



LEWIS HYBRIDS

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Interns Lend a Hand to Lewis Hybrid Customers *Innovative Scouting Program Provides Valuable Learning*

URSA, IL – Lewis Hybrids has found a winning combination for its customers and local college students. Through the *One Field at a Time!* Intern Scouting Program, farmers got extra sets of eyes and hands during the 2009 growing season, and several college students got real-world, on-the-job career experience during their summer break.

“The intern scouting program was a free, value-added service first made available in 2008 to Lewis Hybrids customers that were using our most elite cutting-edge seed technologies. We wanted to give customers something extra with their bag of seed,” says Scott Lewis, president and brand manager of the company. “We had four interns the first year. It was so well received by customers and students that we expanded to seven interns in 2009. We plan to grow to 12-15 students for the 2010 growing season.”

Interns in 2009 included Thomas Hoenig, Donnellson, Iowa; Dustin Roskamp, Sutter, Ill.; and Eric Thompson, Macomb, Ill., all attending Western Illinois University; Joshua Dreyer, Quincy, Ill., John Wood Community College; Blake Duesterhaus, Quincy, Ill., Southern Illinois University; Chad Schnettgoecke, Carrolton, Ill., University of Illinois; and Jason Twenter, Pilot Grove, Mo., University of Missouri.

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. The 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 program introduces students to the seed industry so they can see if the career is one they may want to pursue after graduation. Our interns get both the training that a large company like Monsanto can offer and the chance to work for a family managed seed company,” says Lewis. “We’ve found this is a great time to engage young people in the seed industry, too, given all of the new seed technology coming to market.”

Lewis will offer Genuity™ Roundup Ready 2 Yield® soybeans and Genuity™ SmartStax™ corn products for 2010. Interns will have the opportunity to monitor the new seed products for customers, freeing up time for farmers to do other activities or spend time with family.

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“While these seed advancements can produce more bushels and higher profits for farmers, they also come with the Lewis [Hybrids] high-level, year-round service promise, the tradition of top seed quality and the legacy of treating every customer like family,” says Lewis. “Our roots run deep in agriculture and we understand the struggles for success. Through proper product placement and our outstanding resources, we can help ensure greater productivity on every customer’s farm...*One field at a time!*”

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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