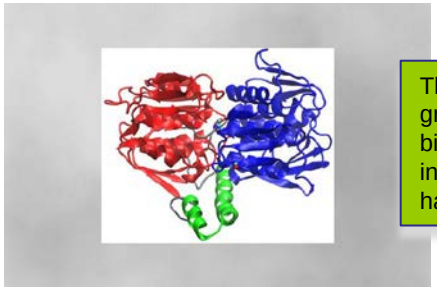
Forage Genetics plans to commercialize BESC invention

- The invention provides a genetic mechanism for the reduction of lignin biosynthesis while increasing concentration of desirable flavonoids.
- Reduced lignin content increases digestibility and nutritional value of animal feedstocks such as alfalfa, corn and sorghum.
- Forage Genetics plans to evaluate commercial viability of this technology in alfalfa, corn and sorghum forage crops as animal feedstocks.



The novel protein motif (represented in green) is responsible for regulating lignin biosynthesis and has shown decreases in lignin content of up 25% in *Medicago* hairy roots (a model system for alfalfa).

Forage Genetics International is the union of industry-leading forage companies whose history of alfalfa innovations dates back to the 1950s. Brought together in 1991, we've leveraged our collective strength to advance the forage industry and meet the needs of a diverse and growing world.

Our breeding expertise combined with our proprietary germplasm base and global reach allows us to develop unique seed varieties for diverse growing conditions, making us the world leader in value-added genetics. We're proud to provide not only the seed in the bag, but the expertise, research and technology that help growers succeed.

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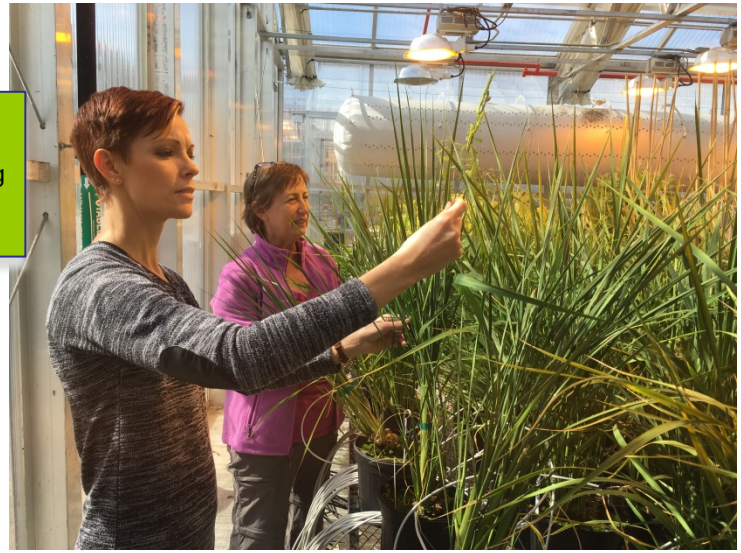
BESC co-inventors Sara Jawdy and Lee Gunter evaluating growth performance of rice plants carrying the lignin reducing-flavonoid enhancing mechanism .



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