistical differences between the sexes, but that is typical because gilts grow slower and are leaner than barrows, Miller said.

For the Roundup Ready study, the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources team evaluated 12 barrows fed twice daily for 14 days.

Researchers analyzed urine and fecal samples. Results showed dry matter, crude protein and energy density were similar for the two corn varieties.

Roundup Ready corn can be fed to young pigs without hurting nitrogen or energy digestibility, Miller said.

Monsanto helped fund this research.

— Sandi S. Alswager



Brett Hampton