

More global farmers to grow GMOs

By TOM J. BECHMAN

FARMERS in Argentina have grown Herculex I genetically modified corn for years. Now farmers across the border in Brazil can do the same. Brazil's National Technical Commission of Biosafety recently approved sale of five Herculex corn hybrids.



Jerome Peribere, president and CEO of Dow AgroSciences, hails it as a milestone, claiming it will set a new standard for control of corn pests in Brazil.

The key pests that Herculex I protects against there include the *Spodoptera frugiperda* caterpillar, the No. 1 corn pest in Brazil, and *Diatraea saccharalis*. Brazilian officials say the two pests combined can cause yield losses up to 40%.

More Dow AgroSciences news
In the midst of staggering losses an-

nounced by company after company, here's good news. Dow AgroSciences, with a big stake in agricultural technology products, reported a fourth-quarter sales record at the end of 2008. The Indianapolis-based company, owned by Dow Chemical, had its best year ever.

The Ag Sciences sector posted fourth-quarter sales of \$885 million, up 2% from the same quarter a year ago. Let's hope that's an indication that agriculture will evolve from the current economic malaise unscathed.

Bayer unveils Corvus

A new one-pass, full-season weed-control herbicide for corn recently received EPA approval. Corvus, from Bayer CropScience, combines two active ingredients to bring down more than 50 broadleaves and grasses, Bayer officials report. The interesting feature about Corvus is its WeatherShield. That's the term Bayer coined to explain that Corvus is less sensitive to random, sporadic spring rains. According to Bayer representatives, a half-inch of rain can reactivate it, even after a dry period. Yet it's also competitive during rainy seasons, notes Bent Philbrook with Bayer. Visit www.bayercropscienceus.com.

Headline breakthrough

For the first time, a fungicide carries EPA-approved plant health claims on its label. Headline from BASF was granted the label recently. State approvals are pending. Rick Chamblee of BASF says Headline improves plant health three ways, citing improved growth efficiency; excellent disease control; and enhanced tolerance to stresses such as drought, heat, cold and ozone damage. Learn more at www.agproducts.basf.com.

Clearfield milestone

You may not grow rapeseed or spring canola, but the technology that's led to enhanced herbicide tolerance in new Clearfield traits is worth noting. BASF worked with Cibus, a San Diego trait company, to develop what BASF calls the next generation of Clearfield products. The technology Cibus brings to the table is called RTDS, for Rapid Trait Development System. It was used to make spring canola plants more tolerant to Clearfield. Learn about RTDS at www.cibus.com.

Frontier launches transports

You can transport your combine's flex, rigid or draper platform, or corn head down the road with the new HT11 and HT12 series transport headers from Frontier Equipment. Company spokespersons point to a state-of-the-art tricycle front axle that adds stability. Learn more at www.johndeere.com.

Ag Leader adds planter clutch

SureStop clutches that install quicker and easier are available from Ag Leader. Designed to enhance Ag Leader's SeedCommand, the clutches shut off units on ends and already planted areas. Limited production is available for 2009. Visit www.agleader.com.

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