

The Cultivator

November 2015

Cultivating soil, knowledge, relationships

ROUNDUP READY® 2 XTEND™ SOYBEANS — AN UPDATE



By Jake Hansen, Sales Agronomist

Roundup alone is no longer doing its job on soybeans. But Albert Lea Seed House is pleased to announce help is on the way with Roundup Ready 2 Xtend Soybeans—soon available, pending regulatory approvals in China.

This advanced weed management tool—the latest trait from Monsanto—will be another weapon for your arsenal in the fight against resistant and tough-to-control broadleaf weeds such as waterhemp, marestail, lambsquarters, ragweed, velvetleaf, and Palmer amaranth. Essentially, the product is a Roundup Ready 2 Yield® soybean stacked with a trait for dicamba tolerance. It will offer seed growers better weed control and more flexibility.

What about volatility concerns associated with use of dicamba, you may ask? Monsanto has developed new dicamba formulations incorporating proprietary VaporGrip™ technology, which reduces product volatility by 90%. This minimizes the danger of dicamba drifting off target and injuring other non-target plants.

In addition, the Roundup Ready 2 Xtend crop system will provide application flexibility, thanks to the fact that dicamba delivers up to 14 days of residual control after application on broadleaf weeds.

Though the Xtend system may be new to growers, it has undergone extensive testing and development for more than 4 years. Soybean breeders have a broad and deep pipeline of Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybean varieties with excellent yield and defensive traits.



So, when can you get Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybeans? Monsanto has kept the numbers and product information pretty close to home, pending regulatory approvals. Once approved, however, there should be no problem obtaining the product. The seed is ready to go, and we can take pre-orders of up to 80 units per customer. We can't take any payment until they receive full approval.

At Albert Lea Seed, we'll be getting two soybean varieties with Xtend technology—one a 2.0 maturity and the second a 2.1. Both have been tested for three years in southern Minnesota and northern Iowa, and have good track records and great yield.

This is definitely a trait we're excited about. We will have detailed information available once the trait is approved. In the meantime, for more information on the Roundup Ready 2 Xtend crop system, the trait itself, or the varieties, contact me at 507-373-3161 or toll-free at 800-352-5247, or check out www.genuity.com, click Soybeans then Roundup Ready 2 Xtend. ▀

Average of
>4.5 bu/A
Advantage³

Genuity® Roundup Ready
2 Yield® Soybeans
over
first-generation
Roundup Ready® Soybeans

Average of
5.5 bu/A
Advantage⁴

Genuity® Roundup Ready
2 Yield® Soybeans
over
LibertyLink® Soybeans

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Thursday, November 19
Please plan to join us for an open house.

Check out our new website at www.alseed.com.

BEST OAT HARVEST IN 25 YEARS



By Mac Ehrhardt, Co-owner

This year, in southern Minnesota and northern Iowa, we had our best oat harvest in 25 years.

The timing for such success couldn't be better, as it comes just when a number of farmers are looking for a third crop in the rotation. This year, there'll be farmers who actually make money on oats—we've not been able to say that in a while. There are two reasons:

1. It's been a good year to raise oats.

Thanks to Mother Nature! In addition, new tools helped improve oat production over the last four years. Newer varieties have had better yield and test weights, and conventional farmers improved their yield and quality by scouting and using over-the-top fungicides to improve overall plant health. This made a big difference in yield, quality, and standability. So, why is that important? My second point explains.

2. There's a growing demand for oats in the U.S.

Over the last 20 years, most oats used for human consumption have been imported from Canada. Major

domestic users, such as Grain Millers and Quaker Oats, would prefer to buy oats in this country, thereby reducing transportation costs. Grain Millers, in particular, is putting forth a great effort to source oats in Minnesota, Iowa, and the Dakotas, so they don't have to transport great distances. All this makes for a better market for oats than there has been for many years.

Grain Millers has partnered with Practical Farmers of Iowa to improve their ability to source oats in the upper Midwest. Practical Farmers is known for on-farm trials and farmer education. They're currently working with both the University of Minnesota and Iowa State University on the viability of oats as a rotational crop. At Iowa State, Dr. Matt Liebman, agronomy professor in sustainable agriculture, focuses on cropping system diversification which includes crop rotations. I mention these because all are good resources if you'd like to do more research on the viability of oats as a third crop. See the links I've provided below. As always, Albert Lea Seed is here to help any way we can. ▶

Practical Farmers of Iowa: www.practicalfarmers.org

Dr. Matt Liebman, Iowa State University: <http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/news/10-11-2012/benefits-of-longer-rotations>

Sarah Carlson, Practical Farmers of Iowa and Ken Pecinovsky, Iowa State University.



WE WELCOME MATT HELGESON

Matt Helgeson of Lake Mills, IA, is the newest member of the Albert Lea Seed team. In addition to farm seed sales, Matt will be focusing on research integration. He will work to find and communicate relevant agronomic information to the staff, dealer network, and customers of Albert Lea Seed. In this role, he will constantly be asking the question, "How does this information help someone make better farming decisions?" Look for his byline in e-newsletters, print newsletters, catalogs, and maybe even tweets.

Matt was born and raised on the family farm in Lake Mills. He earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Iowa State University. Prior to joining Albert Lea Seed, Matt worked at DuPont Pioneer in Des Moines with the soybean trait integration program. Matt's years of experience in innovation science will be a valuable asset as we work to bring the newest farming practices and ideas to Albert Lea Seed customers. Matt, his wife Julie, and their two children Mae, 2, and Henrik, 4 months, recently moved back to Lake Mills. ▶

WE'VE BEEN BUILDING!



Solar energy panels. A dust collector. New roofing and siding. Increased storage. "From our perspective, our current projects demonstrate a

commitment to the long-term and the business we're in," says Mac Ehrhardt, president of Albert Lea Seed House. "They make us more energy efficient,

improve the quality of our operation, and increase overall plant efficiency." Let's take a look. ▶



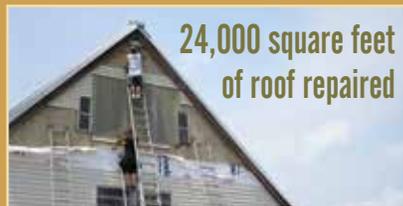
New hoop house for more storage

You can never have enough storage space

So true! At Albert Lea Seed, our new hoop house storage shed makes it possible to free-up more warehouse space for seed by moving equipment and materials, such as conveyors, pallets, production and seed-handling equipment, to their new home. ▶

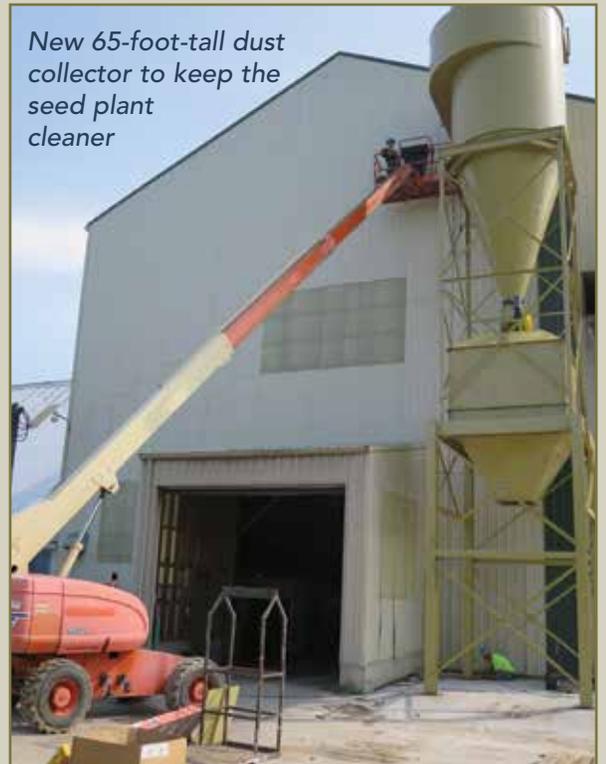
Harvesting the sun's energy

Our new solar panels communicate Albert Lea Seed's commitment to long-term sustainability. These new panels help meet our energy needs by powering our plant and reducing consumption. Installed by Rural Renewable Energy Alliance of Pine River, MN, these twelve rows of panels provide over 25% of our annual energy needs. ▶



24,000 square feet of roof repaired

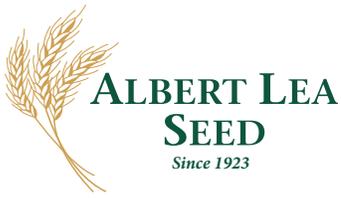
Consider 75,000 square feet of warehouse and production space at Albert Lea Seed. One-third of the roof got new shingles and skylights recently. In addition, we resided one end of the warehouse and installed more clear panels to improve lighting. ▶



New 65-foot-tall dust collector to keep the seed plant cleaner

Too much dust

Cleaning seed generates a tremendous amount of dust. A Swiffer® just won't cut it! To tackle the problem, we've installed a 65-foot, dust-collecting cyclone to improve our housekeeping. From the cyclone, the dust goes—via truck—to a composting site. ▶



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REMEMBERING OSCAR ADAMS

By Tom Ehrhardt

Oscar Adams, our seed plant manager, passed away this July (as many of you already know). Oscar started working for George and Lou at Albert Lea Seed when he was 17 years old (1966). Ask anyone and they'll say they still expect to run into him in the warehouse or coming down a ladder in the seed plant.

For over 40 years, Oscar set the fanning mills, indent cylinders, and other equipment, which cleans our field seed. He usually was the one that installed and maintained this equipment, as well. He often redesigned machinery he felt was under-built or poorly fabricated. He learned to clean and process many different and some unique species of seed. He and Nora traveled with George and Mac to the Bahamas back in the 1970s, and he took a fishing trip into the Boundary Waters with the Seed House crew.

Oscar had a marvelous memory for the people and events associated with Albert Lea Seed. He had a

way with words, a great sense of humor, drove Chevy's his entire life, and cared about his family very much. All of us here will certainly miss him.



Oscar loved to fish and spend time outdoors birdwatching and hunting. He was mechanically gifted and loved to fix and fabricate things. As a younger man, he looked forward to prepping a car and participating in demolition derbies.

Oscar passed away surrounded by his family on Thursday, July 2, 2015. He was 66 years old.

Oscar is survived by Nora, his wife of 46 years; children Sherry (Tim Williams) Adams, Gordy Adams, and Stacy (Danny) Lugo; 10 grandchildren; and a large extended family.

Rest in peace Oscar. You will be remembered and missed. ▸

OPEN HOUSE

SAVE THE DATE!

THURSDAY, NOV. 19, 9 AM-4 PM

Rob Elliott, Monsanto
RR2Xtend Soybeans

Lisa Behnken, U. of MN
Managing Herbicide-tolerant Weeds

Alison Robertson, I.S.U.
Northern Corn Leaf Blight

Kurt Barth, Brock & Associates
Marketing in Tough Markets

Gabe Brown & Panel
Cover Crops in a Corn-Bean Rotation

