

# THE CHRONICLE

of Higher Education

September 25, 2011

## **Battle to Save Chile-Pepper Crop Heats Up at New Mexico State**

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Las Cruces, N.M.

Adding zest to vanilla ice cream was not tops in the minds of the first New Mexicans to raise chile peppers, back in the 1800s, but it's very much on Lisa McKee's agenda today. The professor of food science at New Mexico State University and one of her graduate students, Sarah Padilla, are holding a blind taste test of chile gelato. If it works, Ms. Padilla will take it to a national competition, with potential commercialization as a reward.

But first she needs to figure out which



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The Chronicle of Higher Education 1255 Twenty-Third St, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20037