What you need to know about TREATED SEED Left-over at end of Planting Season

The recent visit to Iowa by the Vice Premier of China helped to underscore the importance of China as the primary overseas market for U.S. soybeans. However, the Chinese government has very strict rules forbidding the presence of any treated seed in commodity soybean shipments arriving at its ports. Because Chinese officials have detected some treated seed within U.S.-origin commodity soybean shipments during the past year, this article will review the U.S. laws governing what must be done by farmers for proper and legal disposition of treated seeds remaining on farm after the planting season is over. The United States Soybean Export Council (USSEC) and the Nebraska Soybean Board feel that U.S. farmer compliance is critical for avoiding disruption of U.S. soybean exports to China and other applicable overseas markets.

Below are recommendations garnered from the TREATED SEED DISPOSAL section of the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship website of the Center for Integrated Pest Management (http://pesticidestewardship.org/disposal/Pages/treatedseeddisposal.aspx).

It states the following:

A. “The best way to dispose of a small quantity of leftover seed that has been treated with a pesticide is to plant it in fallow or other non-cropped areas of the farm. It would have value as a ‘green manure’ cover crop or wildlife food plot. Note that treated seed may be hazardous to wildlife if it is not correctly planted (i.e., below surface of the soil).”

B. “Other possible options include:
   1. disposal in an approved municipal landfill (only permitted in some states; plus permits may be required).
   2. use as a fuel source for electrical power plants or cement kilns.
   3. high temperature incineration by a waste management facility.
   4. fermentation in an alcohol-producing process at an ethanol plant (but then the ethanol plant’s resultant mash or distillers grains must not be used as feed).

However, the farmer must first contact the specific facility to determine if it can accept pesticide-treated seed. This list of power plants utilizing biomass, municipal solid waste, or non-fossil waste as an alternative fuel is extracted from the EPA National Electric Energy Data System (NEEDS) v3.02 ARRA, available at: http://www.epa.gov/airmarkets/progsregs/epa-ipm/docs/NEEDSv302ARRA.xls Cement kilns can be located at http://www.ckrc.org/index.shtml.”

C. “For disposal of large quantities of leftover treated seed, the farmer must contact the pesticide manufacturer if the farmer needs more information than what is provided below (in the CIPM website).”
   NOTE: If the seed treatment was applied by the seed company, the farmer should contact the seed company.

D. “NEVER burn pesticide-treated seed in a wood or corn stove used in the home or shop, for any purpose (heating, cooking, etc.)”