

...Choose Possible Futures for Iowa...

With Local Control

(bill HF 202 / SF 259 defeated)

Des Moines Reporter

FUTURE NEWS

Iowa county profits on blue corn harvest

Carroll, IA 2008 — Carroll county Iowa corn farmers are harvesting an extra \$.95 per bushel by meeting the huge demand for a sweet blue corn used in gourmet corn chips. To win the contract and protect crops from contamination, farmers asked the county to create an all-blue-corn-zone. They won the contract over competing farmers in Illinois, where a state law prevents local control. See **BLUE CORN**, Page 8A



John Kester says the extra money he will earn from his blue corn will send his kids to college

Iowa organic corridor bounds ahead

Cedar Rapids, IA 2006 — Armed with recommendations from Governor Vilsack's Strategic Planning Council, young entrepreneurial farmers in Cedar Rapids created an organic zone that has become an economic dynamo. Other Iowa regions are now interested.

See **ORGANIC**, Page 8A

Japanese pick certified non-GM counties for lucrative soybean contract

Sioux City, IA 2008 — After consumer pressure forced Japan to strengthen its labeling laws on genetically engineered foods, buyers have shunned most U.S. food-grade soybeans. According to an ISU spokesman, US exports accounted for 75.4% of food-grade soybeans consumed in Japan in 1996. Because of GMOs, by 2004 it was 52%. Now they'll only take certified non-GM. While this was bad news for most Midwest farmers, six northwestern Iowa counties will reap rich rewards for establishing a GM-free zone. It was created two years ago at the request of European retailers who promised GM-free meat to customers. Now farmers are looking to Japan for even higher premiums.

See **JAPANESE**, Page 6A

Pocahontas County earns Frito-Lay premiums

Pocahontas, IA 2006 — After the nearly disastrous 2002 contamination of 155 acres of corn by pharmaceutical corn, farmers in Pocahontas County got organized to protect themselves and got more than they bargained for. As soon as they established a mechanism to prevent unwanted varieties in their county, Frito-Lay approached them to grow non-GMO corn at a premium. The company has sought to avoid GMOs since the late 1990s, and was quick to transfer business to a region where protection from contamination is enforceable.

See **FRITO-LAY**, Page 8A

Iowa county ban of "designer" grain saves farmers

Washington, IA 2011—When an ISU agronomist tried to warn farmers about planting the new designer grain nantak, no one would listen—except those in his home county of Washington, Iowa. Taking his suggestion, they took a "wait and see" attitude on this South American grain that health food stores couldn't get enough of. And they are glad they did. Others are paying \$60-\$130 per acre to remove the grain's invasive root system.

See **DESIGNER GRAIN**, Page 6A



Fred Hodges organized area farmers when he didn't want his corn contaminated and destroyed.

Area melon producers stop losses from bitter Chinese melon

Muscatine, IA 2010 — After local farmers' melon were mixed with a bitter tasting variety grown for the Chinese market, Muscatine county supervisors imposed a "Bitter-Melon-Free Zone" last year, preventing a recurrence of the problem.

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FUTURE NEWS

Crops seized after "pharm" corn implicated in children's disease



Corning, IA 2013 — Within hours of confirmation that the mysterious new disease known as "breakfast seizures" was traced to pharmaceuticals in cornflakes, the USDA set up roadblocks around Adams and Union Counties in Iowa, to make sure no additional "pharm" corn gets to market.

See **PHARM CORN**, Page 6A

Amy Kline of Iowa City will leave the hospital—without her box of cornflakes, now that the contaminated cereal is identified as the cause of illness.

ADM and Cargill won't take Iowa corn: May contain EU unapproved varieties from field trials

Des Moines, IA 2005 — Grain giants Archer Daniels Midland and Cargill have closed their doors to Iowa corn, after an EU-wide recall was linked to corn contaminated with unapproved GE varieties from five Iowa test plots. Nebraska and Illinois, where communities have laws banning unapproved GM varieties, will fill the lost orders.

See **ADM & CARGILL**, Page 8A

Webster City fights state and ag biotech on ground water contamination

Webster City, IA 2006 — The mayor of Webster City said today that negotiations with the state to ban glyphosate-tolerant crops from the site of ground water contamination are going nowhere. His efforts are pitched against a 2005 law that prohibits local jurisdictions from protecting themselves by imposing agriculture restrictions and biotech companies that insist their products cannot be the cause. The mayor pointed out that Denmark had restricted the use of glyphosate (Roundup) in 2003 after glyphosate contaminated their ground water. Denmark farmers weren't even using herbicide tolerant crops. According to USDA statistics, U.S. farmers spray 2-5 times the amount of herbicide on genetically engineered herbicide-tolerant soybeans.

See **WEBSTER CITY**, Page 8A

Tornado hits pharm corn site near Council Bluffs

Canceled corn and hog orders within 100 miles

A tornado struck a field of genetically engineered corn-altered to produce HIV drugs-carrying kernels as far as 80 miles away. When photos of the site were posted on the internet, food producers quickly assured the public that no corn or livestock from the region would end up in their products. Angry farmers say they tried to impose a ban on pharm crops, but the legislature wouldn't listen. Now they want the state to bail them out.

Iowans blame BT corn pollen for mysterious symptoms

Parents demand GM-free zone

Mason City, IA 2009 — Residents in four north Iowa counties who have been complaining of skin, respiratory, and intestinal reactions and fever during the same time every summer, now blame genetically engineered BT corn pollen. A doctor from the Philippines told Iowans last week how villagers on the island of Mindanao had similar symptoms while nearby fields of BT corn were pollinating. Blood tests also verified an immune response to the pesticide that the engineered corn produces. Although the Philippine story was first reported in February, 2004, to delegates of the UN Biosafety Protocol conference in Malaysia, it was largely ignored or disputed. When the villagers took matters into their own hands and banned the suspect corn variety, the problem disappeared. Now Iowa residents are hoping to implement a similar ban, but are facing opposition from biotech companies who say they are being misled, and an Iowa law that prevents local communities from regulating seeds.

Scientists say GM crops reason for toxic soil

Farmland values to stay low

ISU scientists identified the cause for the sharp drop in the state's yields as a combination of altered soil bacteria and persistent herbicide residues in the field — both from genetically engineered crops. The bacteria, which contain herbicide tolerant genes taken from GM soybean plants, interacts with Bt pesticides, which is produced from GM corn and remains bound with clay for months. "We knew about the gene transfer and the Bt residues for years," says ISU's Fred Blanchard. "But no one investigated the implications of either, let alone their combination." Property values on GM farmland remain low.

See **TOXIC SOIL**, Page 6A



Soil from GM fields is found to be toxic to plants, over time

Fear of GM gene transfer to gut bacteria topples farm markets

Des Moines, IA 2006 — Now that it is confirmed that the gene that creates the pesticide in genetically engineered (GE) corn transfers into human gut bacteria, millions of consumers have stopped eating both corn and soy products, fearing long term "infection." Soon after Newsweek ran a cover photo of intestinal bacteria captioned "living pesticide factories," Americans largely abandoned the crops that have been Iowa's mainstay. Iowa's governor blasted the FDA for not investigating this earlier, given the February 2004 study in Nature Biotechnology showing that GM soy genes transfer into human gut bacteria.

Farmers dump corn and soy on state legislators' lawns

Blame law for sterile terminator seeds, poor harvest

Des Moines, IA 2009 — When terminator technology was introduced to Iowa farming, legislators turned down farmers' requests for exclusion zones, which would prevent the seeds, engineered for sterile offspring, from contaminating their fields. After widespread contamination occurred, farmers dumped corn and soybeans on legislators' lawns as a dramatic "I-told-you-so." Spokesmen say the dump mimics the trespass of unwanted grain on their farms. Furthermore, if the seeds germinate, legislators will be guilty of violating biotech patent laws. There is no word from the state whether they will pay for the clean-up of the legislators' lawns, or reimburse farmers for the sterile seeds.

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