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2009 Lewis Twin Row Study *Overview and Conclusion*

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Our goal was to evaluate twin row corn yield vs. 30 inch row corn yield on grower farms in the Lewis Hybrids market area of Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri under the grower cooperators management practices.

Overview - We initially had 48 cooperators ready to plant a twin row population study and with the wet spring, we were able to plant 22 plots. Of these 22 plots we were able to take 15 plots to yield. In this study we looked at two Lewis hybrids, 910VT3 and 915VT3. This allowed us to look at early vs. late maturity, as well as different ear types. The plots were planted using RTK guidance and a Great Plains planter. **The Great Plains planter planted both the twin rows as well as the 30 inch rows.** There were a minimum of 8 rows of each populations in both row configurations. The plots were managed under management regimes that the growers currently had in place. Of the 15 plots harvested – 4 were corn on

corn, 10 were corn following soybeans, and 1 was corn following hay. All plots were conventionally tilled except for 1 no-till and 3 minimum-till. In terms of early vs. late plantings: 8 plots were planted prior to May 15th and 7 plots were planted from May 15th – June 6th. Amount of nitrogen applied was left at the discretion of the cooperator, the results are compiled into two groupings (<200 units and >200 units). All plots were harvested with the cooperator’s combine.

Conclusions - As we look back at the year, 2009 will go down as one of the coolest and wettest years on record. In terms of evaluating plots, it becomes very difficult to evaluate due to the variability of the year. Many plots were abandoned due to the amount of rainfall and ponding which occurred. There are a few things that should be mentioned. **First, the highest overall yield came from the medium plant population (37,700) in 30 inch rows.**

This is consistent with what we have said in terms of populations for the past couple of years. As you can see as we push the population higher in the 30 inch rows yield begins to drop. Secondly, we had positive responses overall at the lower population (33,350) and at the higher population (42,380) on the twin rows. With that said, **I think that this year’s variability makes it very tough to create a lot of firm opinions on twin rows.** We will continue to look at research done in the area of twin rows and narrow rows to help us increase yields.

I would like to thank all the cooperators for taking the time to do this with us. **I would also like to sincerely thank Dale Erke, Rick Schaffer, and Fred Shaneyfelt for their assistance last Spring.** It was a challenging year and without them we never would have gotten 22 plots planted.

Check it out...

Go to our News & Events page on www.lewishybrids.com to review our entire Lewis Twin Row Study Summary as well as the Monsanto Technology Development Twin Row Summary.

