

NCGA Welcomes EPA Report Showing No Risk To Butterflies From Bt Corn

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) is welcoming a report recently by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that refutes claims about biotech's alleged impact on Monarch butterflies.

In August, research by two Iowa State University entomologists suggested that *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) corn pollen might have an adverse impact on Monarch butterfly populations. However, in a report released recently, the

EPA said that tests performed on Bt corn, cotton, and potato crops confirm the agency's original findings that there are "no unreasonable adverse effects" from these products.

"Overall, the available information indicated a very low probability of risks to Monarchs in areas beyond the near-edge of cornfields," The EPA noted. "The agency concludes that the published preliminary Monarch toxicity information is not sufficient to cause undue concern of widespread risks to Monarch

butterflies."

Fred Yoder, NCGA corn board member from Plain City, Ohio, said the EPA report is good news for corn growers.

"The EPA is adding credence to our assertions that Bt technology is not detrimental to butterflies and other nontarget species," he said, adding NCGA's support of access to biotechnology and the stringent U.S. regulatory process.

"NCGA fully supports the science-based decision-making process employed by the EPA in evaluating and approving Bt technology," Yoder said. "NCGA supports continued evaluation of all agricultural production techniques as well as the availability of biotechnology to those who choose to implement it."



National Grain Sorghum Producers Elects Officers

LUBBOCK, Texas — Leo Bindel, a sorghum producer from Sabetha, Kan., was elected to lead National Grain Sorghum Producers (NGSP) as national president during NGSP's winter board meeting in conjunction with the 2000 Sorghum Industry Conference recently in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Bindel, who previously served as vice president for legislation, has served on the NGSP board of directors for six years.

Rounding out the officer team are Dale Artho of Wil-dorado, Texas, who was re-elected as vice president for domestic market development; Dale Spurgin of Allen, Texas, who was elected to another term as vice president for foreign market development; Ken Rose of Keyes, Okla., who was re-elected as vice president for research;

Bill Kubecka from Palacios, Texas, who was elected as vice president for legislation; James Vorderstrasse of Hebron, Neb., who was re-elected as NGSP secretary-treasurer; and, Ken Tevis, of Hughesville, Mo., who will serve the organization as past president.

The NGSP board of directors is made up of sorghum producers from six states. These representatives are elected by their state associations, with board representation based on the number of members from each state. States with sorghum checkoff programs that provide financial support to NGSP also have representation on the board, although checkoff representatives do not vote on legislative issues.

NGSP is the national organization for U.S. sorghum producers.

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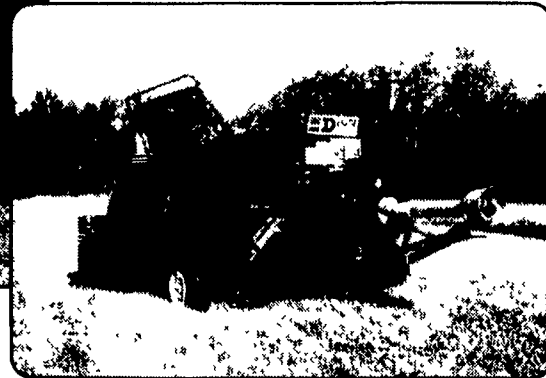
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