

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **New Product Release – X998WGT**

X998WGT has been tested for the last three years in replicated trials and has been found to be a very successful dual purpose hybrid. In 2016, it was evaluated by an independent source in California for silage use, and it yielded 41.78 tons / acre. It also had 95.3% starch digestibility in 12 hours according to a new research tool established by Healthy Herd Genetics and Nutrition, LLC as compared to a BMR hybrid at 93.6%. Replicated yield trials in 2018 across 10 locations involving Illinois, Nebraska, and Texas demonstrated it was 0.5 bushels better than X654W, and was 1 point drier. Gray leaf Spot Tolerance was excellent as well as stalk and root strength. It will be available in limited quantities in 2019 to clients that have an Agrisure License Agreement. In a special trial conducted at the Harlan Research Field, it averaged 342.44 bu/acre. This study basically indicates the potential for this hybrid. As a special note, the number of ear rows ranged from 18 to 22, and was 39 kernels in length at 30,000 plants/acre.

## **New Seed Conditioning Equipment at the Harlan Facility**

A new Almaco Seed Maizer and Seed Boss has been installed at the warehouse in Harlan, Iowa to help facilitate the significant increase of new inbreds, and strip plot quantities of new white and yellow hybrids. In addition, a new dust collection system has been implemented along with 2 heat units in the conditioning area. The equipment has already been used to condition seed shipped to Mexico, Chile, and South Africa.

## **New Cooperative Breeding Effort for JFS and Associates, LTD.**

JFS and Associates, LTD. has expanded its breeding efforts by implementing agreements with breeders in Argentina, Mexico, Turkey, and South Africa. This effort broadens the opportunities in both white and yellow hybrids in terms of maturity range, overall health, and specific niche markets. Several new flint type yellow hybrids are being evaluated for the food grade market, and especially for end users that prefer a white cob. Thirty-six new white hybrid combinations have already been sent to Mexico for testing in the Los Mochis area.

## **Data Management Receives Significant Improvement**

The Business Manager, Vicki Strissel, has implemented a new data organizational system that involves tracking inbred and hybrid development along with inventory updates and movement. International shipping is now also playing an important role, so regulations for different countries have to be monitored. Seed testing, grain analysis, phytosanitary certificates, yield trials, and specialty tests all fit into this organizational mix that has to be recorded, stored, and available for product development.