

Subject: Upcoming Vote Threatens Farmers' Rights

Story Summary: Farmers throughout the country will be cautiously watching four county elections in California? Why? Because voters in those counties will be deciding whether farmers in the county can grow biotech crops or if biotech crops will be banned. The initiatives were put forward by anti-biotech activists and could be a look at the future for farmers nationwide.

TRT: 1:53

Suggested Lead: Should voters be able to decide what a farmer can grow on his farm? Initiatives on four county ballots in California are aiming to do just that and the state's farmers say the result could have far-reaching implications. Johnna Miller has the story.

Suggested Supers: Lau Ackerman
Crops Coordinator
Chico State University Research Farm
@ :33

Dr. Kent Bradford
Seed Biologist
University of California - Davis
@ :48

Don Cameron
California Farmer
@ 1:38

Johnna Miller
Reporting
@ 1:45

Farmers Protect Threatened Bird
Johnna Miller Reporting
June 18, 2004

<p>Sot on cam</p>	<p>SOT 6 WE'RE EXTREMELY CONCERNED. WE THINK THE BIOTECH CROPS ARE OUR FUTURE HERE.</p>
<p>Shot of DC on farm</p> <p>Graphic of California map w/ counties</p>	<p>VO/ LIKE GROWERS THROUGHOUT HIS STATE, CALIFORNIA FARMER DON CAMERON IS CONCERNED HIS FUTURE USE OF BIOTECH CROPS IS IN JEOPARDY. ON ELECTION DAY VOTERS IN FOUR COUNTIES WILL DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO BAN CULTIVATION OF BIOTECH CROPS IN THEIR COUNTY.</p>
<p>Ackerman getting out of truck and checking out cotton</p>	<p>VO/ (NAT) LAU ACKERMAN IS CROPS COORDINATOR FOR CHICO STATE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH FARM. HE SAYS IF VOTERS THERE PASS THE BAN THE OPERATION WOULD BE HIT HARD FINANCIALLY AND WOULD LIMIT EDUCATION FOR THE STUDENTS.</p>
<p>Lau Ackerman Crops Coordinator Chico State University Research Farm</p> <p>Shot of combine in cotton field</p>	<p>SOT13 THERE'S TOO MANY EMOTIONS INVOLVED AND OCCASIONALLY SCIENCE GETS IGNORED. I DO BELIEVE THERE ARE ISSUES TO WORK OUT BUT I THINK THEY'RE ALL WORKABLE SITUATIONS.</p>
<p>Bradford walking into lab building</p>	<p>SEED BIOLOGIST KENT BRADFORD SAYS PROPONENTS OF THE BAN ARE IGNORING THE ADVANTAGES OF BIOTECH CROPS.</p>

<p>Dr. Kent Bradford Seed Biologist U of California - Davis</p>	<p>SOT17 I THINK THEY'RE BENEFICIAL AND WE'RE GETTING BENEFITS ALREADY IN TERMS OF ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY, REDUCED PESTICIDE USE, LESS PLOWING AND SO ON.</p>
<p>Ackerman Cu of cotton bolls in hands</p>	<p>SOT16 IF WE CAN PUT MORE PROTEIN IN A GIVEN PLANT, IF WE CAN INCREASE VITAMIN A IN A GIVEN PLANT, THESE ARE GREAT THINGS. WE CAN HELP THE POPULATION, BUT IF YOU TAKE THESE TOOLS AWAY WE'RE GOING TO BE BACK WHERE WE STARTED.</p>
<p>Combine in field</p>	<p>VO/ BRADFORD SAYS THE ISSUE PEGS TRADITIONAL FARMERS AGAINST ORGANIC GROWERS.</p>
	<p>SOT 21 IT'S BEING PRESENTED AS A FARMERS' RIGHTS INITIATIVE, THAT WE HAVE TO ENACT THESE IN ORDER TO PROTECT FARMERS' RIGHTS, WHERE IN FACT THE INITIATIVE IS RESTRICTING THE RIGHTS OF 99 PERCENT OF THE GROWERS TO BE ABLE TO USE THE TOOLS THEY HAVE.</p>
<p>Cameron talking to worker Closeup of cotton</p>	<p>BUT CAMERON KNOWS BOTH CAN CO-EXIST, SINCE HE GROWS ORGANIC AND BIOTECH COTTON. EVEN THOUGH HIS COUNTY HAS NO BAN ON THE BALLOT, HE'S STILL WATCHING.</p>

<p>Don Cameron California Farmer</p>	<p>SOT 8 I THINK THIS OUT TO SEND A RED FLAG UP THE POLE. I THINK THAT GROWERS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES OUGHT TO BE WATCHING WHAT'S GOING ON IN CALIFORNIA. THIS IS A REAL SIGNAL FOR THE REST OF THE U.S. IF THEY'RE SUCCESSFUL HERE I GUARANTEE YOU THEY'RE NOT GOING TO STOP IN CALIFORNIA.</p>
<p>Gravy cotton shot</p>	<p>IN BUTTE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, I'M JOHNNA MILLER.</p>