

Statement from Dr. Dan Westberg: Diversified Region Tech Manager, BASF

The state's proposed dicamba ban would leave growers defenseless against these evasive weeds and deprive farmers of a critical crop protection tool mid-season. Without an effective herbicide, Arkansas farmers are faced with increased weed pressure and reduced yields, placing them at a disadvantage to farmers in the rest of the country.

Arkansas farmers like Perry Galloway, who selected dicamba-tolerant seeds believing an additional mode of action was not only needed, but would be available in the 2017 season. From our field visits, farmers like Perry are successfully applying Engenia[®] herbicide and seeing positive results without adversely affecting neighbors.

Eliminating dicamba as a weed control option for Arkansas farmers is not the answer. Farmers deserve access to effective crop protection products to help increase yields and profitability.

Instead of decreasing options, let's enforce rules put in place to protect farmers growing sensitive crops. Let's support efforts to expand application training and educational outreach. Let's immediately work together to develop interim steps that would encourage and help ensure on-target applications, like limiting dicamba applications to daytime hours. This emphasizes a common sense and simple approach until all the facts are gathered.

A solution is within reach. We are working with growers and actively visiting with growers who make a request for an in-person consultation whether they applied Engenia herbicide or not. For the future of Arkansas farmers and farmers across the country, let's make the right decision based on facts that will make this new technology available for generations to come.