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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Monsanto Company Receives Highest Distinction for Workplace Safety and Health**

INDIANAPOLIS (Dec. 19, 2013) – Monsanto Company’s Evansville facility has earned the highest distinction for workplace safety and health by achieving 56 percent fewer workplace injuries and illnesses than the industry national average. The Indiana Department of Labor (IDOL) today announced the Monsanto Company facility in Evansville, Ind., has earned the Indiana Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star certification.

“The Monsanto Company’s facility has made workplace safety and health an integral part of its culture,” IDOL Commissioner Rick Ruble said. “The department thanks Monsanto leadership and employees for their tireless efforts and to accomplish their well-deserved workplace safety and health success.”

VPP Star certification is awarded to companies that have demonstrated a significant commitment to safety and health management excellence and outstanding health and safety records.

To participate in the VPP, a company must develop, implement and maintain an exceptional worker safety and health management system. In addition, the facility’s occupational injury and illness rates must be below the industry national average. Fewer than 70 Indiana companies have VPP certification.

The Monsanto Evansville facility employs 16 full-time workers who provide research and development services for corn and soybean products.

To learn more about VPP, please visit [www.in.gov/dol/vpp.htm](http://www.in.gov/dol/vpp.htm).

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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 compliance assistance by employers. [www.in.gov/dol](http://www.in.gov/dol)

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