

Update on Jefferson Educational Farm



We continue to move forward on design and development of our educational farm. We are working to finalize an agreement to place this facility on University land on the southeast edge of Columbia. If we can complete fund-raising for this \$1.5 million project by this summer, we hope to open to the public in 2006. If you have questions or would like to donate to this project, contact us at 573-449-3518. More information about the farm, and our goal of educating youth and the general public about agriculture, is on our website at:

www.jeffersoninstitute.org.

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Upcoming Sunflower Meetings

West-Central Missouri

February 18, Bates City

12:00 – 1:30 pm, Bates City BBQ

Southeast Missouri

February 23, Jackson

12:00 – 1:30 pm, Woodards Buffet

These meetings are free and open to anyone to attend. A complimentary lunch is provided, followed by a short presentation on sunflower production and marketing. Call 573-449-3518 to register or for more information.

The Thomas Jefferson Agricultural Institute is a 501(c)3 non-profit education and research center based in Columbia, MO. For more information, contact us at (573) 449-3518 or by email at: info@jeffersoninstitute.org.



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JEFFERSON INSTITUTE NEWS & VIEWS

www.jeffersoninstitute.org

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Sunflowers Boosted by Price Increase

By Ρθβ Μγερς, Σχεσυτιβε Διρεκτορ

Sunflower prices are currently the highest they have been for the last several years, including for fall harvest contract delivery. These high prices are a direct result of strong demand for sunflower oil, coupled with a smaller than average sunflower crop last year.

The strong sunflower demand has primarily been driven by the big push to NuSun sunflower oil by food processors. However, this sunflower oil demand has also driven up sunflower birdseed prices, and confectionary sunflower prices. Recent quotes for oilseed sunflowers have been \$0.13 per pound or higher. Typical Missouri sunflower yields are 2000 pounds per acre when planted June or earlier, and about 1500 pounds per acre when planted in July.

As described inside this newsletter, there are more options with sunflowers than ever before: more buyers, more varieties, and new pest control products. In Missouri, sunflowers have proven to be very versatile, with some farmers planting in April to get an August harvest, and some planting later, sometimes in July after wheat harvest. Sunflower is unique in being a short season, drought-tolerant crop that can be planted as early as corn and later than soybeans.

Sunflowers are grown with conventional grain crop equipment, and contrary to what you may have heard, do not become a weed problem (commercial hybrid sunflowers do not foster the wild native sunflowers seen on some Missouri roadsides and fields).

I've been asked several times if sunflowers are affected by soybean rust, and the answer is no, they are not, according to the National Sunflower Association. In general, sunflowers can be a very effective part of the rotation in helping manage insect and disease pressure on commodity crops, as well as reducing income risk through a diversified crop strategy.

Subsidy payments remain in effect for sunflowers, although the current high prices are above the marketing loan rate level.

For more information on sunflower production or marketing, call the Jefferson Institute office at 573-449-3518, or visit one of the following websites:



Jefferson Institute: www.jeffersoninstitute.org

Under the publications section of the website, click on sunflowers to read our production and marketing guide, and for additional information.

National Sunflower Assoc.: www.sunflowernsa.com

The NSA website has a nice section for producers, including daily price information, list of seed suppliers, current herbicides, and more (under their Growers section). Current or prospective sunflower growers can get their free monthly sunflower magazine, which has good information on current sunflower production and marketing (call NSA toll-free at 888-718-7033 to get a free magazine subscription).

Elsewhere in this newsletter

- Recommended sunflower varieties
- Current sunflower herbicide options
- Delivery points for sunflowers in Missouri
- Update on Jefferson Educational Farm
- Upcoming sunflower meetings

Sunflower Variety Recommendations

By Rolf Meyer

Over 30 commercial hybrids of sunflowers have been tested in the past five years in University of Missouri variety trials, supported by funding from the Jefferson Institute. Most of these varieties are remarkably similar in height and maturity, with the exception of a couple of new semi-dwarf varieties. However, significant yield differences have been recorded between varieties. Thus, sunflower profits are substantially affected by the variety that is chosen. Some of the varieties we can recommend at this time are Monsanto (DeKalb) 3900, Mycogen (Cargill) 270, Mycogen 8N429CL, and Triumph 636. Among the Pioneer varieties, 63A70 has been the best performing.

The new development in sunflowers is a line of herbicide-resistant sunflowers called Clearfield varieties. Several companies are now selling Clearfield sunflower varieties, which are resistant to Beyond herbicide (see herbicide options column). These Clearfield hybrids were developed through conventional plant breeding, and thus are non-GMO. We are still gathering data on the new Clearfield varieties, but so far Mycogen 8N429CL has done well, and hybrid Triumph 620CL looks promising. We will test more Clearfield varieties in 2005.

Sunflower Hybrid Seed Companies

From the National Sunflower Association website:

CROPLAN GENETICS (218)-574-2624

www.croplangenetics.com

GARST SEED CO. (800) 831-6630

www.garstseedco.com

INTERSTATE SEED CO. (800) 437-4120

www.interstateseed.com

KAYSTAR SEED (605) 352-8791

www.kaystarseed.com

MONSANTO (314) 694-7539

www.monsanto.com

MYCOGEN SEEDS (701) 247-2619

www.mycogen.com

PIONEER HI-BRED (218) 299-8610

www.pioneer.com

TRIUMPH SEED CO. (800) 530-4789

www.triumphseed.com

Sunflower Herbicide Options

By Alan Weber

Although there are several herbicides labeled for weed control in sunflowers, relatively few of these products are effective on a wide spectrum of broadleaf weeds. One of the best options for broadleaf weed control has been Spartan, typically tank mixed with Prowl and applied pre-emerge, for both conventional and no-till tillage systems.

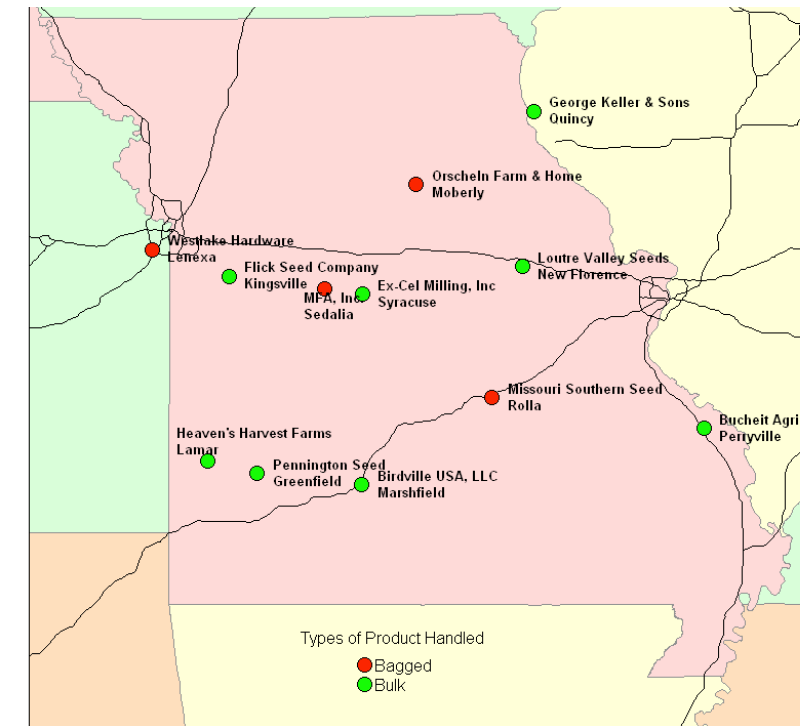
Unfortunately, FMC Corporation, the manufacturer of Spartan, has announced there will be a shortfall of supply this year of the dry flowable product due to "manufacturing constraints and increased demand in other parts of the world." There should be a limited supply of the liquid formulation (Spartan 4F). This shortfall also affects the availability of sulfentrazone (the active ingredient in Spartan) sold under different trade names such as Authority (a DuPont product for soybeans).

If Spartan is not available, producers may want to consider a burndown (for no-till systems) or a preemerge product such as Treflan or Prowl coupled with Clearfield sunflowers. Clearfield sunflowers can be sprayed post-emerge with Beyond herbicide. Beyond works with the Clearfield trait in sunflower hybrids to provide broad-spectrum postemergence control of broadleaf and grassy weeds in both conventional and no-till tillage systems. Beyond, which can only be used on Clearfield hybrids, is recommended to be applied to sunflowers in the two to eight leaf stage, when broadleaf weeds are less than 3 inches tall, and when grassy weeds have less than four to five leaves.

Beyond employs what is commonly known as "IMI" chemistry (imazamox is the active ingredient of Beyond labeled for use only on Clearfield sunflowers). IMI products are ALS inhibitors. This herbicide group kills weeds by preventing the plants from producing essential amino acids needed for growth and development. It should be noted that some weed types have survived and developed tolerance to this mode of action, becoming ALS resistant. Beyond affects only weeds present at the time of spraying, similar to Roundup, and does not offer residual activity. It should be noted that some farmers growing sunflowers as a double crop after wheat have had good success simply using Roundup as a burndown prior to sunflower emergence, and then no other herbicide under no-till conditions. If the wheat should reoccur as a volunteer, Select and Poast are labeled for post-emerge grass control in sunflowers.

OILSEED SUNFLOWER MARKETS

One advantage of sunflowers over other Missouri specialty crops is the in-state market. With the majority of sunflower production in the Dakotas, Kansas, Minnesota, and Texas, Missouri producers have a decided transportation advantage when selling to these buyers. The map below provides examples of regional buyers of sunflowers for the birdseed market. This list does not represent all available buyers in the region. Bagged seed buyers will only take large volumes.



Birdville USA, LLC

Contact: Tom Cravens
433 East Commercial
Marshfield, MO 65706
417-468-6685

Bucheit Agri

Contact: Dave Danker
33 Perry Corporation Road 540
Perryville, MO 63775
573-547-4569 or 1198
800-622-7937

Ex-Cel Milling, Inc.

Contact: Bob or Mark
604 Hwy B
Syracuse, MO 65354
660-298-3211

Flick Seed Company

Contact: Marcus Rodgers
P.O. Box 128
Kingsville, MO 64061
816-597-3822
marcusrodgers@earthlink.net

George Keller & Sons

Contact: George Keller
909 Maine Street
Quincy, IL 62301
217-228-6700

Heaven's Harvest Farms, LLC

Contact: Jim Judd
P.O. Box 19
Lamar, MO 64759
417.682.5704
jwjudd@heavensharvestfarms.com

Loutre Valley Seeds

Contact: Craig Timmerberg
968 Highway J
New Florence, MO 63363
573-252-4283

MFA, Inc.

(Bagged Seed Only)
Sunflower Delivery Point
303 North Park
Sedalia, MO 65301
Purchasing Agent: Lisa Heis
573-876-5346

Missouri Southern Seeds

(Bagged Seed Only)
Contact: Doug Hartman
PO Box 699
Rolla, MO 65402
800-844-1336

Orscheln Farm & Home

(Bagged Seed Only)
Contact: Ken Gregg
101 West Coates Street
Moberly, MO 65270
660-269-3519

Pennington Seed

Contact: Kevin Neill
PO Box 338
Greenfield, MO 65661
800-658-0410

Westlake Hardware

(Bagged Seed Only)
Contact: Lee Shaner
15501 West 99th Street
Lenexa, KS 66219
800-848-4307 ext. 2310