Co-Existence in the US Corn Industry

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National Corn Growers Association
NCGA Biotech Policy

• Advocates the continued availability of federally regulated and approved seed and crops produced through biotechnology.

• Supports the science-based regulatory process

• Recognizes that the use of these biotech products is an individual decision, based upon the benefits of agronomic traits, and the marketing options available for that hybrid.
• **Support the commercial release of biotech corn events**
  – After consultation with and approval by the NCGA Biotech Working Group.

  – **Must have full approval by the relevant U.S. and Japanese regulatory agencies**

  – Registrant must be aggressively pursuing approval in every country of bloc that requires

  – Must be brought to market in a manner that does not disrupt domestic or international trade

Know Before You Grow℠

• Recommends growers select hybrids with the full knowledge of whether the number is conventional, one approved for EU export or one not yet approved for EU export.

• Emphasizes growers read their grower agreements before planting and are fully aware of the requirements of those agreements.

• It is vital that hybrids awaiting EU approval are kept out of export and processing channels.
Hybrids not yet approved for export to the EU

- NCGA urges you to funnel grain from these hybrids into one of three markets.

  (1) to feed these hybrids in your own livestock rations,
  (2) to sell into domestic livestock feeding channels or
  (3) sell to elevators accepting grain not yet approved for EU export.

- In conjunction with American Seed Trade Association
U.S. Corn Acreage

2001

- Biotech, 19.7
- Organic, 0.09
- Conv., 56

2007

- Biotech, 67.8
- Conv., 25.1
- Organic*, 0.14

Data Source: USDA, NASS; USDA, ERS

*Estimate
U.S. Alfalfa Acreage, 2007

(Million Acres)

Conventional, 21.4

Organic*, 0.44

Biotech, 0.35

Data Source: USDA, NASS; USDA, ERS

*Estimate
Adventitious Presence

• **Zero tolerance is impossible**
  – Contracts must allow for some level of AP

  – Low-level, unintended amounts of unwanted product
    • Asynchronous Approvals or Regulatory Paralysis

• Developing globally accepted procedure for Risk Assessment and Risk Management

  – Global AP Coalition
    • International Grain Trade Coalition
    • CropLife International
    • International Grocer Manufacturers
Co-existence

- Co-existence is managing pollen flow and spray drift.
  - Corn farmers have been practicing for years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Buffer</th>
<th>Contract Spec</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White Corn</td>
<td>12 rows if flowering dates line up</td>
<td>2-3% yellow, 0% GMO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seed Corn</td>
<td>660’ buffer from corn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seed soybeans</td>
<td>6’ strip if next to other beans</td>
<td></td>
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Making Co-existence Work

• Coordination is the key
  – Altering planting dates
  – Altering maturities
  – Altering crops
  – Buffers
  – Natural or Man-made barriers

• If all else fails, National Organic Standard prevails
National Organic Standards

• **Land Requirements**
  – Have had no prohibited substances applied to it for a period of 3 years
  – **Have distinct, defined boundaries and buffer zones to prevent the unintended contact with a prohibited substance applied to adjoining land that is not under organic management** § 205.202 (c)

• **Seeds and planting stock**
  – The producer must use organically grown seeds
  – **Except,**
    • Non-organically produced, untreated seeds and planting stock may be used when an equivalent organically produced variety is not commercially available
    • Non-organically produced planting stock to be used to produce a perennial crop may be only after the planting stock has been maintained under a system of organic management for a period of no less than 1 year
    • Seeds, annual seedlings, and planting stock treated with prohibited substances may be used when it is a requirement of Federal or State phytosanitary regulations
Coexistence US vs. EU

U.S.:
- Biotech
  - No Acreage Reporting
  - No Liability Fund
- Buffer
- Organic

EU:
- Biotech
  - Report biotech Acreage
  - Pay into Liability Fund
- Buffer
- Organic
Making Co-existence Work

- NCGA website
  - Economic benefits
  - Environmental benefits
  - Biotech Safety
  - Testimonials from growers on how they make co-existence work

www.ncga.com
Yellow Corn next to Blue Corn

No cross pollination (no blue kernels)
Man-Made Buffer

Biotech Corn

Organic Corn
QUESTIONS
Alfalfa Export Markets, 2006

Data Source: USDA, FATUS
Three levels of Organic Labeling

- **"100 percent organic"**
  - must contain 100 percent organically produced ingredients.

- **"organic"**
  - must contain not less than 95 percent organically produced raw or processed agricultural products. Any remaining product ingredients must be organically produced, unless not commercially available in organic form.

- **"made with organic (specified ingredients)"**
  - must contain at least 70 percent organically produced ingredients.