The Science Behind Your Food

Catherine Woteki

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/stories

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/stories/vol5/iss2/17

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in STORIES in Agriculture and Life Sciences by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
VOICES

THE SCIENCE BEHIND YOUR FOOD

When people think about where their food comes from, many think of the farmer or rancher—and rightly so. But few think of the scientists working behind the scenes to support our agricultural producers, keeping them productive and our food supply safe.

Food, agriculture and natural resource scientists are involved in the biggest challenges facing the world today: ensuring food safety and security, keeping food producers productive amidst a dramatically changing climate, creating the bioenergy sources of the future and improving food quality and availability to encourage healthier diets. Some of the best and brightest minds in America are in labs across the country, rolling up their sleeves to solve these diverse problems.

In fact, agricultural scientists in our land grant universities and USDA labs have a history of finding the answers most urgently needed by society. We have to make sure this dynamic engine for innovation and problem-solving keeps going. That means making sure we continue to attract the best and brightest students to the agriculture, food and natural resource sciences. As Dean of ISU’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, I saw firsthand the excitement and fulfillment students can gain studying science—and as they progressed through their careers. Now, as USDA’s chief scientist, I have the privilege of overseeing the scientific agencies where many of those students will continue their research—and that enthusiasm endures.

In short, I’m happy to keep the flame burning for agricultural, food and natural resource research. It’s an exciting field of science, and one that will continue to offer good jobs well into the future. ISU is a key player in this effort, and I look forward to working together to ensure that agriculture continues to fulfill its vital role.