

Press Release



BASF Statement on Arkansas Dicamba Task Force Recommendation

Arkansas farmers have been battling yield-impacting pigweed for years. The invasive weed has become resistant to older technology. Soybean and cotton fields across Arkansas were being choked out by pigweed. That started changing this year. With new dicamba tolerant (DT) technology, farmers can once again control pigweed. The result: cleaner fields and greater yields.

The technology came to market after years of research that demonstrated the lower volatility of BASF's Engenia® herbicide. This was reviewed by the EPA and the University of Arkansas weed scientist.

On August 24, the AR Dicamba Task Force voted to recommend an April 15, 2018, cutoff date for the use of all dicamba products, including BASF's Engenia herbicide. The highly restrictive date means farmers in Arkansas can no longer apply Engenia herbicide when it can provide the most effective control of pigweed. That means pigweed will once again take over fields and reduce yields.

Restricting the use of this proven technology is a major step backwards for Arkansas farmers who will be put at a competitive disadvantage to growers in neighboring states. At a time when farmers have razor-thin profit margins, access to a tool like Engenia herbicide that controls pigweed is essential.

The recommendation to restrict use of all dicamba was made without results from this year's season. Investigations are still ongoing—both from BASF and the state of Arkansas. The rush to judgement without careful consideration of the results of investigations as well as historical weather data, growth stage information and actual yield data, will harm Arkansas farmers.

In some cases, the cause and source of spray particle drift are clear in fields our BASF reps have walked. In other cases, the cause and source are undetermined because there appears to be multiple factors at play, including inversions and the lack of adherence to buffer zones or possible tank contamination.

We are continuing to fully investigate and understand off-target reports. The Arkansas State Plant Board says it is still investigating. Why the rush to judgement?

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