

Date: March 5, 2008

To: Soybean Seed Companies

From: Arthur Killam (612) 624-2205 E-mail [kill001@umn.edu](mailto:kill001@umn.edu)  
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Subject: 2008 Soybean Performance Tests (treated Seed)

The University of Minnesota will be conducting soybean performance tests again this year. Enclosed are the instructions and entry forms for participating in the 2008 trials. . Entry forms are due March 20. Deadline for receipt of seed and payment is April 4 NO EXCEPTIONS. Entries with no seed supplied by April 4 may be eliminated from the test without a refund of fees. Early submissions are always appreciated.

**This year the University will start accepting treated seed. The requirements for accepting treated seed are as follows:**

- 1) The seed must be labeled with an official tag such as would be placed on commercial seed sold to farmer.**
- 2) We must also have the specific handling and safety precautions and disposal instructions since our staff will be handling this seed and the University requires we advise them about safety requirements. Any treated seed not meeting these 2 requirements will not be entered in the test and fees will not be refunded. When the data is published in the fall any seed that was treated will be listed as such in the results.**

Five categories of tests will be conducted in 2008; Conventional tests, Far North, Roundup Ready® tests, SCN tests and Special purpose/Food type tests. The conventional test will be for non-transgenic general purpose varieties. The Roundup Ready® test will be for transgenic general purpose varieties that carry the glyphosate tolerance gene. The Far North test will be for varieties that are both non transgenic and transgenic (Roundup Ready®). The SCN test will be for those varieties that carry resistance to SCN (both non-transgenic and transgenic (Roundup Ready®) ), and the special purpose/food type test will be for varieties specifically developed for special purpose and/or food type markets. Tests may be combined depending on number of entries. The SCN tests will be conducted at infested and noninfested sites in both southern and central Minnesota zones with the cooperation of Dr Senyu Chen and Tom Hoverstad from the Southern Research and Outreach Center at Waseca (507-835-3620).

### **Tests**

Tests (except for the SCN test) will be conducted in four maturity zones: 1) Far Northern zone (Thief River Falls, Roseau and Crookston), 2) Northern zone (Crookston, Moorhead and Shelly), 3) Central zone (Becker, Morris and Rosemount), and 4) Southern zone (Jackson, Lamberton and Waseca). Maturities in the far northern zone must be earlier than RM 0.1; northern zone must be earlier than RM 0.3, in the Central zone between RM 0.3 to RM 1.5, and in the Southern zone between RM 1.3 to RM 2.4. We reserve the right to move or remove any entry entered in an inappropriate zone or to manage the tests.

The cost is \$275.00 for each variety in each zone (Conventional, Roundup Ready, Special purpose) and \$525.00 for the SCN test. Please send 5lbs (2500 grams) of **untreated seed** for the regular variety tests and 9lbs (4500grams) for the SCN variety test. **Treated seed will be accepted.**

If you are interested in entering varieties in any test, please follow this procedure:

1. Complete all items on the appropriate forms and enclose with your payment. The information “previous I.D. and number of consecutive years in Minnesota tests” is necessary so we can include data from past years in the “**Minnesota Varietal Trials Results**” publication. **Varieties should have a minimum of 100 acres of seed production (20 acres for special purpose/food type) and be anticipated for sale in 2009.** We reserve the right to confirm the seed production acres for each variety entered in the tests. A **maximum of 4 varieties** is allowed per test per zone. Please prioritize varieties in each test.
2. Provide 5 lbs ( 2500 grams) of **untreated seed** for each variety entered in the conventional test, Round-up Ready<sup>®</sup> test and the special purpose/food type test. Provide 9 lbs (4500 grams) of **untreated seed** for the SCN test.
3. Send a check for \$275 for each entry in the conventional, Far North, Round-up Ready<sup>®</sup>, special purpose/food type test and \$525 for each entry in the SCN test. Make checks payable to the University of Minnesota. Send seed, information form and payment to:
4.

<b>UPS, Fed-ex and other shippers</b>	<b>US mail</b>
Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics	Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics
University of Minnesota 37 Crops Services Building 1895 Hendon Avenue St. Paul, MN 55108	University of Minnesota 1902 Dudley Ave Crop Research Rm 118 St. Paul, MN 55108
4. Please submit a separate bag of seed for each entry. So if you enter a variety in two different tests we need 2 bags of seed labeled for the tests intended.

Entry forms and fees are due **March 20**. Deadline for receipt of seed is **April 4, 2008**. **These deadlines will be strictly enforced, no exceptions will be allowed.** We reserve the right to limit the number of varieties if necessary.

The 2007 results have been published. This information can now be viewed on the world wide web. The address is [www.soybeans.umn.edu](http://www.soybeans.umn.edu) or [www.maes.umn.edu](http://www.maes.umn.edu). This information is essentially identical to the preliminary report published in AgriNews and e-mailed to you earlier.

#### **Brand Names versus Variety Names**

“Brand” names and “variety” names are different and are meant to be used for different purposes. “Brand” names refer to the seed source or the person labeling and selling the seed. “Brand” does not refer to the genetic makeup of the seed. “Variety” names refer to the genetic makeup of seed and they may only refer to a specific genetic makeup. Plant breeders are constantly improving varieties but whenever the genetic makeup is changed a new variety is created and it must have a new variety name. The rate at which new varieties are being developed has dramatically increased in recent years. “Branding” is a useful way for companies to market products without having to constantly redo the identification and promotional information they offer. Please keep these distinctions in mind when filling out the forms.

In our continuing effort to improve these trials, we would appreciate any comments or suggestions you might have regarding the trials or the methods of distributing the data.

Enclosures