

Farmers, Ag Stakeholders Asked to Voice Support for New Technologies

Friday, April 8, 2016

From Monsanto Company

On April 1, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a 30-day public comment period regarding the in-crop use of dicamba herbicide with Bollgard II® XtendFlex™ cotton and Roundup Ready 2 Xtend™ soybeans. This action represents another critical milestone toward farmers gaining access to new dicamba weed-management tools.

A limited commercial introduction of Bollgard II XtendFlex Cotton took place in 2015 with commercial launch in 2016. Monsanto announced its commercialization plans for Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybeans in February. Monsanto's Asgrow®, Channel® and regional brands, along with Corn States licensees, expect to introduce more than 70 soybean products across eight maturity groups with agronomic traits including resistance to nematodes and phytophthora root rot. Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybeans are broadly licensed to more than 100 seed brands.

At present, it is a violation of federal and state law to make an in-crop application of any dicamba herbicide product on Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybeans or Bollgard II XtendFlex cotton as no dicamba product is currently approved for those uses.

Dicamba has a decades-long history of safe and effective use in the U.S. and 25 other countries in corn, wheat, fallow and pasture land, conservation tillage acres, as well as homeowner uses. Following final approvals, farmers will be able to use dicamba in-crop with soybeans tolerant to dicamba and glyphosate and with cotton tolerant to dicamba, glyphosate and glufosinate.

"Stakeholder comments will really make a difference," said Kim Magin, Monsanto's Director of Industry Affairs. "Supportive letters are important for regulators to understand the various perspectives from farmers and agricultural stakeholders."

In December 2014, the U.S. Department of Agriculture concluded a thorough assessment of Monsanto's Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybeans and Bollgard II XtendFlex cotton and authorized those crops for unrestricted commercial planting. Before reaching its decision, the USDA considered nearly 5,000 comments submitted by farmers, academic and scientific experts and other key stakeholders. An overwhelming majority of those who provided feedback during the public comment period voiced support for the trait technology.

The EPA is now accepting public comments. Monsanto has provided a tool, which can be found at RoundupReadyPLUS.com/supportdicamba, to aid stakeholders in writing and submitting a comment.

For more information on the Roundup Ready Xtend Crop System, visit RoundupReadyXtend.com.

Want the facts about the U.S. agriculture and farm policy?
<http://www.farmpolicyfacts.org>

Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District Initiates Public Rulemaking Hearing

The Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District will receive public comment on proposed amendments to the Rules of the District at a public hearing at the District Office, located at 201 West Third Street, White Deer, Texas, on Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 10:30am. The District Board at the conclusion of the public hearing will discuss comments received and consider possible adoption of the proposed rules. Written and oral comments on the proposed rules must be submitted to the District on or prior to the hearing date.

A complete copy of the current Rules of the District and proposed rule amendments are available at the District office or online at <https://pgcd.us/>.

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Focus on Cotton Webcast Introduces Growers to "Cotton Cultivated" Website

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

From The Cotton Board

Last year, Cotton Incorporated launched a new website to give the cotton growing community quick and easy access to important cotton information, Cotton Cultivated (<https://cottoncultivated.cottoninc.com/>). A new Focus on Cotton webcast titled "Overview of Cotton Incorporated's Cotton Cultivated Website" introduces cotton growers, consultants, and other industry experts to this tool that makes it easy to find cotton-specific information, including daily monitoring data and reports; research results and recommendations; and news from trusted sources.

This 6-minute talk by Ryan Kurtz, Director of Agricultural & Environmental Research at Cotton Incorporated, provides information that helps users navigate the website, filter information by region or topic, and quickly locate reliable cotton production information.

This presentation is available at no charge, courtesy of Cotton Incorporated, through the 'Focus on Cotton' webcast resource located at the Plant Management Network, <http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/foco>.

"Focus on Cotton" contains over 35 webcasts on various aspects of cotton crop management. These talks – freely accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – cover agronomic practices, crop protection, and ag engineering. This resource also features a new and improved Cotton Extension Search tool, where users can conveniently search for extension resources across all U.S. land-grant universities serving cotton producers.