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Winter Newsletter 2014



2014 HARVEST

Harvest is finally winding down for 2014 and with harvest running late, the soil freezing early and grain prices falling, the bumper fall harvest of 2014 continues to remain challenging for all of us.

Both our Nichols Ag and Muscatine Ag facilities were operating at full capacity, with much of our storage capacities spoken for early. Juggling incoming volume proved interesting, but rarely were there any lines at our unload pits. We were able to move all over capacity bushels in order to keep space for our growers so they could keep grain moving out of the fields.

With most of the grain finally in the bins, it is important to remember that keeping the hard earned yield in good condition is an on-going task. Too many times, after the hard work of producing the crop, we have seen grain spoiling in bins resulting in significant dockage and revenue loss. Remember to check your stored grain every thirty days to see that it is remaining

in excellent condition. With temperatures fluctuating throughout the winter, it is always prudent to move air through the grain after a warm spell to keep any excess moisture from accumulating in the grain or along the outer bin walls.

How to maximize the return on all the bushels our growers have worked so hard to acquire is the next venue in the grain production cycle. Just as important as the input cost to produce the crop, is the price we get for what we produced. One way to be proactive in getting the best return on our grain is through the "forward pricing" options that we can offer to our growers. Come in and talk with our "Grain Specialist" and have them show you a variety of options you can use to maximize your net revenue for every bushel you have grown.



All of our locations offer:

CLARIVA COMPLETE BEANS – The missing piece in soybean pest control

This was the first year for Clariva Complete Soybeans, a soybean seed treatment designed to help with soybean cyst nematodes. We tried it on several farms in

our own areas and have seen varying results. As a whole we saw a 5.49 bushel advantage over CruiserMaxx soybeans. We think that the results would have been bigger had it not been a year with ample amounts of rain. Please talk to your seed advisor or agronomy person about this product and soybean cyst nematodes. We can do soil tests to find out what your cyst counts are and find out if this product is right for you.

**PREPAY FERTILIZER & CHEMICALS
NOW THROUGH JANUARY 9, 2015**

Mark your Calendars for March 12, 2015. We want you and a guest to join us for drinks/dinner and guest speaker Dr. Fred Below (6 Secrets of Soybean Success)!



If you remember Dr. Below spoke to us a couple of years ago about 300 bushel corn. He's a dynamic, fast paced speaker who will get you fired up about increasing your soybean production!

According to Dr. Below soybean yield in the U.S. is roughly 42 bu/acre and has been hovering

around that figure for the past few years. While it might seem daunting, the quest for 85 bu/acre yields is not a stretch. Join us on the 12th and hear more about the 6 secrets to success: 1. Weather 2. Improve Soil Fertility 3. Maximize genetic yield potential 4. Protect yield potential and maximize seed size 5. Enhance seed emergence and vigor and 6. Utilize narrow row spacing.

Those of you who have heard Dr. Below speak before will attest how riveting his presentations are. You won't want to miss this opportunity!

**REMAINING SEED DISCOUNT DATE
January 12, 2015**

Don't forget Muscatine Ag has on-hand inventory of Bextra Hay Feeders & Ritchie Waterers!



Weed Resistance Continues

In speaking with several suppliers in the south and Iowa State University it has been brought to our attention that weed resistance is still growing. Iowa State University noted that 50% of Iowa fields have Roundup resistant weeds which is up from 30% last year. We have now heard that Banvel is not killing Waterhemp in the south if it is over 4 in. tall. That means the

Banvel resistant soybeans won't be the silver bullet like Roundup was. The moral of the story is HEAVY RATES OF PRE-HERBICIDES with MULTIPLE MODES OF ACTION WILL BE A MUST, no matter what your preferred post application product might be.

We should look at putting a residual product down with our post products. Last season was one of the worst in a long time as far as a clean soybean fields and it will probably not get any easier to kill weeds. Please speak to your local agronomy specialist to find out which program will work best for you before you end up with a soybean field looking the one pictured on the prior page!

SIDE DRESS NITROGEN TESTING



We did some side dress Nitrogen testing on both corn and soybeans this year. On the soybeans we had results from +0 to +3 bushels per acre, but we do not have all of the yield maps yet and we think that the timing might have been a little off. It can be difficult to get the timing right when you are relying on Mother Nature to get a rain. On corn side dress we had varying results from +3 to as much as +30 bushels per acre, depending on the timing again and the other practices that it followed. It

seemed that this was another one of those years where if you had problems with either too much or too little drainage that it paid to side dress. If you have any questions involving side dress application and whether you think it might be right for you please talk to your agronomy manager at Muscatine Ag, Nichols Ag, or O'Toole Inc. at your convenience. We would all be happy to share our findings and experiences with you more in detail.

Sudden Death in Soybeans

iLeVO™ & Sudden Death Syndrome Efficacy
2014: Lonoke, AR- Showcase Trial



FST/IST

FST/IST + iLeVO

FST/IST = EverGol® + Allegiance® + Poncho®/VOTIVO®

Sudden Death in Soybeans can be a real problem. Bayer Crop Science has come up with a solution to help with that. They have come out with a product that is called iLevo. The studies that have been done with it so far have shown to reduce the occurrence of Sudden Death by at least 50%. Iowa State had 11 sites that were all replicated trials this year that showed a 3.4 bushel per acre increase in yields even in fields that showed no signs of Sudden Death. This product is not labeled for use at this time but should be in the near future.

There is also another product made by Syngenta called Mertect that should be a cost effective way of dealing with root rots. It is supposed to be the best product on the market for Fusarium and has a suppression label for

white mold. Please contact your seed advisor or your agronomy specialist for more information on these products, and to see if one/both of these might be right for you.

Congratulations to the 2014 Yield Competition Winners!
Read on to learn about the results and how these customers optimized their yield!



SOYBEAN & CORN WINNER



Soybean (Asgrow 2931) winner:
Tim Shellabarger – 77.31 bushel\acre

Corn (DK63-35 RIB) winner:
Tim Shellabarger – 254.14 bushel\acre



SOYBEAN WINNER



Soybean (S31-L7) winners:
Da Es Ro Farms (Tim Whitaker) – 80.3 bushel\acre



CORN WINNER



Corn (N74R-3000GT) winner:
Dave & Scot Bieri (on Wayne Barnes' farm) – 269.01 bushel\acre



SOYBEAN WINNER



**Soybean (Ag2933) winner:
Kent Yoder – 74.07 bushel\acre**



CORN WINNER



**Corn (NJ N74R 3000GT) winner:
Tim Lorack – 244.29 bushel\acre**

**There will be another competition in
2015! Make sure you don't miss
your opportunity to be the next
\$1000 winner!!!**