



New beans boost value of the crop

MONSANTO scientists worked over a decade to develop Vistive low-linolenic, or low-lin, soybeans. These beans have good yields, good agronomics and carry the Roundup Ready trait while at the same time containing less than 3% linolenic acid. Conventional soybeans, for comparison, contain approximately 8% linolenic acid.

With the lesser need for partial hydrogenation in Vistive soybeans, trans fats can be lowered or eliminated. Monsanto notes that low-linolenic soybean oil allows food companies to make fried, baked, snack and other processed foods with lower or zero trans fats.

Trans fats lower HDL, or good cholesterol, and raise LDL, or bad cholesterol and so are believed to be related to heart disease.

Expect more variety in low-lin beans in '08

By **FRANK HOLDMEYER**

SOYBEAN farmers will have an expanded lineup of Vistive low-linolenic soybean varieties to choose from in 2008. This comes at a time when demand from food companies, processors and consumers continues to grow for these soybeans that can reduce or eliminate trans fats in soybean oil.

More than 100 food companies, including KFC and Kellogg's, are now using Vistive low-lin oil in their products. Many cities, counties and states have either enacted or are considering bans on trans fats in school cafeterias and restaurants. Vistive low-lin soybeans typically contain less than 3% linolenic acid as an oil component compared with 8% for conventional soybeans. This enables food processors to use Vistive oil to reduce or eliminate the need for hydrogenation, which creates trans fats in processed soybean oil.

"Vistive low-lin soybeans were first introduced by Monsanto on 100,000 acres in 2005," notes Steve Werning, Monsanto area sales manager. "Last year, nearly 1.5 million acres in 12 states

Key Points

- Demand for better oils for healthier foods continues to grow.
- Low-linolenic soybeans reduce trans fats in processed soybean oil.
- More Vistive varieties will be available for planting in 2008.

were planted to Vistive beans. In 2008, Vistive will be offered in 31 different seed brands — more than 170 different products in all, all Roundup Ready."

According to Werning, Vistive will be available to farmers in a wider geographic area around the 20 processor locations that crush the beans and market the oil to food companies. Participating processors in 2008 include:

- Cargill
- AGP
- Bunge
- CHS Inc.
- Mercer Landmark
- Owensboro Grain Co.
- Perdue Inc.
- Zeeland Farms

"We have always been a big sup-

porter of the Vistive program," says Eric Keller, Cargill specialty oilseed merchant. "In each of the first three years, Cargill has been the largest processor of Vistive beans."

Premium price

Vistive soybeans are grown just like conventional soybeans; the only kicker is they must be stored separately at harvest. Yield performance is comparable to conventional beans. Perhaps the biggest benefit is the 50- to 60-cent premium producers receive for growing the beans. "Vistive is an attractive alternative for growers," notes Keller. "Growers contract a specific number of Vistive acres. That's easier for them than a specific number of bushels."

Typically the beans are marketed November through December. In the case of the Cargill processing plant at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, growers receive the Cedar Rapids cash price plus a 60-cent premium. "But growers have marketing flexibility," says Keller. "They can forward contract the price if they want."

■ Learn more at www.vistive.com.

Cotton genetics award presented

ANDREW H. Paterson, a distinguished research professor in the University of Georgia's Crop and Soil Sciences and its Genetics departments, was named the winner of the 2007 Cotton Genetics Research Award during the Cotton Improvement Conference of the 2008 Beltwide Cotton Conferences, coordinated by the National Cotton Council.

Paterson is an internationally recognized authority in plant genomics, and his contributions to cotton genetics, genomics, cytogenetics and breeding have been significant. He currently serves as director of the Plant Genome Mapping Laboratory, director of the National Science Foundation Comparative Grass Genomics Center, director of the USDA-IFAFS Center on Reducing the Genetic Vulnerability of Cotton, and as the co-director of the Genes for Georgia Initiative.

Paterson's Plant Genome Mapping Laboratory (www.plantgenome.uga.edu), which is comprised of some 30 University of Georgia research scientists, is widely recognized in the application of modern technologies to genome mapping and quantitative trait localization. His group addresses the fundamental questions on the structure and organization of crop genomes with cotton as a center stage, and was the first to report the most detailed molecular map of the cotton genome, the synteny/colinearity of the ancestral cotton genome to the Arabidopsis genome, and was the first to develop a comprehensive QTL landscape of the cotton genome, including traits such as fiber quality, productivity and disease resistance as well as a host of

Key Points

- Paterson is internationally recognized for contributions to studying cotton genetics.
- Award winner's research has developed tools that are used worldwide.
- His work has expanded knowledge about fiber quality.

genetic mutants.

Paterson also has advised or co-advised 43 master's and doctorate students and mentored 44 postdoctoral associates.

One of his nominators, Texas Tech University's Robert Wright, says: "Dr. Paterson personifies all the qualities represented by this award. His broad talents and tireless work ethic are widely recognized and appreciated by his fellow colleagues, collaborators and students. His unique and original

research has provided a foundation to modern cotton molecular and evolutionary genetics."

Wright says Paterson has led the way in cotton genome mapping, as evidenced by his large body of research. Paterson's laboratory, Wright notes, has developed genetic tools and information that are being widely utilized by scientists worldwide.

Paterson earned a bachelor of science degree summa cum laude from the University of Delaware and master's and doctorate degrees from Cornell University in plant breeding and genetics.

The recipient of the 2003 Cotton Biotech Award also has authored or co-authored more than 190 publications (60 in cotton), many in some of the world's leading science journals such as *Nature*, *Science*, *Nature Genetics* and the *Proceedings of the National Academy*

of Sciences. He also has authored two books, 37 book chapters, five popular press articles, six patent applications and 143 invited presentations.

U.S. commercial cotton breeders have presented the Cotton Genetics Research Award for more than 40 years to a scientist for outstanding basic research in cotton genetics. The Joint Cotton Breeding Committee, comprised



ANDREW PATERSON

of representatives from state experiment stations, USDA, private breeders and the National Cotton Council, establishes criteria. The winner also receives a \$1,000 cash award.

Source: National Cotton Council



WTO should watch market

COTTON acreage in 2007 provides proof positive that U.S. producers respond to market signals, says Gary Adams, chief economist for the National Cotton Council.

U.S. producers dropped cotton acreage by nearly one-third to 10.8 million acres.

"The planting flexibility of the farm program, coupled with the prevailing market signals, contributed to the 29% decline," Adams told attendees at the 2008 Beltwide Cotton Conference.

Other countries, however, did not respond to those same market signals.

It's a point worthy of notice in the wake of World Trade Organization debate over whether the U.S. cotton program skews the world market, Adams said.

"First, the adjustment in U.S. acreage undermines criticisms that we hear about the U.S. cotton program — specifically in the international arena. It is clear that U.S. producers do respond to market signals and adjust acreage accordingly," Adams said. "Second, it begs the question as to why there have been no responses from other countries."