



# INDIANA

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Monsanto Facility Recognized for ‘Above and Beyond’ Workplace Safety and Health Programs

**INDIANAPOLIS** (August 31, 2017) – The Indiana Department of Labor awarded Monsanto in Windfall, Ind., recertification as a ‘STAR’ participant in the Indiana Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). Participation in this elite state program represents commitment to Hoosier workers and proactive workplace safety and health practices.

“With Indiana’s long, proud history of successful agriculture, it’s exciting to have companies take the safety and health of their agriculture employees very seriously,” said Indiana Department of Labor Commissioner Rick J. Ruble. “We are pleased to recertify Monsanto for going above and beyond in preventing occupational injuries.”

Monsanto is a global agriculture company that develops products and tools for farmers around the world while enhancing efficiency of energy, water and land.

Windfall’s Monsanto location first opened as Mitchell Seeds in 1937 as a seed corn facility, although none of the original structures still stand. After many construction projects and transitioning owners, Monsanto purchased the facility in 1998. Monsanto Windfall is responsible for conditioning and packaging high quality soybean seed and distributes product from Indiana to the East Coast.

For at least the previous three years, the Monsanto facility has only one recorded injury. The site’s Total Case Incidence Rate (TCIR) is 86 percent below the national industry average and the Days Away/Restricted/Transferred Case Incidence (DART) rate is 78 percent below the industry average.

### **About the Indiana Department of Labor:**

The mission of the Indiana Department of Labor is to advance the safety, health and prosperity of Hoosiers in the workplace. In order to make significant strides, we emphasize both enforcement and voluntary compliance by employers. Follow the Indiana Department of Labor on Twitter at [@INDeptofLabor](https://twitter.com/INDeptofLabor) and Like on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/IndianaDepartmentofLabor](https://www.facebook.com/IndianaDepartmentofLabor).

### **About VPP:**

The VPP recognizes employers and employees who have implemented effective safety and health management systems and maintain a low injury and illness rate. In VPP, management and OSHA work cooperatively and proactively to prevent fatalities, injuries and illnesses through a system focused on prevention, control, analysis and training committed to worker involvement.

To participate in VPP, employers submit an application to OSHA and undergo a rigorous onsite evaluation by a team of safety and health professionals. VPP participants are re-evaluated every three to five years to remain in the programs. To be recognized in the STAR program specifically, employers and employees must demonstrate exemplary achievement in the development, implementation, and continuous improvement of their safety and health management system.

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