

# Crop Safety Gets Top Consideration

## Pioneer Seeds, DuPont Herbicides Provide Flexibility

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Crop safety, flexibility and effective weed control are top concerns at DuPont, according to Dave Saunders, product development manager with DuPont Crop Protection. He spoke on the safety built into DuPont herbicides and Pioneer genetics at the recent Crop Technology Field Day at Greenville, Miss.

“Whether growers are planting conventional corn or soybeans or they’re using genetics with the new Optimum® GAT® trait that will be available very soon, the same message holds true,” Saunders said. “Crop injury from any source must be prevented.”

DuPont is improving crop safety in its herbicide products, for conventional or glyphosate-tolerant corn crops, by adding safener to proven weed-control products. “In corn, DuPont has introduced two new postemergence products, Resolve® Q and Require™ Q. Both contain a safener that allows growers to use them under a broader range of application conditions and with more hybrids,” explained Saunders.

In addition to launching those products, the company is close to introducing a new herbicide-tolerant trait – Optimum® GAT® – that will offer greater flexibility, broader spectrum and safety for maximized results in crop production programs using corn and soybeans.

The Optimum® GAT® trait results in corn and soybean plants with tolerance to both glyphosate and ALS herbicides, vastly expanding grower options for herbicide selection and potentially requiring fewer passes through the field for effective control of tough weeds.

“With the Optimum® GAT® trait, we address crop safety with herbicide-tolerant traits, plus we will offer new herbicides that will help growers take full advantage of the trait.”

The four new herbicides designed specifically for Optimum® GAT® will be available as the seed is introduced. A few of these were shown at the field day. DuPont™ Instigate™ herbicide for corn will have multiple modes of action and contact-plus-residual control to manage grasses and broadleaf weeds glyphosate can’t handle alone. DuPont™ Freestyle™ and DuPont™ Traverse™ herbicides for corn and soybeans will offer broad-spectrum control and expanded application timing.

DuPont™ Diligent™ herbicide for soybeans will also have multiple modes of action and contact-plus-residual control to manage grasses and broadleaf weeds glyphosate can’t handle alone.

“Whether growers prefer to use preemergence,

postemergence or two-pass weed control programs, we’re providing a program that will have choices that add value for farmers,” said Saunders.

“If you have a crop rotation situation where you have corn or soybeans following cotton, rice or sorghum, you have to take the rotational crops into consideration,” he said. “With the Op-

**Dave Saunders, Product Development Manager with DuPont Crop Protection, discussed the safety built into DuPont herbicides and Pioneer genetics.**

Photo by John LaRose



timum® GAT® trait, you’ll be able to choose a product that does the best job controlling your problem weeds and then plant corn or soybeans with the Optimum® GAT® trait and not worry about crop safety.”

A situation like this year where it was too wet to plant corn and farmers went to soybeans is a prime example. Optimum® GAT® trait technology will allow farmers to make that change any time up to planting.

“That’s a nice flexible tool,” he added. “If you’re on a river bottom that floods every other year, using this kind of flexible program gives you the ability to go either way.”

Saunders credited Dr. Charles Snipes with helping to test these new technologies. Snipes, a researcher who retired from Mississippi State in 2006, is doing contract research for DuPont. He works with cotton, corn, soybeans, rice, grain sorghum and sunflowers.

Saunders said Snipes’ work has been “tremendously helpful.”

“Charles has a wealth of experience in a broad range of crops,” he said. “His weed science expertise gives him the ability to do insecticide, fungicide and a broad range of work for us. It’s been an excellent relationship, and we’ve been very, very pleased.”

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