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U.S. Glyphosate Survey is One More Wake-up Call for Local Growers

Guelph, ON (July 24, 2012) – More than 80 percent of U.S. farmers believe the glyphosate-tolerant crop system will lose effectiveness by 2022. It's a conclusion from the recently conducted annual independent U.S. survey by *Farm Journal* and it's a vivid reminder of growing North American concern over the effects of glyphosate resistance.

"In Ontario in 2011, 72% of the soybean acres and 90% of the corn acres were seeded to glyphosate resistant technology. It is important technology that growers need to protect to ensure that it remains effective in the future," says Dr. Peter Sikkema, Field Crop Weed Management Associate Professor at the University of Guelph. With glyphosate resistant giant ragweed and Canada fleabane populations present in Ontario the concern is real.

Glyphosate resistant infestations are much lower in Canada than south of the border, however Sikkema reminds growers, "Diversity in crop production is key. Growers need to include diversity in both the crops grown and herbicides used. It is imperative that growers use multiple herbicide modes-of-action."

The statistic reflects a 10 percent increase in U.S. farmer concern in just two years and reflects growing support for new weed control solutions to augment the glyphosate system. The survey results were shared in detail with eastern Canadian industry experts attending recent Dow AgroSciences field tours.

"Canadian farmers are also becoming more concerned about glyphosate resistance. This survey is another wake-up call that we need to manage now for the future," said Al McFadden, Research Scientist, Dow AgroSciences. "The most important thing growers can do is be diligent in rotating herbicides and using products that act on weeds through multiple modes of action."

The U.S. quantitative online survey was conducted in early 2012 and reached more than 400 corn, cotton and soybean farmers from across the Midwest and southern United States. The survey provides on-farm insights into the benefits of the glyphosate-tolerant cropping system and the risks associated with losing the herbicide-tolerant technology.

According to the survey, a majority of farmers are fearful of resistant and hard-to-control weeds in their fields. In fact, 80 percent of farmers surveyed are concerned with resistant weeds and more than two-thirds are concerned with hard-to-control weeds.

Conservation Benefits of Glyphosate Also Threatened

Almost 40 percent of U.S. farmers ranked the ability to conserve moisture in the soil and minimize soil erosion through reduced tillage as one of the most important benefits of the glyphosate-tolerant system, compared to only 15 percent reported in 2010.

Canadian farmers, like U.S. farmers, are seeking new technology. The survey indicates 95 percent of U.S. growers are looking for new technology to build upon and improve the glyphosate system.

In eastern Canada, concern about glyphosate resistance continues to rise with the number of cases. The first case of glyphosate resistant giant ragweed was identified in southwestern Ontario in the fall of 2008. By the end of 2010, there were 48 sites identified with resistant giant ragweed. In April 2012, new information collected from field surveys done by the University of Guelph identified 77 sites with glyphosate resistant Canada fleabane.

To learn more about how growers are responding to this growing problem, visit: advancefarming.com

About Dow AgroSciences Canada

Dow AgroSciences Canada Inc. brings innovation to life through people, chemistry and biotechnology in the areas of seed and crop production, and pest management. Dow AgroSciences Canada Inc. is headquartered in Calgary, Alberta, with commercial and research operations across Canada. Key research facilities include corn and soybean breeding in St. Mary's and Blenheim, Ontario, cereals breeding in Nairn, Ontario, and a global canola research center in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

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