

PLASTICS NEWS

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The season for soy-based resin

Deere, Case are harvesting applications to compete with traditional plastics

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More than 60 years after Henry Ford tested a soybean-based plastic for automotive panels, the material is beginning to make headway in some commercial applications.

Agricultural equipment makers like Deere and Co. and Case New Holland Global NV are using soy-based polyester resin on large structural parts and finding it can compete with traditional plastics.

"The soybean-based material will probably come into its own soon, depending on its use," said John Cerny, a staff engineer in Moline, Ill.-based Deere's John Deere's plastics composite group. "The volumes are going up."

Deere has used 500,000 pounds of soy-based resin, starting with a

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A Deere 9860 STS Row Crop Combine harvests soybeans. Deere has been making slow, but steady advances with soy-based sheet molding compound parts for its combines.