

Illinois Field & Bean™

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TRAIT APPROVALS EXPAND SEED SELECTION

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EU GREEN LIGHTS THREE BIOTECH TRAITS

Illinois Soybean Farmers Have Expanded 2017 Seed Options



PHOTOS BY LYDIA HOUSTE.

> BY BARB BAYLOR ANDERSON

Soybean seed options for 2017 got a lot broader this summer when the European Union (EU) finally cleared three biotech events for import and processing. The events will provide Illinois farmers with more weed control strategies and eventually a new high-oleic soybean choice.

Approved traits include Xtend dicamba-tolerant soybean products and Vistive Gold high oleic soybean products from Monsanto, and Balance GT FG72 from Bayer CropScience. The three events had received positive scientific opinion from the European Food Safety Agency more than a year ago, and had been waiting for final approval by the EU Commission. Xtend soybeans previously were approved for import into China and other major U.S. markets.

“This is the clearing of an important hurdle for the commercialization of these products in the U.S.,” says Daryl Cates, soybean farmer from Columbia, Ill., and Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) chairman. “We need an ever-increasing range of tools to tackle the challenge of resistant weeds. And with the continued move away from trans-fats in American diets, farmers need additional tools to produce soybeans that meet that market demand as well.”

EXTENDED OFFERINGS

Seed company representatives are excited to be able to offer the new traits for 2017.

Mike Bachman, Asgrow product development manager, says they had been preparing for approval, in hopes that their seed products could be commercialized for 2017.

“We will have ample Roundup Ready 2 Yield varieties available for Illinois growers. Now with Roundup Ready 2 Xtend EU import approval, we will have a full lineup of those varieties in good quantities,” he says. “People are ready for the Roundup Ready Xtend Crop System.



Seed company representatives are excited to be able to offer new traits for 2017 that will give farmers more choices for tough weed management. Kent Tappendorf, Altamont, Ill., farmer, considers his options.

There are concerns about glyphosate tolerance and hard-to-control weeds the system can address.”

Bachman notes Roundup Ready 2 Xtend are the first biotech soybeans with tolerance to both dicamba and glyphosate, although no dicamba formulations are registered yet for in-crop use.

“We encourage farmers to change weed control systems as needed, while also staying focused on maximizing production,” he says. “Now they have more options.”

Farmers who intend to plant Channel brand soybeans with approved

traits also will have plentiful supplies in all maturity groups, says Dave Wallner, Channel seedsman from Pleasant Plains, Ill.

“We expect big interest in Roundup Ready 2 Xtend varieties for 2017, and are hopeful for approval for in-crop use of dicamba before next season,” he says. “It would be a welcome addition to the weed control system versus making three or four herbicide passes.”

DuPont Pioneer will have Roundup Ready 2 Xtend varieties in its 2017 lineup for Illinois farmers, along with other glyphosate-tolerant and Liberty Link varieties and non-GMO seed.

“Conventional, non-GMO soybeans are picking up a decent premium in this area, and not giving up anything on yield potential,” says Jarrod Hudson, DuPont Pioneer field agronomist for central Illinois. “At the same time, most farmers have some weed resistance pressure, especially from waterhemp. We advise farmers to operate under the assumption they have resistance and adjust their programs with Roundup Ready 2 Xtend or Liberty Link.”

CONSIDER SEED TREATMENTS

If diseases are a concern, Hudson also encourages farmers to consider a seed treatment for their 2017 varieties. “ILeVo is an option to fill in the gaps in your seed variety disease package, especially if you need protection against sudden death syndrome and nematodes,” he says.

Monty Malone, soybean agronomist with Bayer CropScience, also supports the use of ILeVo with the Credezn soybeans in their 2017 lineup.

“We expanded our offerings so farmers can be more flexible in handling stresses like soybean cyst nematode and white mold,” says Malone. “We have a wide range of high-yielding Liberty Link and Roundup Ready 2 Yield traits. We advise farmers to think now about where you can improve, and rotate into another trait for more effective weed control in 2017.”

Burrus Hybrids has glyphosate tolerant, Liberty Link and Roundup Ready 2 Xtend varieties for next season. Stephanie Porter, sales agronomist and Illinois Soybean Association Soy CCA Envoy, says they also will have Enlist soybeans, pending approval.

“Weed resistance is huge, and waterhemp is confirmed with PPO and glyphosate resistance. For waterhemp escapes, farmers will need to switch to Liberty, Xtend or Enlist,” she says. “Farmers should pick up the best traits they can to manage their own weed situations.” ■

States Deal with **DICAMBA DRIFT**

Several state departments of agriculture investigated potential dicamba injury to crops this summer. Susceptible crops, including soybeans, can be damaged by current formulations of dicamba when spray equipment is not cleaned out completely or from wind drift or volatilization.

In the case of drift or volatilization, injury to nearby susceptible crops can occur if dicamba is being used to burn down weeds in a field prior to planting double-crop soybeans, or if dicamba is used to control weeds in nearby corn or other crops that have a dicamba label.

The American Soybean Association (ASA) has noted that if dicamba was sprayed on Xtend soybeans or cotton in 2016, such in-season crop use would be inappropriate and unauthorized. Both Monsanto and BASF have developed dicamba formulations that significantly reduce volatilization and will help avoid any future non-target crop damage. The labels still are in the process of being finalized by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ASA is working with Monsanto, BASF and the EPA for label approval to try and assure the low-volatility dicamba formulations will be available to farmers for the 2017 growing season.

SEED SELECTION TIPS: The Experts Weigh In

“Stick to the basics for seed selection. Review yield data from different sources for your farm. Choose varieties and a weed control system that will manage any tolerant weeds and maximize yield potential.”

MIKE BACHMAN - Asgrow

“Dial down to the field or even the acre as needed to address as many concerns as you can with variety selection. That is one thing you can control.”

MONTY MALONE - Bayer CropScience

“Yield is still king, followed closely by selecting maturities on the fuller side so you can capture yield potential. Sudden death syndrome and soybean cyst nematode protection are in many varieties, so match the disease package to field history.”

JARROD HUDSON - DuPont Pioneer

“Look for yield consistency. Identify disease problems now to pick up better traits for next year. Select a .5-.7-day maturity range to spread risk. Don’t go too short or too long. Then explore emergence, vigor, plant height, shattering and lodging.”

STEPHANIE PORTER - Burrus Hybrids

“Select for yield and agronomic package. Don’t have your mind made up on maturity selection until you see what varieties might be tolerant to the diseases you might need to manage in your fields. With earlier planting dates, consider seed selection as 50 percent of the puzzle and choosing a seed treatment as the other 50 percent.”

DAVE WALLNER - Channel Seed