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Bird Repellent Gains Approval by Virginia

Field and Sweet Corn Seed Can Now be Treated with Avipel

New Castle, DE; April 6, 2011 — In some areas of Virginia, blackbirds are causing moderate to severe crop damage. In an effort to combat the problem, the state has issued a Section 18 exemption to the standard label requirements for the 2011 planting season. This allows farmers to use Avipel® Crop Seed Treatment to protect their field and sweet corn seed.

The problem of bird damage to crops is not unique to this state, and it is growing. The Virginia exemption focuses on blackbirds; however, in other states, cranes and pheasants have been cited as the “problem” species. Due to habitat restoration and other environmental efforts, bird populations have been on the rebound in recent years. More birds result in more damage to newly planted fields. This is because many species find corn seed to be an attractive food source, and a large flock can cause damage so severe that fields need to be replanted.

Coating seeds with Avipel® has a negative impact on digestion. After initially sampling the treated seed, birds avoid it and look for other food sources. Using Avipel® products offers farmers an effective and humane solution to crop damage caused by foraging birds. Plus, it saves the time and money involved in having to replant damaged fields. Information about approved uses and labels may be found at: www.ArkionLS.com.

Arkion Life Sciences is a pioneer in the development and commercialization of several formulations of bird repellent and bird management technologies. In addition to Avipel® for crop protection, Arkion’s patented formulations of anthraquinone effectively repel geese from turf grass with FlightControl® Plus and birds from structures using Airepel® Service Blend.

Arkion Life Sciences LLC, based in New Castle, Delaware, is a technology-based company leading in the discovery, development and marketing of environmentally friendly, natural or nature identical compounds. Arkion has three major businesses: Airepel®, supplying bird repellents which feature non-lethal methods to control where birds feed and roost; Hyperimmune eggs with markets in human and animal nutrition; and Bio-Technical Resources (Manitowoc, WI) which provides contract services for development of microbial fermentation processes such as glucosamine, *N*-acetylglucosamine and natamycin.

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