

No GM Seed in Arkansas Stocks

Breeder and foundation rice seed from University station all tests GM-free



No GM LLRICE601 protein found in University of Arkansas breeder or foundation rice seed.

After the USDA announced in August that trace amounts of transgenic LLRICE601 protein had been found in U.S. rice, questions immediately arose

asking if the U.S. rice seed supply contains traces of the GM protein.

One of the nation's largest suppliers of foundation rice seed is the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture's rice breeding and foundation seed program at the Rice Research and Extension Center (RREC) near Stuttgart, AR.

"Our policy is that we don't work with transgenic rice at the center," says RREC Director Christopher Deren. "The policy is to eliminate the possibility of transgenic seed being accidentally mixed with breeder or foundation seed."

In order to verify purity, samples of breeder and foundation seed from the past three years were sent to BioDiagnostics, Inc., River Falls, WI for testing. The LLRICE601 protein was not detected in any sample, Deren says.

Varieties Tested

According to Deren, the seed samples from RREC tested by BioDiagnostics, Inc. include foundation seed of the varieties Cocodrie for 2004, '05 and '06; Wells for '04, '05 and '06; Cybonnet for '04, '05 and '06; Banks for '04 and '05; Spring for '05 and '06; Francis for '05 and '06; and Cheniere for 2006.

The breeder seed tested, all from 2006, were the varieties Wells, Cybonnet, Spring, Francis and Cheniere.

A sample of head row seed of the CL171AR variety from 2005 was also tested.

For more information:

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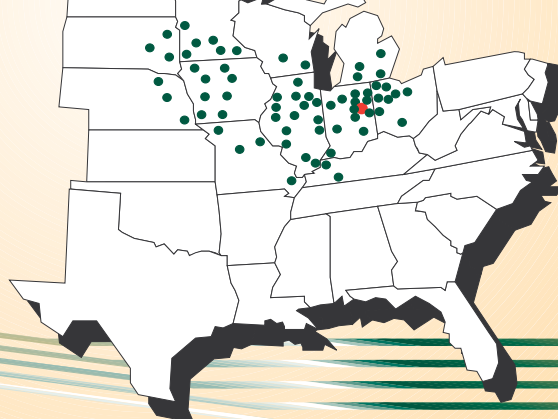
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