

54. BIOTECHNOLOGY

We will actively encourage and educate farmers to be good stewards of biotechnology in order to maintain the integrity and image of the U.S. food and grain supply, ensure technology remains effective through regulatory compliance, and preserve opportunities for future biotech products and processes.

We support:

1. Increased efforts through biotechnology to more rapidly develop traits which have recognized consumer benefits in order to:
 - A. Increase the marketability of our products.
 - B. Enhance the environment.
 - C. Increase net farm income.
 - D. Improve product quality.
 - E. Enhance U.S. agriculture's competitiveness in the world market.
 - F. Ensure worldwide consumers of stable, ample, safe, and nutritious U.S. products.
2. The coordinated analysis of biotechnology products by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) before they are approved for domestic use and commercialization.
3. Utilizing science, including unbiased research such as feeding trials, on the development and use of biotechnology enhanced products.
4. Ongoing monitoring of the process of biotechnology product research and approval.
5. Increased efforts to educate the public worldwide regarding the safety and benefits of products developed through biotechnology.
6. Maintenance of U.S. export markets by securing foreign regulatory acceptance of biotechnology products, including the following priorities:
 - A. Manufacturers of biotechnology enhanced products must assume major responsibility for this acceptance.
 - B. Companies offering biotechnology enhanced products for commercialization in the U.S. must first have approval for most major uses and markets, domestic and international.
 - C. Companies must provide adequate and accurate information on acceptable markets and market restrictions in writing to farmers prior to purchase of the original input product.
 - D. An ongoing, written reporting system should be maintained for informing farmers what markets do not accept or might be adversely affected by currently unapproved varieties.
 - E. Responsible production, marketing, and delivery of agricultural products by those growing varieties not approved for all major uses in all major markets.
7. Global commercialization and production of biotechnology-enhanced crops provided that U.S. farmers are not disadvantaged by business practices compared to our foreign competitors, and continued monitoring and reporting of biotechnology fees in the U.S. and other countries.
8. Seed tags on packages of agricultural seed stock that clearly indicate the varietal (and genetic) purity of seed contained therein. We will also support legislation which allows farmers to recover all damages in those instances where the seed does not conform to the genetic purity indicated on the seed tag.
9. New or enhanced marketing methods for biotech and non-biotech seeds provided that they do not restrict market options and offer farmers:
 - A. Improved cropping options.
 - B. More cost-effective inputs.
 - C. Better transportation, handling, planting, and yields.
 - D. Uniformity in unit size (seed count per unit).
 - E. Uniformity in seed size.
10. Efforts to establish specific standards for biotechnology enhanced and non-biotechnology enhanced product certifications.
11. Adequate testing methods for all commercialized crops in order to protect farmers from liability and ensure the integrity of our grain supply, moreover:
 - A. Tests should keep pace with the latest technology and product introductions.
 - B. Sufficient competition should exist in the testing market to ensure cost-effectiveness.
 - C. Tests should be accurate, verifiable, and acceptable to end users.

- D. The first-purchaser should be responsible for testing upon taking delivery.
- E. The cost of testing should be shared along the agri-food chain.
- 12. Harmonization of international standards for biotech and non-biotech content, testing, adventitious presence, etc. via the World Trade Organization and Codex Alimentarius.
- 13. Strict adherence to contracts and sales agreements covering the production, marketing, and use of biotechnology products.
- 14. The strict enforcement of 100 percent quarantine for the research, production, and processing of pharmaceutical and industrial crops that are not approved for food and feed use in the United States in order to protect the commercial grain industry and food safety.
- 15. Full compensation to farmers for market losses due to lack of enforcement of 100 percent quarantine on experimental crops.
- 16. Biotechnology products that are coming off patent to have:
 - A. A product development clause allowing researchers to work with that trait, with proper stewardship restrictions, before the patent expires. This product development clause should allow for continued product development and the seeking of export market approvals so products can be brought to market as soon as patents expire.
 - B. A system to provide timely access to data collected by the patent holder for the biotechnology regulatory process. The patent holder should receive fair compensation for sharing its data.