

Managing Regulations and Compliance for Field Trials Involving Transgenic Traits, A Field Perspective from an Agronomy Center Manager. (A07-boeve085322-Oral)

Authors:

- A.T.Wier* - *Monsanto Company*
- P.J.Boeve - *Monsanto Company*
- J.R.Anderson, Jr. - *Monsanto Company*

Abstract:

Biotechnology represents a new frontier in crop improvement. Regulatory agencies, including the USDA and EPA, specify how plants, plant components and seed should be stored, shipped, planted, harvested, and even imported. Accordingly, field trials that are conducted prior to approval of a transgenic trait have very strict compliance standards. Strict regulatory guidelines facilitate accrual of adequate knowledge on the risks and benefits of new transgenic traits as they approach commercialization. Such standards are formulated to prevent accidental release into the environment, inadvertent crossing with commercial cultivars, and contamination of commercial commodities. It is essential that experiment station managers, scientists and research station personnel understand the compliance requirements for regulated transgenic plants. Understanding these requirements and implementing them properly requires training, cooperation, communication, documentation and commitment among all involved. With uncompromising ethics, agricultural scientists must meet compliance standards set forth by regulatory agencies. Professionalism in the field development phase of transgenic crop improvement will ensure that governments, the international community and consumers are confident in the safety and benefits of biotechnology.

Corresponding Author Information:

Alan Wier	phone: 662-378-1021 x 225
Monsanto Company	fax: 662-378-1033
PO Box 388	e-mail: alan.t.wier@monsanto.com
Stoneville, MS 38776	

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