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HERCULEX® Hybrids from Brodbeck Seeds Protecting Northern Indiana Corn Fields

WABASH, IND – November 11, 2009. Western Bean Cutworm (WBCW), a relatively new pest to Northern Indiana, has infested corn fields this season, and growers are now planning ways to prevent damage from this pest in 2010.

Brett Ehninger of Ehninger Farms near South Bend, Ind., experienced the problem on his farm. Western Bean Cutworm larvae damaged ears, reducing grain yields and served as an entryway for diseases like ear molds that further reduce grain quality and yield. In some areas of the field, ears had multiple pests. "In ears with more than one cutworm, 50 percent of the ear was damaged," said Ehninger. "If a whole field was damaged like that, it would wreak economic havoc on my farm."

While some of his fields had extensive damage, fields planted with HERCULEX® *insect protection* had significantly less than those planted with other hybrids.

"Western Bean Cutworm is here, and it can overwinter," said Ehninger. "I'm not willing to take a risk, and HERCULEX gives me in-plant protection against WBCW. Next year, I'm planting over half my fields to HERCULEX hybrids from Brodbeck Seeds."

Information available from Purdue County Extension services notes that growers have two tools available to help farmers protect their investment against WBCW infestations which can reach 30 to 40 percent yield losses. Chemical control can be achieved after infestation, but requires timely scouting throughout the season and accurate insecticide application for control. Growers can also opt for the preventive measure of *Bt* hybrids containing the Cry1F trait.

More and more growers are opting for the performance and convenience of managing WBCW with HERCULEX hybrids which contain the Cry1F trait, and growers who plant hybrids with HERCULEX® XTRA in 2010 will be eligible for reduced crop insurance premiums as part of the Pilot Biotechnology Endorsement program approved by USDA Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) board of directors.

For more information about Herculex hybrids, contact your local Brodbeck Seeds representative or dealer.

About Brodbeck Seeds

Brodbeck Seeds, based in Wabash, Ind., is an affiliate of Dow AgroSciences and supplies elite genetics and all major traits for corn, soybeans and wheat to growers and dealers in Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan. Brodbeck Seeds heritage extends to 1934, and has been marked by bringing innovation to eastern Corn Belt farmers. Brodbeck Seeds is focused on delivering RIGHT SEED. RIGHT FIELD. MAXIMUM YIELD. Learn more at www.brodbeckseed.com

HERCULEX® Insect Protection technology by Dow AgroSciences and Pioneer Hi-Bred.

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