

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- Dow AgroSciences' SmartStax Hybrids Eligible for Rate Reduction Program
- Threat to 2010 Soybean Crop?

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## Happy National Cookie Month!

Greetings Readers!

There is still time to complete our survey on our current newsletter, as well as any possible changes you would like to see.

Found [here](#), the survey will be closed on November 13th at noon CST. Until then, please take a few minutes to share your opinions and to thank you for your time and valuable input, we will be drawing for a \$25 cash gift card from the answered surveys we receive.

Thank you!

Micci Ryan, Editor

## Dow AgroSciences' SmartStax Corn Hybrids Eligible for Rate Reduction Program in 2010

October 5, 2009—U.S. farmers who plant corn hybrids containing SmartStax™, a multi-event technology developed by Dow AgroSciences LLC and Monsanto Company, in 2010 will be eligible to reduce their crop insurance premium rate as part of the Pilot Biotechnology Endorsement approved by the – USDA Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), Board of Directors.

The Pilot Biotechnology Endorsement (BE) lowers crop insurance premium rates in 2010 for irrigated and non-irrigated corn farmers who meet the program eligibility requirements and plant certain qualifying hybrids in Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota,

and Wisconsin.

“The addition of SmartStax hybrids to the Pilot Biotechnology Endorsement recognizes the technology contributes to reduced production risk for U.S. farmers,” said Matt Kirkpatrick, Monsanto Corn Traits Marketing Manager. “U.S. farmers who plant SmartStax in 2010 will not only be able to increase their yield through the 5 percent refuge allowed for the technology in these states, but they will also have the opportunity to save on crop insurance on both irrigated and non-irrigated acres.”

“Participation by corn growers in the Pilot BE program in 2009 is expected to be greater than 2008 participation levels, and growers have experienced the

yield improvement and risk reduction of stacked trait technologies,” added Ben Kaehler, Dow AgroSciences Commercial Leader. “The addition of SmartStax in 2010 will expand growers’ trait options to receive a premium rate reduction on qualifying acres under next year’s Pilot Biotechnology Endorsement.”

Other actions by the FCIC Board of Directors include adding Colorado to the list of pilot states that participate in the program, bringing the number from 11 to 12 states; and expanding the premium rate reduction to eligible irrigated acres in all 12 states.

See SMARTSTAX page 2.



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Dow AgroSciences provides innovative technologies for crop protection, pest and vegetation management, seeds, traits, and agricultural biotechnology to serve the world's growing population.



The red-banded stink bug can be confused with the red-shouldered stink bug because of their similar markings and size.

"Technology can and should be a part of the solution" Bill Gates spoke at this month's World Food Prize Symposium citing the value of biotechnology in fighting hunger.



**SMARTSTAX**, continued from page 1—

The Pilot Biotech Yield Endorsement began in 2008 in four states. The cost of a total producer-paid premium during the 2008 pilot program was reduced on average by more than \$3 per acre. Total savings for participating growers was estimated to be nearly \$25 million within the pilot geography in 2008. In 2009, corn farmers in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kan-

sas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin who planted eligible hybrids could qualify for a premium rate reduction. Savings under the 2009 pilot are expected to be similar to those experienced in 2008.

To be eligible for the premium rate reduction using Monsanto hybrids, at least 75 percent of the total insured corn acres, including re-planted acres, on a unit basis

must be corn for grain planted to hybrids containing SmartStax, Genuity™ YieldGard VT Triple PRO, YieldGard VT Triple, or YieldGard Plus with Roundup Ready Corn 2 technologies. Participation in this program does not replace the importance of growers respecting EPA-mandated refuge requirements.

Source: Dow AgroSciences

## Red-Banded Stink Bugs Could Threaten 2010 Soybean Crop

October 23, 2009—Soybean producers likely will face a new threat to yields during the 2010 growing season -- the red-banded stink bug.

"I doubt they're doing anything to the late-planted beans that are still in the ground," Kelly Tindall, an entomologist at the University of Missouri Delta Research Center, said. Her concern is next year's crop.

Mississippi has seen red-banded stink bugs jump to 25% of the stink bug population since 2008. In Louisiana, the red-banded variety is about 70% of the population after five years.

The red-banded stink bug can be confused with the red-shouldered stink bug because of their similar markings and size. "The key characteristic of the red-banded stink bug is when you flip it over, there will be a spine at the third pair of legs that points up to the head," Tindall said.

Research in Louisiana showed that red-banded stink bugs caged on soybean pods for 72 hours damaged up to 41% of the seeds and reduced seed weight by about a third, Tindall said.

"Another troubling thing about this stink bug is that they are harder to kill with

insecticides than brown stink bugs," she said.

In a comparison of treated and untreated plots, red-banded stink bugs reduced yields by 43% on untreated plots. "An equally significant part of this study was that the treated plots were treated four times," Tindall said.

Will the red-banded stink bug survive the winter? Tindall said that researchers are just beginning to look at the temperature break point. "We know that if they take hold, they go full force."

Source: University of MO

## Microsoft Founder Backs Biotechnology to Fight Hunger

October 21, 2009—Bill Gates started his speech at this month's World Food Prize Symposium by asking a simple question: "how do you help people who live on less than a dollar a day?"

One of the answers, he says, is to use biotechnology to increase crop yields.

For Gates, the billionaire founder of Microsoft Inc., the question would seem unimportant.

But, he and his wife,

Melinda, formed a foundation a few years ago which has committed \$1.4 billion to agricultural development.

For Gates, the speech here was his first public foray into discussions about agriculture. He argued in his speech there are arguments in the development community about productivity vs. sustainability, but said, "I believe it's a false choice."

Too many in the environmental movement have drawn lines in the sand and argued

against any use of biotechnology to increase crop yields, Gates said.

But, he said farmers around the world will need to increase yields and they will need to increase production on existing farmland if the poorest people are to be fed in a few decades.

Technology can and should be a part of the solution to feeding an ever-growing world population, Gates added.

Source: Iowa Farmer Today



Power to Know. Power to Grow.®

807 Mountain Ave. Suite 200

Berthoud, CO 80513

(877) 674-7419

www.e-markets.com

Editor: Micci Ryan

Phone: 515-956-9321

Fax: 515-956-9388

E-mail: micci.ryan@e-markets.com

## Holiday Closings:

E-Markets would like to remind our customers that our offices will be closed on November 26th and 27th for the Thanksgiving holiday. We will be back in the office on Monday, November 30th.

## Tips for Pumpkin Selection

*October 20, 2009*—At this time of year, many adults and children are picking pumpkins from stores or pumpkin patches for their seasonal decorations.

Rain during flowering resulted in poor pollination that has led to a reduced number of pumpkins in some areas. So finding that perfect pumpkin has become a bit more challenging, said Dr. Obadiah Njue, horticulture specialist with the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Cooperative Extension Program.

Whether your pumpkin comes from the patch or the store, selecting a good and fully mature one, along with proper handling, will determine how long your pumpkin lasts. Pumpkins are usually ready for harvest when they reach a deep solid color (usually orange for most varieties).

Regardless of when they were planted, pumpkins should be harvested before heavy frosts. Pumpkins harvested from the vines or picked from the store should have three to four inches of stem attached. Those without stems usually do not keep well. Pumpkins that are not fully mature,

those that are injured or have been subjected to heavy frost do not keep well either. "They wither and rot quickly," said Dr. Njue, who offers these tips for a pumpkin that will have a long display life.

- Choose a pumpkin that is firm to the touch and free from any soft spots.
- Choose one that has a uniform color. Variations in color indicate that it is not fully mature.
- Check closely for any mold. This would be a sign of early rot.
- Make sure there are no bruises or cuts on the pumpkin.
- Select a pumpkin that has a proper shape. Make sure it can sit on its own.
- Select a pumpkin with a firm green stem. Avoid those with a soft brown stem.
- When transporting the pumpkin home, do not let it roll around. This causes bruising which accelerates rotting.
- Store the pumpkin in a dry place until ready to carve or display it.

Source: University of Arkansas, Division of Agriculture

## Farmers Can Calculate Their Sustainability at USB Website

*October 27, 2009*—The United Soybean Board (USB), in cooperation with Field to Market: The Keystone Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture, recently launched the FieldPrint Calculator on its website, you can access the tool [here](#).

The FieldPrint Calculator is a free tool that farmers can use to evaluate how various practices on their farm might impact the environment. USB believes the U.S. soybean industry



possesses many sustainability attributes and created the soybean check-off's Sustainability Initiative to further improve the industry's overall environmental footprint. Now, using the FieldPrint Calculator, individual soybean farmers can tabulate the impact

their operations have on the environment and compare the results with state and national averages.

Field to Market, an alliance of agriculture industry stakeholders, developed the FieldPrint Calculator. USB farmer-leaders participate on the Field to Market steering committee.

Source: United Soybean Board