HUSKIETM HERBICIDE – OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCE IN NORTHERN PLAINS CEREALS. Kevin B. Thorsness*, Dean W. Maruska, Mary D. Paulsgrove, Michael C. Smith, George S. Simkins, and Mark Wrucke, Technical Service and Field Development Representatives, Product Development Manager, and Market Support Manager, Bayer CropScience, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709.

HuskieTM is a new broad spectrum postemergence broadleaf herbicide that was introduced in 2008 by Bayer CropScience. Huskie is registered for use in spring wheat, durum, winter wheat, barley and triticale. Huskie is a mixture of pyrasulfotole, bromoxynil, and mefenpyr-diethyl, the highly effective cereal herbicide safener. The inclusion of two different modes of action, an HPPD and PSII inhibitor provides a product with unique resistance management characteristics. Huskie is a consistent broad spectrum broadleaf herbicide with excellent crop tolerance. Rapid degradation of Huskie in the soil provides an excellent crop rotation profile allowing re-cropping to all of the major crops grown in the northern cereal production area. Additionally, Huskie can inhibit second flushes of select weeds, such as redroot pigweed, kochia, and common lambsquarters.

Huskie is formulated as an emulsifiable concentrate for easy mixing and handling by the customer. Apply Huskie at 11-15 oz/ac after the cereal crop has emerged but before flag leaf emergence. For optimum control of broadleaf weeds and maximum yield, apply Huskie between the 1 - 8 leaf stage of growth, depending on weed species. Huskie can be tank mixed with selected fungicides and insecticides. When Huskie is applied alone it can be mixed with AMS at 0.5 lb/ac or 28% UAN at 1 qt/ac.

Huskie has been tested on more than 50 broadleaf weed species at many locations in numerous field experiments in the northern cereal production area of the United States. Huskie controls key broadleaf weeds such as kochia, pigweed sp., wild buckwheat, common lambsquarters, mustard sp., Russian thistle, field pennycress, prickly lettuce, common waterhemp, white cockle and nightshade sp. Huskie also controls sulfonylurea resistant weeds such as kochia, prickly lettuce and Russian thistle. Crop tolerance with Huskie has been excellent when tested on several different varieties of spring wheat, durum wheat, and barley.

Huskie provided excellent broadleaf weed control in both research trials and commercial production fields in 2008. Huskie was commercially applied on 3.3 plus million acres of cereals in the United States in 2008. Applications of Huskie were successfully made with several different types of commercial application equipment. Overall weed control and crop tolerance with Huskie was excellent in spite of being applied during some challenging environmental conditions. Grower satisfaction with Huskie was very high with a high level of re-use intentions for 2009. The excellent weed control and crop safety combined with a favorable crop rotation profile makes Huskie a valuable tool for wheat, barley and triticale producers.