

Our Vision

Building a consumer focused, farmer-owned agri-business with innovative people committed to excellence in a global marketplace.

Our Mission

To be a progressive, diversified agri-co-operative providing the benefits of ownership.

Our Motto

Proud to be farmer-owned.

02/05

Resistance Management in Bt Corn IRM STRATEGY/PLAN

by Paul Vandendool, CCA-ON

Since 1997, corn producers have had the option of using Bt corn hybrids to help combat European Corn Borer (ECB). To date, things have been going well with the system, however, the possibility of resistance is always a challenge, regardless of your pest management system.

To prevent the possibility of resistance, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has requested that all breeders/developers of Bt corn must have an Insect Resistance Management (IRM) strategy in place for all their users or producers. If you use Bt corn, you are required to have an IRM plan in place to help keep resistant ECB from developing.

You must comply with these six key factors:

- Minimum 20% of total corn acreage planted as non-Bt.
- Must be planted within 400 meters (1/4 mile) of Bt hybrids.
- Do not mix Bt and Non-Bt in the planter – this could lead to increased chances of resistance.
- Do not spray the Non-Bt area with ECB insecticides.
- Plant refuge corn within 100-150 CHU of your Bt hybrid.
- Keep accurate planting records of each field.

With that in mind, there are still several options that can be used to comply with the IRM rules.

PLANTING OPTIONS

WHOLE/SEPARATE FIELD - if you have several small fields on a farm, you could possibly pick

one near the middle to plant Non-Bt corn. This would keep it within range of your other fields.

BLOCKS – you could put 1 or 2 blocks in your field between blocks of Bt corn. This could be set up as a planter fill every so often within the field.

STRIPS – you can also use strips of Non-Bt in your field. Strip planting is limited to row hopper planters and must have at least 6 rows of the same variety. That would require, at minimum, a 6 row planter filled on one half. The strip would be doubled (6 rows) as the planter moves up and down the field.

HEADLANDS OR PERIMETER – The headlands of the field might be the easiest area to plant a refuge. Plant the Non-Bt seed first so you're sure of getting the 20% minimum.

It is a myth that Non-Bt hybrids won't perform as well as Bt hybrids. With careful selection, you will find several options to fit your planting needs. Some hybrids may produce a yield loss, but we have to think long term. We can afford to give up a bushel here or there to keep Bt corn as an option. This would be much better than losing Bt all together and giving up yield on all of your acres due to extensive ECB feeding and damage.

Bt corn is a great technology, and we all must do our part to help keep the technology working. It is always better to be part of the solution than part of the problem.

If you are planning on growing Bt corn, and have not yet signed an IRM agreement, contact your local Field Marketer to get signed up.

Welcome to HDC, Frank!

Frank Backx has joined the grain marketing team at Hensall Co-op. Born and raised on a vegetable farm near Grand Bend, he graduated from the University of Guelph in 1977 with a BSc(Agr) in Agricultural Economics.



He brings 25-plus years of grain marketing experience to the position. He worked as a futures broker, as well as in cash grain markets, primarily in north Lambton County.

Frank writes and speaks extensively on ag markets and is the regular market contributor to the *Farm Market* newspaper, which is delivered to 11,000 producers in southwestern Ontario. He writes "Agritrends" for *Business Trends*, a Sarnia magazine, and does the Tuesday market report each week for the Ag Radio network.

Come in or call Frank for all your marketing needs or questions.

CONTRACTS STILL AVAILABLE

IP Soybeans

S08-80	\$1.00/bu	
Arva	\$1.00/bu	
S14-P6	\$1.10/bu	
HDC 1600T	\$1.25/bu	On-farm only (\$1.25 + \$.25 = \$1.50/bu)
OAC Kent	\$1.00/bu	

All contracts are subject to availability. Soybeans stored on-farm will receive a storage premium of \$0.25/bu over HDC board basis.

Edible Beans

Dark red kidney	Limited	
White beans	Limited	May be direct harvested
Azuki beans	Limited	May be direct harvested
Cranberry beans	Limited	
Light red kidney	Limited	
Black beans	Limited	May be direct harvested
Pink beans	Very limited	

Visit us at the London Farm Show!

The London Farm Show runs from March 9th to 11th. We are located inside the Canada Building, so stop by our booth and say hi.



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