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No GM rice found in California seed supplies

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SACRAMENTO - The California Rice Experiment Station announced today that the Liberty Link 601 protein found in contaminated rice in Arkansas and Missouri is not present in California rice seed supplied to growers in the Golden State.

Independent test results were released at the station's annual Rice Field Day today, confirming that the seed RES distributes is free from the genetically modified protein earlier found in long grain rice. The Liberty Link protein, produced by Bayer CropScience, had not been approved for commercial release in rice.

Samples of 24 varieties of foundation and basic seed from the experiment station were analyzed using DNA marker technology at an independent laboratory. The protein was not found in any of the test samples.

The Liberty Link protein has never been used or tested at the Rice Experiment Station in Biggs, which includes 478 acres of land, greenhouses, laboratories and equipment used for rice research and seed production.

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