

# Focus *On* Evaluation

## Pioneer Researchers Continue Developing New Technologies

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### UNION CITY, TENN.

**P**ioneer Hi-Bred is evaluating thousands of yield test plots at each of its 30 research centers in North America, including Union City, according to Russ Henry, research scientist and station manager for Pioneer at Union City, Tenn.

"That includes everything from first year breeding material all the way up through commercial products," he said. "A high percentage of that, of course, is technology products where we're comparing to the base genetics or to another technology product to make sure we get the best hybrids and technology packages available."

There are many new technologies under study, many of which weren't even on display at the company's field day recently.

"We have a lot of new technologies in the

have improved hybrids and there are good conversions of the technology products, then the products are compared with competitor's products. What Henry is most excited about is the way Pioneer is moving.

"I'm impressed by the direction that we're moving and the speed by which we're getting there," he replied. "We're developing new technologies as fast as we possibly can, we're getting them integrated and adequately characterized as quickly as we possibly can."

Pioneer has a number of research centers in the MidSouth.

"We have this one, and there's one in Princeton, Ind., and West Memphis, Ark. We test wide regions, and we also have a station in Cairo, Ga., just north of Tallahassee, Fla., which is our Coastal Plains testing region."

Farmers are utilized in much of the testing.

"This coming year we are going to broaden our testing area," he explained. "In 2010 it will be a



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Photo by John LaRose

pipeline that aren't out here today," Henry added. "Of course, there's a lot of excitement about the new Y Series soybeans. As you can tell, we've got 15 varieties of soybeans out there of various maturities which are adapted for our area. That's a first, usually we have four, five or nine. This year we have 15, so there's a lot of excitement throughout the organization. We're all excited about the new products and what we're doing."

Henry has been in Union City for 30 years. The field days began with Frank Patton about 29 years ago, and have continued ever since.

The trials are aimed first at making sure we

very wide testing area at certain stages of development across the entire United States."

There are two different aspects to the testing. There is a research aspect and then the sales aspect.

"We call that PAT, or product advancement trials," Henry said. "The product advancement trial aspect is basically to test multiple products at multiple grower locations in every state that produces corn. They utilize growers 100 percent. Research does not necessarily utilize the growers 100 percent nor are we in as big of a geographical area as the product advancement trials. Δ