Plant pathologist Carl Strausbaugh evaluates a fungal culture of *Rhizoctonia solani*. Story begins on page 18.

4 Corn Defenses Probed for New Pest-Fighting Clues

7 Comparing Light-Conversion Efficiency of Plants and Manmade Solar Cells

8 Building Baby’s Tiny Bones: Formulas and Mother’s Milk Analyzed in Animal Study

10 Recognizing the Threat of Leptospirosis

12 Using Cactus as a Bioremediation Tool

14 ARS Scientists Rally ’Round the Range

17 There’s a New Biofuel Crop in Town

18 A Search for the Sweet Spot in Sugar Beet Production

20 Nutrient Data in Time for the New Year

22 A Rough, Tough Forage for Rangeland Cattle

23 Locations Featured in This Magazine Issue

Cover: ARS plant/soil scientist Gary Bañuelos and horticulturist Gabriella Romano survey fruit on prickly pear cacti, *Opuntia ficus-indica*, at the ARS San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Sciences Center in Parlier, California. Story begins on page 12. Photo by Stephen Ausmus. (D2351-16)