

CSU awarded safety grants

Colorado State University has received two food safety research grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Integrated Food Safety Initiative (NIFSI).

The grants are to help colleges and universities ensure that research, education and extension knowledge is given to teachers, scientists, health professionals, researchers, farmers, food

processors, food service workers, consumers and all others making crucial decisions about the safety of the U.S. food supply.

"While most of us don't worry about the safety of our food, for these researchers at Colorado State, it is a top priority that entails hours of painstaking research just so that the rest of our nation doesn't need to worry," Rep. Marilyn Musgrave, R-Colo., said in announcing the grants.

One grant for \$597,481 is to help facilitate research of the risks, controls and prevention of *Listeria Monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat meat products, such as deli meats.

The second grant of \$489,527 was awarded for researching the effects on *E. coli* O157 and *Salmonella* spp in the transportation and containment of beef cattle.

"Targeted research is one of several key initiatives we are implementing to enhance food safety and improve food inspection systems," Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman said.

The purpose of the NIFSI, which is managed by Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, is to support competitive projects that address priority issues in food safety that are best solved using an integrated approach. These projects address a broad spectrum of food safety concerns from on-farm production, post-harvest processing and distribution, to food selection, preparation and consumption.