



**Soybean Product Update:
Monsanto Announces Expanded Number Of Vistive Soybeans for 2009 Planting**

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Source: Monsanto news release

As consumer demand for healthy diets continues to grow, Monsanto will offer American soybean farmers an expanded portfolio of high-performing Vistive low-linolenic soybeans next season, which can reduce or eliminate trans fats in processed soybean oil. For 2009, farmers can choose from over 250 Vistive varieties offered by 27 different seed brands.

Vistive Marketing Manager, Malin Westfall, said the product expansion will give soybean farmers a variety of benefits. "With this expansion, farmers will be able to choose from a broader selection of higher-performing varieties while being able to take advantage of a premium market opportunity," said Westfall.

Introduced on just 100,000 acres in 2005, Vistive low-lin beans were planted on approximately 1.5 million acres in 2007 and the number of acres on contract with processors grew by over 15 percent in 2008. Since Vistive soybeans were introduced, demand for Vistive oil has continued to increase as more food companies incorporate Vistive low-lin oil in their products. This expansion will enable Vistive farmers to help meet that demand.

"Vistive soybeans strengthen the competitive position of the U.S. soybean industry by promoting the use of soybeans as the source for trans-fat-free food oil over alternative sources," explained Westfall.

Vistive low-linolenic soybeans typically contain up to 3 percent linolenic acid as an oil component compared with 8 percent for conventional soybeans. This low-linolenic alternative enables food processors to use Vistive oil to reduce or eliminate the need for hydrogenation. The hydrogenation process is what creates trans fats in processed soybean oil.

Vistive soybeans were grown this season throughout Iowa and in parts of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Nebraska, South Dakota, Minnesota, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, Delaware and Virginia. Currently, 22 processors and more than 370 elevators across the country accept Vistive soybeans. Processors include Cargill, AGP, Bunge, CHS, Inc., Mercer Landmark, Perdue Incorporated and Zeeland Farms.

On average, processors are paying Vistive farmers this season a premium of 60 cents per bushel for buyers call and 50 cents per bushel for harvest delivery and that figure is expected to remain steady for 2009.