



## LEWIS HYBRIDS

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### **Sutter Student Works as Summer Farm Problem Solver** *Unique Lewis Hybrids Internship Helps Area Farmers Scout Fields*

URSA, IL – Helping farmers scout fields for potential insect and disease problems was such a good experience in 2008 that Dustin Roskamp, Sutter, Ill., decided to do it again this past summer. As part of Lewis Hybrids' *One Field at a Time!* Intern Scouting Program, Roskamp got on-the-job experience solving problems he's studied in class.

“Lewis [Hybrids] seed has always been grown in my area, and I wanted the chance to meet with farmers who choose Lewis [Hybrids] products,” says the agricultural business student at Western Illinois University. “I learned more about agronomy than I could ever learn in just the classroom. Hands-on learning is a great way to become educated about the industry.”

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 regularly scout corn and soybean fields to help farmers catch insect, disease or other agricultural problems before crop losses began, and free up farmer time for other chores and family.

“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.

“There are many factors that play a role in having a good crop, including insects, soil compaction, weather and diseases. It's amazing how each of these affects crops and has an impact on final crop yields,” says Roskamp. “I worked with farmers to come up with solutions on how to fix problems and how to stop problems from happening again.”

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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.

“I hope I took a little stress out of farmers’ lives when I was in their fields,” says Roskamp. “Farmers respect good customer service, and this internship was definitely all about customer service. We were there to help farmers.”

*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](http://www.lewishybrids.com).*

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