



LEWIS HYBRIDS

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Quincy Native Provides Area Farmers with another View *Lewis Hybrids Internship Trains Student to Scout for Problems*

URSA, IL – Regularly scouting corn and soybean fields during the growing season can help farmers catch insect, disease or other agronomic problems before crop losses begin. But, scouting can be time consuming, and get in the way of other activities and family time.

Blake Duesterhaus, a college student from Quincy, Ill., helped several area farmers address that problem this past summer. As part of Lewis Hybrids' *One Field at a Time!* Intern Scouting Program, Duesterhaus got real-world, on-the-job career experience, seeing first-hand some of the agronomic problems he's studied in the classroom.

“Many of the farmers I worked with told me they do not generally walk more than 16 rows into their fields after they have pollinated,” says Duesterhaus, who attends Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. “Lewis [Hybrids] customers were appreciative that concern about their crops was in more than their hands alone. I believe my scouting services were very valuable to the customers I helped and to Lewis [Hybrids] in providing an extra set of eyes.”

Lewis Hybrids created the intern scouting program as a free, value-added service in 2008 for those customers that were using their 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 deal 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. Lewis Hybrids interns worked in Missouri, 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.

Duesterhaus says his main interest in taking the internship was to get a better grasp on the agricultural business, including the buyers and sellers within agricultural markets.

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“I like to be around to meet and greet people, and I found that to be a valuable trait this summer with the many people I encountered,” he says. “The knowledge I gained through the internship is irreplaceable, and I greatly appreciated the opportunity.”

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.

“My advice to future interns is to use the present to your advantage by beginning to make key career relationships now,” says Duesterhaus, adding, “And remember, there is no such thing as completely waterproof when it comes to walking through fields.”

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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