



LEWIS HYBRIDS

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Farmers Get Head's Up in the Field from Local College Student

Unique Lewis Hybrids Internship Provides Path for Agronomic Education

URSA, IL – Giving farmers a head's up about what's happening in their soybean and corn fields is how Joshua Dreyer from Quincy spent his summer. Through participation in the Lewis Hybrids' *One Field at a Time!* Intern Scouting Program, Dreyer applied what he's learned in the college classroom to real-life agronomic situations.

“I was in the fields more than the farmers, so I could find a problem and get it taken care of and help prevent any substantial yield loss,” says Dreyer, who attends Western Illinois University and was an agricultural business management major at John Wood Community College. “I learned how to identify certain pests and diseases, scout fields effectively and do accurate yield estimates. I also improved my communication skills.”

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 work with multiple Lewis Hybrids seed professionals, including sales agronomists, district sales managers, marketing managers and the company president among others.

“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. 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.

“The internship was a great opportunity to have a lot of responsibility, and learn about agronomy. I was able to interact with my customers on a one-on-one basis, and benefit from their years of experience in agriculture and business,” says Dreyer. “I learned more about Lewis the company, and freed up time for Lewis customers to do other things.”

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Lewis will interview 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 the 2010 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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