

NCGA Position

Title: Biotechnology

Position Number: I-A-1

Background: The development of biotechnology offers great promise for society. Biotechnology offers corn growers improved efficiencies and potential profits when managed wisely and with regulatory oversight based on sound science. The proliferation of biotech corn is redefining current systems of price discovery, consumer information, health regulation and trade management. Worldwide consumer acceptance of biotechnology will increase with the dissemination of science-based information. Responsible and accountable management by biotechnology providers, producers, suppliers, and grain merchandisers is imperative. We must address our customers' concerns and protect our traditional markets.

Resolution/position:

1. Demand technology providers to fully engage all regulatory options and stewardship practices for biotech events. Exp. 2012
2. Support trade negotiations including the specific objective of regulatory synchronization and mutual acceptance of biotech agricultural products. Exp. 2012
3. Support the development of internationally accepted, science-based and consistent Adventitious Presence policy. Exp. 2012
4. Support the commercial release of biotech corn events or combination of events subsequent to consultation with and approval by the NCGA Biotech Working Group. These events must also receive full approval by the relevant U.S. and Japanese regulatory agencies and the product registrant must be aggressively pursuing approval in every country or bloc that requires approval prior to importation of corn, corn products, or food containing corn ingredients. Exp. 2012
5. Recognizing the importance of every customer of U.S. corn and corn products, NCGA will insist that every product registrant conducts due diligence in bringing products to market in a manner that does not disrupt domestic or international trade. Every product registrant will initiate discussions with biotech providers and end users to develop a certified marketing system that assures all events and products will reach appropriate markets. Exp. 2012
6. Encourage the mediation and resolution of biotech issues in a manner, which limits disruption of domestic and international corn marketing. Exp. 2012
7. Support the release of biotech corn that is intended for a specific end use and that has limited regulatory approval only through closed marketing systems or carefully conceived identity preservation systems that secure our ability to market corn and corn products worldwide. Exp. 2012
8. Request that biotechnology providers assure the availability of accurate, affordable, timely tests to detect the presence of each biotech event. Tests must be available prior to the marketing of new biotech events. Exp. 2012

9. Marketing of new biotech events by the seed industry that does not have worldwide approval must be focused in areas that do not jeopardize the export of commodity corn and commodity products. Exp. 2012
 - Encourage improvement of existing grain channeling systems, including training. Exp. 2012
10. Support widespread promulgation by seed retailers of event specific export approval status and management guidelines to enable growers to immediately determine which events are currently approved and how to channel those which have export restrictions. Exp. 2012
11. Require the seed industry to clearly label and identify the approval status of all events and to augment this effort with an aggressive communications program targeting grower customers (including advertising and sales of corn seed). Exp. 2012
12. Encourage the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), registrants and the research community to work closely with producers to develop resistance management strategies that are workable for producers. Exp. 2012
13. We support continued compliance with the current refuge requirement for raising Bt corn in non-cotton producing areas. We support a scientific review of current refuge requirements including a possible reduction. Corn Grower members should encourage our neighbors and seed corn dealers to observe this requirement. Exp. 2012
14. Require the seed industry to aggressively promote Insect Resistance Management (IRM) in their seed sales strategy. Exp. 2012
15. Support Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) efforts to develop merchandising and process verification standards for goods that do not contain biotech corn. Exp. 2012
16. Support Food and Drug Administration's efforts to provide guidance for voluntary labeling that indicates whether foods have or have not been developed using bioengineering to identify attributes that are important to consumers in a manner that is truthful and not misleading. Exp. 2012
17. Promote the positive contributions of biotechnology as it relates to human and animal health, the environment, grain quality, and production benefits. Exp. 2012
18. Support public funding of land grant institutions to disseminate information, science, etc. about biotech. Exp. 2012
19. Encourage biotech providers to avoid the use of antibiotic resistant markers. Exp. 2012
20. Request seed companies make available at no charge, upon request, the percent of transgenic purity of seed. Exp. 2012
21. Insist that all corn seed has been tested for the presence of Cry9C. Exp. 2012
22. Support establishing a science-based threshold for commingled StarLink corn. Exp. 2012
23. Technology agreements should indemnify producers from liability once they follow regulations and guidelines provided by the biotech provider and seed companies. Exp. 2012

24. The strict enforcement of science-based isolation and containment requirements for the research, production, and processing of all crops that are not approved for food and feed use in the United States in order to protect the commercial grain industry and food supply is imperative. Exp. 2012
25. For approved biotech events, the seed industry must maintain regulatory approvals for use until the trait is reasonably out of the commercial corn supply or is universally accepted with generally regarded as safe (GRAS) status. Exp. 2012
26. Support lowering refuge requirements for Bt corn grown in cotton producing areas to that of corn grown in non-cotton producing areas. Exp. 2012
27. Work with federal agencies to develop an educational package to ensure producers are educated in proper biotech stewardship. Exp. 2012
28. We support a science-based analysis and continued research of Genetic Use Restriction Technologies in corn. Exp. 2012
29. NCGA should encourage uniform seed regulation legislation. Exp. 2012
30. NCGA will respect EPA's determination on refuge levels and is committed to educating corn producers on any changes in refuge requirements jointly with commercial providers of technology that require refuge. We support the refinement of refuge requirements and new applications of refuge compliance tools that continue to allow for effective management of refuge as long as those changes and tools are supported by sound science. Exp. 2012
31. Work with U.S. government and other stakeholders to help encourage timely and predictable approval of new traits and stacks and, in the event timely approval is not achieved, the development and implementation of an appropriate Low Level Presence policy in current major corn export market countries. Exp. 2012