



May 7, 2015

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for your ongoing work to prevent seeds coated with pesticides from being present in commodity grains and oilseeds. Please join us again in an industry wide effort to communicate the need to prevent treated seeds from entering the commodity supply.

Few concerns can be as damaging to market access and value as the presence of seed treatment compounds in commodities we export. Thank you for helping to draw the attention of the entire U.S. grain and oilseed value chain to prevent contamination and the need to comply with U.S. law prohibiting the intentional addition of treated seeds to commodities.

Communication with the public and your constituents - now and throughout the year - is needed. Exemplary industry actions include:

- The American Seed Trade Association and Crop-Life America released their “Guide to Seed Treatment Stewardship”, an industry-wide initiative to promote the safe handling and management of treated seed. The purpose of the Guide is to provide farmers and seed companies with critical information and up-to-date guidelines for managing treated seed effectively to further minimize the risk of exposure to non-target organisms. We encourage you to visit the [Guide website](#). We often refer to the site if questions regarding treated seed arise.
- The National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) has issued a “Treated Seed Guidance” which outlines best practices for handling treated seed and proper disposal of treated seed. The best practices for preventing treated seeds from being mixed with grain is to handle treated seeds with separate and dedicated equipment. Disposal of treated seeds should be done in compliance with state and local regulations. Contacts for waste disposal can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/wyl/stateprograms.htm>.
- The U.S. soybean family notes that “because U.S. farmer compliance is critical to avoid disruption of U.S. soybean exports to overseas markets, disposal recommendations were included in the ‘Treated Seed Disposal’ section of the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship website of the Center for Integrated Pest Management”. It can be found at: <http://pesticidestewardship.org/disposal/Pages/treatedseeddisposal.aspx>.

It is important to continue and broaden this effort and to share examples of effective communication. Please share this memo with whomever you think appropriate. As you address this important issue, please send us a copy of your publications, other media and press reports related to the prevention of treated seeds in commodity grains and oilseeds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary C. Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Gary C. Martin  
President & CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Smalley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

Steve Smalley  
Chairman - Board of Directors