

Companies to offer drought tolerant corn

Seed for two new drought-tolerant corn varieties will be in limited release this spring. They're targeted for farmers on the western edge of the U.S. Corn Belt.

DuPont (Pioneer Hi-Bred) and Syngenta developed the new varieties through traditional breeding techniques -- with a little advanced technology thrown in to speed the process of picking which parent plants to try.

The duo's entry into the world market could start decades of fierce competition for rain-challenged growers' business. Biotech varieties in the pipeline for future release may have an even bigger impact than today's hybrids, said Kraig Roozeboom, agronomist with Kansas State University Research and Extension.

"Either way, drought-tolerant corn could expand seed companies' markets," he said. "Continued expansion of corn acreage at the expense of other crops, such as wheat and sorghum, will mean greater corn seed sales -- which is the most profitable sector of the seed market."

Roozeboom added that technol-



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ogy isn't the only reason new-generation corns are arriving so fast, compared to the new offerings for other standard crops. The seed industry for some time has been making larger investments in improving corn yields, largely because corn has been generating more dollars to invest. Herbicide- and insect-resistant corn varieties, for example, were earlier money-makers.

Market factors have been pulling agriculture toward increased corn production, Roozeboom explained. If nothing else, corn remains the primary base for U.S. ethanol manufacturing. World consumption of animal protein has been on the rise, too, increasing demand for feed grains.

The agronomist said that so far, the best ways to address those market forces are to:

- * Get more acres into corn pro-

duction, including land that has been considered marginal, due to limited precipitation.

* Reduce the risk of corn crop losses while also increasing average yields in water-limited production areas, such as central and western Kansas.

"Untimely rains or dry conditions can have a big impact in our state -- sometimes causing substantial yield reductions or complete crop failures," Roozeboom said. "Corn is more sensitive to the timing of rainfall than Kansas' other major row crops."

Annual rainfall in the state ranges from more than 40 inches in the southeast to an average 16 inches on the western border, he said.

Without timely rains, however, even southeast Kansas can have moisture problems, because during mid-summer, the shallow topsoils there can dry out in a couple of weeks. The area has a dense clay subsoil that limits corn roots to a narrow band of topsoil. Other subsoils may have moisture, but crop

roots can't effectively reach them.

In contrast, much of western Kansas has deep silt loam soils with high water-holding capacity. So, despite the area's sparse rainfall, successfully growing dry land corn is possible, so long as enough stored soil moisture is available to complement limited rainfall during the growing season.

Roozeboom said that as global temperatures continue to rise, ongoing improvements in cropping systems may also be necessary to maintain and expand corn acreage and production. High residue, no-till production systems have already been essential for the success of dry land corn in more arid environments. Cropping systems that conserve both water and soil will become ever more important for sustaining long-term production.

"Of course, moisture problems aren't as big a worry for irrigated farms," Roozeboom said. "However, irrigated farms with limited well capacity could also reduce their risks if the new-generation hybrids perform as advertised. Water is a scarce resource that is getting scarcer."

What's Coming?

Syngenta, the world's number three supplier of corn seed, announced its initial drought-tolerant Agrisure Artesian hybrids last July. Syngenta Biotechnology scientists developed the Agrisure Artesian platforms in conjunction with the company's (U.S.) Midwest and California breeders, who conducted the field testing. The Switzerland-based company will sell its new seeds for 2011 under the Garst, Golden Harvest and NK brands.

DuPont announced its five hybrid platforms in early 2011. It tested them from 2008 to 2010 in 223 water-limited efficiency trials concentrated in California, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. The company's agribusiness arm, Pioneer Hi-Bred, will sell the drought-forgiving seeds this year under the Optimum AQUAmax brand.

Both companies and Monsanto, the world's top seed seller, are now developing genetically engineered corns. Their aim is more predictable drought resistance, plus greater yield potential, Roozeboom said.

In developing its drought-tolerant seed, Monsanto has been col-

laborating with Germany's BASF, the world's leading chemical company, in a \$1.5 billion partnership. Monsanto's first drought-resistant biotech corn is now going through the federal regulatory approval process required for gene-modified products in the U.S.

DuPont announced this month that its biotech challenger won't be ready for the market until later in the decade. A Syngenta spokesperson has said its competitor will require "years."

Roozeboom pointed out, however, that the seed companies will still have room for further improvements.

"Drought itself is a complex subject. And corn's ability to handle dry conditions involves a number of genes," he said. "Beyond that, drought-tolerance alone simply addresses the problem of having to produce in a water-limited environment. Kansas know that heat can be just as damaging. Both water availability and heat stress also can depend on or interrelate with soil type, pests, nutrient levels and each farmer's management practices."

Springtime good time to annually review all insurance policies

As Kansans wait out winter, our thoughts turn to springtime. We're ready for the warmer temperatures, but are we ready for facing the unpredictable springtime weather? Maybe it's time for a homeowner's checkup.

What is the value of the contents of your home covered by insurance? Is a flood covered? If someone is hurt while visiting will insurance pay medical expenses? Whether you are a renter or a homeowner, we at the Kansas Insurance Department suggest a review off all insurance policies annually. This lets you brush up on what is covered and to evaluate whether the coverage is still adequate (or too much) for your current situation.

When reviewing your homeowner's policy, be sure to find the answers to these three questions:

What does my homeowner's or renter's policy cover?

A homeowner's insurance policy covers the structure, belongings and legal obligations if someone is injured at your home. A renter's policy does not insure the structure, but otherwise provides similar coverage.

Check the type of replacement value provided in the policy. Actual cash value is the amount it would take to repair damage to a home or to replace its contents after allowing for depreciation. Replacement cost is the amount it would take to rebuild or replace a home and its contents with similar quality materials or goods, without deducting for depreciation.

Liability insurance protects from legal obligations arising from accidents involving visiting non-residents. With a few exceptions, such as auto or boating accidents, all-purpose liability coverage follows wherever you go. An umbrella policy can extend the liability limits of a homeowner's or renter's policy if the policy limit is insufficient.

Homeowners' and renters' policies typically include limited medical expense payments for injuries occurring on your premises to visiting non-residents. They may also cover medical expenses of another individual injured by you, a member of your family or a family pet while away from the home.

How much coverage do I need? Making a home inventory is the best way to determine the ap-

propriate level of coverage needed for contents. An inventory is also a useful tool to have in case of a loss. When compiling the inventory, make sure to include as much detail as possible about the items.

Homeowners do not need to insure the value of the land a home sits on, but coverage should include any outdoor structures on the property. Both homeowners and renters should concentrate on an accurate list of belongings and a proper level for liability limits.

What are my deductibles and discounts?

Deductibles and discounts are generally the easiest places to save money. Most companies offer discounts for people who have more than one type of insurance policy with them, and for people who have



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had few claims or are long-term customers. When it comes to the deductible-which is the amount you have to pay if there is a loss-usually the higher it is, the lower the premium.

It's normal to consider raising a deductible to save on premium, but remember, your share of the bill will be that much more following a claim. After reviewing the policy, call your agent or insurance company and ask these questions:

- Is the coverage on my home/rental unit and its contents adequate? Is it too much?
- Is my premium as low as I can expect it to be? Are there additional discounts available? Can/Should I raise my deductible?
- Are there risk mitigation programs and discounts available? Mitigation-taking steps to reduce a potential loss before it happens-can help limit your home's exposure to certain local risks (Such as wildfire

or hurricane).

- Are there any losses - like flood or earthquake - I need to worry about that are not covered in my current policy? Neither flood nor earthquake is covered by a standard homeowner's or renter's policy. There are optional insurance policies for both disasters. Ask about available options or visit www.Floodsmart.gov for details on flood insurance.

- Has anything changed in my coverage in the last year? Insurers may change policy terms at renewal, but they must notify you first. Read all notices and information sent from the insurance company. When talking with an agent, ask if there are any anticipated changes when the policy renews.

More information For more information about homeowner's or renter's insurance and the basic coverages in a policy, go to www.ksinsurance.org and read or download our publication "Homeowners and Renter's Insurance." You can also visit [line.org and choose the life stage that best fits your life situation.](http://www.InsureUon-</p>
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For specific questions about coverages or about an insurance company or agent, call the department consumer assistance hotline in

Kansas at (800) 432-2484.

A little knowledge gained now in the middle of winter can go a long way toward peace of mind when spring-and spring storms-come along.

CHARTER ORDINANCE NO. 1-2010

A CHARTER ORDINANCE EXEMPTING THE CITY OF KANORADO, KANSAS FROM K.S.A. 15-204 AND SUBSTITUTING PROVISIONS REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT OF CITY OFFICERS.

WHEREAS, The City of Kanorado, Kansas is authorized to exercise the powers, functions and duties of a city of the third class, including home-rule powers in the manner, and subject to the limitations, provided by Article 12, Section 5 of the Constitution of the State of Kansas hereby elects to and does exempt itself and make inapplicable to it K.S.A. 15-204, which applies to this city, but is part of an enactment that does not apply uniformly to all cities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF KANORADO, KANSAS:

The City of Kanorado, Kansas by the power vested in it by Article 12, Section 5 of the Constitution of the State of Kansas, hereby elects to and does exempt itself from and make inapplicable to it the provisions of K.S.A. 15-204 which applies to this city, but is part of an enactment that does not apply uniformly to all cities and hereby provides substitute and additional provisions in place thereof which follows:

Section 1-301: At the first regular meeting in May of each year The Mayor, by and with the consent of the council, shall appoint the following City Officers, to-wit: a Municipal Judge of the municipal court, a City Attorney, law enforcement officers and any other such officers as deemed necessary for the best interest of the City. Such appointed Officers shall hold a term of office of one year and until their successors have been appointed and qualified.

Section 1-302: The Mayor, by and with the consent of the council, shall have authority to hire at-will such employees as the City Clerk, City Treasurer, City Maintenance and all other employees as deemed necessary for the best interest of the city.

PUBLICATION: This Charter Ordinance shall be published once each week for two consecutive weeks in the official City newspaper.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This is a Charter Ordinance and shall be effective on the sixty-first (61st) day after publication, unless a sufficient petition for a referendum is filed and referendum is held on this Charter Ordinance as provided in Article 12, Section 5, Subsection (c)(3) of the Constitution of the State of Kansas.

PASSED BY THE GOVERNING BODY, of the City of Kanorado on the 6th day of December 2010.



ATTEST:
Susan D. Adams, City Clerk

Dennis Korbek, Mayor

Published in The Goodland Star-News, Tuesday, February 8, 2011.

SHERMAN COUNTY KANSAS TREASURER'S QUARTERLY REPORT

January 31, 2011

Total Cash in the Treasury as at the above date \$7,640,375.77

FUND	FUND BALANCE
APPRAISER'S COST	\$78,971.35
MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATING FUND	\$36,472.53
BOND & INTEREST	\$149,778.70
NO FUND WARRANTS	-\$2.12
COUNTY HEALTH	\$92,960.95
DIRECT ELECTION	\$66,131.47
TRASH HAULING	\$135,300.94
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$625,324.39
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS HEALTH RESERVE	\$42,598.39
EXTENSION	-\$200.26
GENERAL FUND	\$1,076,076.73
HOME MAINTENANCE	\$38,963.40
POST CLOSURE ACCT - LANDFILL	\$225,000.00
NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION	\$710.14
LANDFILL EXCAVATION	\$275,434.00
NOXIOUS WEED	\$85,049.44
REGISTER OF DEEDS TECHNOL	\$14,212.03
OUT-DISTRICT TUITION	-\$123.47
OVER & UNDER	-\$3.65
PROS ATTY (TRAINING FUND)	\$62.94
PROS ATTY (DIVERSION)	\$3,877.59
ROAD AND BRIDGE	\$879,547.03
SALES TAX	\$17,144.15
SC RURAL FIRE DIST #1	\$111,824.52
SOLDIERS MEMORIAL PARK	\$18,685.91
SOLID WASTE FUND	\$794,290.70
SPEC ALCOHOL PROGRAM	\$274.14
CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$134,924.20
EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND	\$22,393.60
SPECIAL PARKS & RECREATION	\$1,204.46
SPECIAL MACHINERY FUND	\$101,536.86
TORT LIABILITY	-\$5,366.89
CONCEALED WEAPONS	\$3,020.83
JAIL COMMISSARY	\$15,289.72
NOXIOUS WEED CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$437.47
SC RFD #1 EQUIP RESERVE	\$42,274.30
HERITAGE TRUST FUND	\$294.60
SHERIFF DRUG SEIZURE FUND	\$9,728.65
COUNTY HEALTH CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$30,467.65
AUTO MOTOR STATE	\$1,794.55
HEALTH CARE SERVICES	\$181,715.21
COUNTY REDEMPTION	\$357,062.51
CURRENT TAX	\$265,596.81
DELINQUENT PERSONAL TAX	\$367.54
RECREATIONAL VEHICLE TAX	\$288.81
MOTOR VEHICLE TAX	\$14,296.71
MICRO LOANS	\$27,172.51
SHERIFF REWARD DONATION FUND	\$1,193.61
911 WIRELESS	\$81,815.11
ESCAPED TAX	\$1,725.01
SCRFD #1 SPECIAL FUND	\$6,324.91
911 TELEPHONE SERVICE	\$33,889.41
SUSPENSE FUND	\$11,847.91
LLANOS/GENERAL	\$41.01
LOGAN/GENERAL	\$3.61
SHERMANVILLE/GENERAL	\$91.01
VOLTAIRE/GEN	\$20.31
PROJECT FUND-GO ROAD PROJECT	\$25,351.31
ROAD SEALANT BOND	\$42,584.81
LOCAL 1% SALES TAX FOR ROAD PROJECT	\$1,472,622.21

TOTAL ALL FUNDS \$7,640,375.7

STATE OF KANSAS
SHERMAN COUNTY ss.

I do solemnly swear that the above statement is complete, true, and correct the best of my knowledge and belief, so help me God.

Signature on Original
County Treasurer, Sherman County, Kansas

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3rd day of Feb. 2011.



Signature on Original
County Clerk - Notary Public

My commission expires Jan. 11, 2013

Published in The Goodland Star-News, Tuesday, February 8, 2011.