
Attendees

Beth Bachdol – Agribusiness Council of Indiana
Stanley Culpepper – University of Georgia
John Allen – Brandt Consolidated
Scott Bretthauer – University of Illinois
Steve Myers – Busey Ag Resources
Steve Smith – Red Gold, Inc.
Tamara White – Illinois Farm Bureau
Johnny Dodson – American Soybean Association
Randy Mann – American Soybean Association
John Hendricks – Heritage FS
Ryan Wolf – Winfield Solutions, LLC
Wayne Lovelace – FK Nursery
Fred Dressel – Evergreen Vineyard
Levi Huffman – Huffman & Hawbaker Farms
Kim Magin – Monsanto
Mindy Whittle – Monsanto
Donna Farmer – Monsanto
Jeff Travers – Monsanto
Martin Lemon – Monsanto
Dan Wright – Monsanto
Simone Seifert-Higgins – Monsanto
Richard Voth – Monsanto
Matt Faletti – Monsanto
Cindy Arnenvik – Monsanto
Bob Peirce – Monsanto
Jay Kelley – Adayana
Dave Buelt – Adayana
Discussion Summary

- **Welcome and Introductions – Kim Magin**
  - The primary objective of the council is to “problem-solve” ways that all stakeholders win from the launch of the dicamba tolerant technology.
  - The task for the group is to identify ideas and share feedback for how to best launch and implement the technology.

- **Overview and Expectations for the Dicamba Advisory Council – Jay Kelley**
  - Objectives for the Council:
    i. Proactively identify the potential issues/opportunities that may arise with the launch of Dicamba Tolerant soybeans.
    ii. Engage industry stakeholders from a variety of fields involved with the Dicamba Tolerant technology to gain insights and perspectives.
    iii. Equip stakeholders with information, resources, tools, and best management practices necessary to ensure responsible usage of the product, which untimely will provide benefits to all parties.

- **Sensitive Crop Growers Roundtable Discussion – Dave Buelt**
  - Panelists for the Discussion: Johnny Dodson (JD), Wayne Lovelace (WL), Randy Mann (RM), Levi Huffman (LH) & Fred Dressel (FD)
  - **Provide a brief background on your operation**
    - JD: Diversified crop producer from Tennessee and Chairman of the American Soybean Association Executive Committee
    - WL: President and CEO of Forrest Keeling Nursery, a commercial nursery that specializes in environmental and conservation applications
    - RM: Diversified crop producer from Kentucky and Chairman of the American Soybean Association Trade Policy and International Affairs Committee
    - LH: Diversified crop grower in Indiana, raising corn, soybeans, tomatoes and peppers
    - FD: Full-service management consulting firm for vineyards throughout the Midwest
  - **What have you heard about the dicamba tolerant technology?**
    - FD: Familiar with dicamba, but this is the first real exposure to the technology
• LH: Heard about the technology through various specialty crop contacts and have looked for research on the technology through the internet.

• WL: Have heard that caution will need to be used when applying dicamba; nursery industry not afraid of the implications at this point but some concern does exist for our customers.

• *What are the benefits and concerns of the technology from your perspective?*

  • JD: Benefits - Dicamba is very effective, especially on the weeds that glyphosate does not touch; also, dicamba has a residual effect. Concerns - Significant risk related to drift if operator is not careful when applying; currently, it can be difficult to control drift; physical drift versus volatilization: we can limit physical drift, but uncertain how much volatilization can be controlled.

  • WL: Benefits - Dicamba could be a good solution to controlling weed problems if operators are educated on how to apply it.

  • RM: Benefits – Excited about the technology from a weed control perspective. Concerns – Proximity to homes (gardens and landscaping) could cause issues; global acceptance of the dicamba tolerant trait could create issues if not addresses prior to launch.

  • LH: Benefits – Combined with glyphosate, the technology will offer an additional mode of action. Concerns – Used dicamba in the past but quit applying it because it killed gardens at nearby homes; using two modes of action could become problematic if not controlled properly; creates issues for neighbors if we try to tell them not to apply dicamba due to sensitive crops; spray requirements/labeling may create confusion/concern for applicators; unsure of how to control drift/volatility and identify where it comes from if crop damage occurs. Depending on the stage of production, dicamba drift can either delay production or kill the plant entirely.

  • FD: Concerns - 90% of clients are in small, secluded areas in MO, which should not be affected by the technology; however, could foresee significant drift issues in corn/soybean areas, which would have a negative impact on grape production as the plat has trouble “pushing through”; determining liability if crop damage occurs may also be troublesome.

• *How would you determine faults/liability for crop damage*
• LH: Very hard to do based upon a research study that indicates dicamba particles can move up to two miles; implementing/managing stewardship with neighbors is critical
• FD: A handshake and a cold beer can go a long way
• ALL: Education around stewardship/application will be critical

• Question for Levi: How do you manage stewardship?
  • LH: Communicate and educate local farmers on implications to sensitive crops at the beginning of the season

• What are the windows of opportunity/times to avoid for application?
  • FD: Early to mid May (2-4 weeks into grape plant growth) would be the worst time for application
  • LH: May-August is the growth cycle for tomatoes and peppers; flowering is a critical time (3-4 weeks from planting)
  • WL: Seeding is a critical time for growth
  • WL: One idea that might help is to learn from animal agriculture by building wind breaks that could limit/contain drift

• How does this technology impact rural areas?
  • RM: Must monitor wind conditions and lower booms when applying; must communicate with neighbors before spraying to confirm location of susceptible crops; may need to create buffer zones between tolerant and susceptible crops
  • JD: Farmers have become accustomed to spraying glyphosate whenever and wherever; we are going to have to "retrain" farmers on proper application techniques and practices; LibertyLink and other technologies will be attractive options for farmers who face resistance, which could compound the implications due to the use of multiple herbicides
  • John Allen: Used dicamba in the past, but will need to retrain folks and deal with the implications; in the past, managed dicamba through industry recommendations (e.g. BASF's 20/20/20) and sometimes just had to take dicamba out of the portfolio
  • Steve Myers: Banvel® is the perception and reputation of dicamba; fear related to dicamba is associated with the "walk away" drift

• What sources of information do you use for researching dicamba/technology topics?
  • FD: Working through associations and universities to disseminate information; Missouri created a sensitive crop registry
• LH: Chemical rep must know and inform farmers/applicators on how to apply dicamba; put application information on the internet; provide education and resources to CCA’s
• RM: Must educate the retailers on the best management practices for applying dicamba and train them to determine a plan for specific operations
• WL: Nurseries rely on trade associations and technical/chemical reps for information
• JD: Resources and education should be provided to CCA’s, retailers and Extension/university services; should take a regional approach for determining education avenues (e.g. usage of Extension agents varies by region)

**What other recommendations would you offer to the group?**

• JD: Must educate people in all segments of agriculture as to what to expect and how to use; develop a chemistry that does not volatilize (this is imperative)
  - *Stanley Culpepper: What type of information is needed?*
    - JD: Must be very blunt when communicating to the farmer; provide information related to volatilization of the product, cannot continue to change recommendations/techniques and all applicators should receive the training
  - *Steve Smith: How do you view the reaction from the farmers?*
    - JD: Ag will be receptive and we will not damage other’s crops

• LH: The economic damage could be significant; which could force sensitive crop farmers to quit growing sensitive crops if the damage/potential was severe enough; we wouldn’t sue our neighbors if there was drift (but the processors might if it affects supply); talking to neighbors and chemical reps will be critical
• WL: This is all about education; market this product around the benefits to the producer; how many applicators really take time to read the label (assume most rely on reps)
• RM: CCA’s/Extension/University must drive the education around application; do not want dicamba to face similar issues to Command®
• JD: I need a license from my seed company to purchase and plant seed – could we develop an education program that is required before purchasing and applying dicamba (or by requiring education when
purchasing the dicamba tolerant trait); do not expect to see a switch back to custom application as a result of this technology
- FD: Must learn to control dicamba through education; forcing continuing education for any audience segment would be unpopular
- RM: Double crop situations are critical due to resistance issues; no one enjoys reading labels; need to provide templates and education that are easy to understand and implement
- Ryan Wolf: Knowing where the technology will be used will be critical when considering information, education and resources

- Dicamba Research Field Tour – Matt Faletti (Stolte Farms)