



Academic colleagues,

This season has continued to prove a challenge for the agriculture community, with environmental conditions influencing timely execution of key agronomic activities across many geographies. This year has resulted in a substantial number of prevent plants acres across multiple states and remains a unique season for growers implementing effective weed and pest management plans.

For all the challenges growers have faced, many appear to have been able to make dicamba herbicide applications. While we are still gathering final numbers based on the season, our initial internal data indicates that dicamba herbicides approved for over-the-top use were applied across 30+ million acres of Roundup Ready 2 Xtend® soybeans and 9+ million acres of XtendFlex® cotton. That tells us that growers are continuing to use these approved dicamba herbicides as part of their integrated weed management programs.

Below are more updates around what we're seeing this season. Please continue to send me feedback so I can make these updates as useful as possible. Thanks.

- **2019 Field Trials:** We continue to move ahead with our 2019 field trials. Through our VaporGrip® Technology trials, we are collaborating with 14 university programs throughout North America, including Auburn University, Iowa State University, Louisiana State University, Michigan State University, Mississippi State University, North Dakota State University, Purdue University, Texas A&M, University of Georgia, University of Guelph, University of Missouri, University of Nebraska, University of Wisconsin and Western Illinois University. We've recently completed nearly all applications, with the exception of University of Georgia, for low-tunnel and drift/volatility locations. A BIG thanks to all who participated this year, and we look forward to seeing the results.
- **Dicamba Inquiries<sup>1</sup>:** As the season progresses, we're assessing inquiries of potential off-target movement that have been called into our 1-844-RRXTEND call center. Below is a breakdown of inquiries received as of **August 16**. The chance to make these visits reaffirms that each field has its own unique challenges, requiring growers to select which of the newer in-crop auxin herbicides is the best fit within their integrated weed management approach. As growers continue to have more choice in commodities, cropping systems, and technology, the importance of stewardship, communication and education is essential.

The majority of inquiries we are receiving remain on soybeans, with very few inquiries being reported to us on specialty crops, trees or horticulture plants. In many of our field visits, we have found that where symptomology was observed, fields were adjacent to downwind susceptible crops. Findings like these reinforce the importance for growers and applicators to follow all label directions, including being aware of what crops are surrounding fields prior to an application and not spraying downwind toward adjacent susceptible crops. Additionally, in the southern growing regions, we are finding that many fields of cotton with XtendFlex Technology are showing 2,4-D symptomology.

We have also seen a concentration of inquiries over the last few weeks from the area of central Illinois (Kankakee to Peoria to Springfield to Champaign) where many non-dicamba tolerant fields are showing leaf symptomology originating from various herbicides and environmental conditions. Many of these fields that we have walked show leaf cupping, curling or crinkling apparent across entire fields. Some fields have indications that sprayer hygiene or applications of different herbicide tank mixes may be a potential cause. Other fields

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indicate neighboring dicamba drift as a potential cause of symptomology. While these are just some of our initial findings, we are continuing to conduct field visits throughout Illinois.

As we make more field visits, we'll share our additional findings. Overall, we've received feedback from many growers and retailers across the U.S. that they are having successful experiences with the Xtend Crop System.

We are interested in continuing to learn more about what you all are observing in your states. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you'd like to discuss some common trends or findings you're noticing.

Off-Target Movement Inquiries as of August 16, 2019

Inquiries from applicators and non-applicators about potential off-target movement	410
Number of off-target movement inquiries from applicators and non-applicators visited as of August 16	370
Number of states from which off-target movement inquiries received	17

<sup>1</sup>*Inquiries are defined as the number of fields for which calls are received to 1-844-RRXTEND from applicators or non-applicators. The inquiry figures are not necessarily equal to the number of calls received since a single call could include one or multiple fields. It is also possible that a field could be counted twice if we receive a call from an applicator and a non-applicator about the same field. Please let me know if you have any questions.*

As of August 16, we've also received 880 inquiries about weed performance and 5 inquiries about crop response.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to me with questions, concerns or comments.

Thanks,  
Ty

**Dr. Ty Witten**

**Director, NA Crop Protection Strategy**

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