

First-Ever Biostimulant Innovator of The Year Award Honors Groundbreaking Growers

The award recognizes growers who are setting new standards for integrating biostimulants into practical, results-driven cropping systems.

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[Valent BioSciences](#) and [Meister Media Worldwide](#) announce John Buck of

Buck Farms as the inaugural Biostimulant Innovator of the Year. Buck's work exemplifies how biostimulants can move from trial plots to core components of a cropping system. By treating biological tools as integral to his agronomic strategy, he

has improved crop performance while managing seasonal uncertainty. His approach reflects both a commitment to innovation and a focus on measurable outcomes.



Meister Media Worldwide



Two outstanding finalists are also being recognized:

- Taylor Braungardt, Kansas grower and agronomist, known for his trial-and-error grit and sharp observational skills. He monitors plant response in real time, adapts quickly, and views biostimulants as a vital "insurance policy" for volatile growing seasons.
- Stefano Marcenò, Sicilian orchard and grape grower, who blends traditional agricultural practices with new biostimulant applications. His methodical experimentation and openness to change are influencing how growers in his region of Italy respond to climate-driven stress.

"These growers are not just adopting biostimulants; they are integrating them into real-world farming systems in ways that are driving measurable results," said Jeff Miller, Commercial Lead, Meister Custom Solutions. "The Biostimulant Innovator of the Year Award was created to highlight exactly this kind of leadership, and our winner and finalists have set a very high bar for the years ahead."

The Biostimulant Innovator of the Year Award, sponsored by Valent BioSciences, was launched to celebrate the people shaping the future of sustainable agriculture. The success of this inaugural campaign demonstrates the growing momentum behind biological tools and the practical innovators bringing them to life in the field.

[Learn more about the winner and finalists: https://www.croplife.com/sponsor/valent-biosciences/meet-the-biostimulant-innovator-of-the-year-award-winner-finalists/](https://www.croplife.com/sponsor/valent-biosciences/meet-the-biostimulant-innovator-of-the-year-award-winner-finalists/).

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About Valent BioSciences LLC

Headquartered in Libertyville, Illinois, Valent BioSciences is a subsidiary of Tokyo-based Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd. Valent BioSciences is a global leader in the research, development, manufacturing, and commercialization of biorational products and technologies used in agriculture, public health, and forest health. Through its expertise in bioscience, Valent BioSciences helps growers profitably sustain their land and legacies and protects the public from insect-borne disease. The company has more than 60 years of experience bringing biorational products to market in more than 95 countries worldwide. Valent BioSciences is also the parent company of Mycorrhizal Applications LLC, a leading supplier of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi-based products. For additional information, visit the company's website at www.valentbiosciences.com.

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