USU Spider Silk on CBS 'Innovation Nation'

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Cutting-edge Utah State University research is featured Saturday morning, Sept. 28, in “Spider Thread,” the premiere episode of Season 6 of the CBS TV program “The Henry Ford’s Innovation Nation.” The broadcast airs at 8:30 a.m. Mountain on Salt Lake City CBS affiliate KUTV.

“We’re excited to share our research with a national audience,” says Justin Jones, assistant research professor in USU’s Department of Biology and director of USU’s Spider Silk Lab. “This episode offers a glimpse of the diverse tools we use to produce spider silk proteins – the most diverse set of tools in the world.”

In a world drowning in plastic, synthetic spider silk provides an environmentally friendly, versatile and potentially abundant alternative, he says.

“An engineer’s dream material, spider silk is lightweight, strong, elastic and biocompatible,” Jones says. “But farming spiders, which eat each other and yield tiny quantities of silk, is impractical.”

Read the entire story here.