



# INDIANA

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Whitestown Farming Facility Recognized for Worker Safety**

### *Monsanto Company Whitestown Achieves VPP 'STAR' Title*

**INDIANAPOLIS (Jan. 15, 2020)** – The Indiana Department of Labor announced today that Monsanto Company of Whitestown, Ind., has achieved STAR re-certification in the Indiana Voluntary Protection Program for workplace health and safety. The facility is part of a selection of workplaces that have exceeded occupational safety and health expectations, and demonstrated commitment to putting the well-being of Hoosier workers first.

“Agriculture is one of Indiana’s oldest and proudest industries, and we applaud employers who adapt and evolve with proactive strategies to keep their people safe,” said Indiana Department of Labor Commissioner Rick J. Ruble. “We recognize Monsanto in Whitestown for their hard work in protecting Hoosier workers.”

The STAR status is part of the Voluntary Protection Program, which provides recognition to Hoosier employers that operate exemplary safety and health management systems. Certification in VPP is an achievement that identifies employers who serve as model worksites for Hoosier workplace safety and health.

Monsanto Company (Whitestown, Ind.) is a corn-breeding facility that plants, harvests, packages, and ships from farmers to conduct field activities. The worksite employs 28 year-round workers and additional temporary workers during planting and harvest seasons.

Monsanto’s Whitestown location successfully limited workplace accidents and injuries for the previous OSHA-recordable years, with a three-year average total case incident rate (TCIR) of 3.7, and a days away, restricted, or transferred (DART) rate of 1.8.

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#### **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).

The Indiana enforcement State Plan, IOSHA, is 48.1% funded with \$2,308,000 of federal funds.