

Syngenta Seeds Awarded \$150,000 Judgment for Illegal Sale of Wheat Seed

GOLDEN VALLEY, MINN. – Oct. 9, 2003 – Syngenta Seeds has been awarded a \$150,000 judgment against Prairie Farmers Association, Hazen, Ark., for the illegal sale of proprietary NK® Brand COKER® 9663 wheat seed. The lawsuit claimed infringement of Syngenta's property rights under the Plant Variety Protection Act (PVPA), which states protected seed may not be sold, re-sold or used to produce seed without permission of the developer.

The judgment against Prairie Farmers Association is the largest publicly recorded wheat PVPA settlement to date. "The size of the judgment in this case demonstrates the magnitude of illegal sales occurring and signifies the seriousness of the problem," said Phil Farmer, wheat product manager for Syngenta Seeds. "The industry depends on the PVPA because it allows seed companies to continue investing in wheat quality and genetic improvements. The illegal sales actually slow or can completely stop development of new varieties that benefit farmers and the entire wheat industry."

The lawsuit against Prairie Farmers Association included both illegal sales and labeling violations. In one instance, the farmer-owned cooperative facilitated the illegal sale of wheat by weighing wheat seed for other persons trading illegal wheat seed.

Other PVPA-protected wheat seed varieties include COKER 9474, COKER 9543, COKER 9803, COKER 9835, COKER 9025, COKER 9184, COKER 9152 and Century II. As part of the judgment, Syngenta has the right to audit Prairie Farmers Association over the next three years to ensure the association does not continue to illegally sell Syngenta Seeds wheat varieties.

"We will continue to pursue violators of the PVPA to protect the interests of growers, dealers and seed companies who are acting ethically and responsibly," Farmer said.

Syngenta Seeds recently filed three additional lawsuits to prevent further illegal sales of NK Brand COKER proprietary wheat. The suits are filed against Buck Island Seed Company, Tunica, Miss., and their seed distributors in Arkansas and Mississippi; El Dorado Chemical Company, El Dorado, Ark., and their retail locations in Texas, Missouri and Tennessee; and MBS Seed, Ltd. Co. in Denton, Texas. The lawsuits allege infringement of intellectual property rights of Syngenta Seeds under the PVPA and the unauthorized use of trademarks. Damages are being sought to recover lost royalties and profits.

RESOURCE SEEDS, INC.

Syngenta is a world-leading agribusiness committed to sustainable agriculture through innovative research and technology. The company is a leader in crop protection and ranks third in the high-value commercial seeds market. Sales in 2002 were approximately US \$6.2 billion. Syngenta employs some 20,000 people in over 90 countries. Syngenta is listed on the Swiss stock exchange (SYNN) and in London (SYA), New York (SYT) and Stockholm (SYN). Further information is available at www.syngenta.com.

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