



LEWIS HYBRIDS

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Pilot Grove Native Helps Missouri Farmers Meet 2009 Challenges *Unique Lewis Hybrids Internship Trains Student to Identify Field Issues*

URSA, IL – Missouri farmers know that 2009 was no average growing season. Wet and cool conditions set the stage for potential pest problems. Jason Twenter, a University of Missouri student majoring in agricultural education, helped some farmers address those issues through the Lewis Hybrids' *One Field at a Time!* Intern Scouting Program.

“This was a challenging growing season, and I was another set of eyes for Lewis [Hybrids] customers in Missouri,” says the Pilot Grove native and past president of the Pilot Grove Chapter of the National FFA Organization. “Scouting corn and soybean fields can help farmers catch problems early. Since I did most of the scouting, farmers had more time for other activities.”

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.”

“I really enjoyed working for a family-based business. I gained valuable knowledge about corn production and met key people in the production industry,” says Twenter.

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. In addition to Missouri, interns worked in southeast Iowa and west central and central Illinois. All were trained by leading 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.

“I learned the value of having good customers. I also learned the importance of being prepared, and knowing your company and products,” says Twenter. “When you can be proud of what you sell, your customers recognize that and are proud to be customers.”

LEWIS HYBRIDS • *One field at a time!*

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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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