

## **Improving Treater Technology**

Corn seed treatment is applied, and there is a growing trend towards purchasing commercially treated certified soybean and cereal seed. Seed protection is limited, to some extent, by the quality of seed treatment application. Uniform, precise application is important to ensure correct rates are applied to each seed. “When establishing a crop, it’s important to do everything we can to reduce insect and disease pressure,” says Marty Vermey, product manager for Hyland Seeds. “And applying the proper amounts of treatment to the seed will provide the best control.”

Convenience, environmental stewardship and yield gains are important considerations that have led many farmers to purchase commercially treated seed. Commercial application does more to ensure that the seed is treated with the appropriate amount of product to prevent unnecessary leaching into soil. Excess application can also harm the seed, reducing quality and yield while unnecessarily increasing treatment cost.

To improve the accuracy of all its commercially applied seed treatments, Hyland Seeds recently invested in a new Gustafson continuous flow commercial seed treater that accurately applies treatments on a variety of crops, with the flexibility of applying up to nine products in a continuous, closed-loop system.

Vermey expects a continuous increase in the use of seed treatments, especially in soybeans, and this new investment will ultimately offer growers more options and flexibility for new advancements in seed treatments. “In the past, seed treatments were applied based on bulk weight, which could lead to over- or under-applying, as seeds vary in size,” says Vermey. “Today, seed treatments are often applied by seed count, a much more accurate application method.”