



LEWIS HYBRIDS

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For Immediate Release – September 14, 2009

Internship Underlines Value of Ag Career Choice for Canton Native *Lewis Hybrids Program Gives College Students Insight into Agronomy*

URSA, IL – Eric Thompson learned this summer that there is nothing like practical job experience to help you confirm your career choice. The Canton, Ill. native participated in Lewis Hybrids' *One Field at a Time!* Intern Scouting Program, and received real-world opportunities to see first-hand some of the agronomic issues he studies in the classroom.

Thompson was one of seven Lewis Hybrids interns that regularly scouted corn and soybean fields during the 2009 growing season to help farmers catch insect, disease or other agricultural problems before crop damage or loss occurred. The unique program frees up farmer time for other activities and family.

“It was a great learning experience, and Lewis [Hybrids] provided a great family atmosphere. I saw how they care about the performance of the products the company sells,” says Thompson, who will graduate in December with an agricultural science degree from Western Illinois University. “I would like to work in the seed industry. I enjoyed providing service and peace of mind to farmers that knew someone was watching out for their fields.”

Lewis Hybrids created the intern scouting program as a free, value-added service in 2008 for those customers that were using the most elite cutting-edge seed technologies.

“Interns get the opportunity to work with a family-managed regional company, Lewis [Hybrids], as well as the worldwide technology leader in the corn and soybean industry, Monsanto,” says Scott Lewis, president and brand manager of the company. “Students learn how to work with farmer customers and dealers, hone their responsibility and organization skills and increase and improve their people and networking skills.”

Lewis says each intern was responsible for roughly 8-10,000 acres and 30-40 farmers during the summer, visiting each field two or three times in a season. Interns worked in Missouri, southeast Iowa and west central and central Illinois. All were trained by leading area agronomists to handle a wide variety of conditions before they began scouting fields. Interns reported and offered tips about what they found in the fields.

“My advice to future interns is to work hard and keep an open mind about your career opportunities,” says Thompson. “Students can learn a lot from a program like this, and receive great training for life. You need to go after what you want.”

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Lewis will interview 2010 intern candidates on several college campuses during October and November. Students interested in the positions can contact Scott Lewis for more information. Lewis hopes to identify new interns prior to the Christmas holiday.

Lewis Hybrids is a family-run seed company that has delivered seed solutions and service to northern Missouri, west central Illinois and southeastern Iowa farmers for three generations. Their corn, soybean and wheat seed solutions are backed by the year-round Lewis Service Promise. For more details about Lewis Hybrids, visit www.lewishybrids.com.

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