

Monsanto Eyes South American Soy Export Royalties

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Monsanto Co., producer of a popular genetically-modified soybean seed, may attempt to collect royalties on soy shipments to the United States from South America if they are found to be carrying unlicensed Monsanto product, a company official said on Wednesday.

Asked by Reuters whether soymeal or other soy imports from Brazil or Argentina would be targeted for inspection at U.S. ports with the goal of collecting royalties on Monsanto biotech goods, spokeswoman Lori Fisher said, "We have a number of options available and that would be one of them." She downplayed the likelihood of shipments from as far south as Argentina, however.

With tight global supplies of soybeans, U.S. importers are expected to buy significant quantities of South American soymeal this year, mostly for livestock operations in the southeastern United States.