Protecting Your Fertilizer Investment

Recent rainfall may have moved some, or even all, of the fall and spring applied nitrogen through the soil profile and away from your corn roots, especially in lighter, sandier soils. Available sulfur is also nearly as water soluble as nitrogen at this point in the season. Don’t get caught being critically short of these, or other important, nutrients such as Phosphorus, Zinc or Manganese.

Unfortunately, it is usually too late to preserve yield when visual deficiency symptoms appear. Instead of waiting, consider tissue testing to determine if your crop has a nutrient deficiency and what corrective actions should be taken. As always, the final decision to apply additional nutrients is made by you, the farmer.

New to your Coop this year is a tissue sampling service and analysis. You can find more information about this service on the home page of our website. To have your corn or soybeans sampled and analyzed, please call us at (877) 496-7325 and ask for our tissue sampling intern, Dakota.

As we approach the side-dress application season, it is time to consider that some fields, especially those with sand and sandy-loam zones, may have suffered Nitrogen and Sulfur loss. Regardless of potential loss, let’s be mindful of protecting the investment and also giving the plant all of the Nitrogen it needs to produce a good healthy ear of corn.

As a solution to the leaching of Nitrogen and Sulfur, we recommend incorporating Hydra-Hume A into 28% or 32% UAN applications. Hydra-Hume is an organic acid which gives it the ability to bond with both positively charged ions like ammonia and negatively charged ions like sulfate. This bonding action helps hold the nutrients in the root zone until it can be taken up by the corn. This holding action maximizes the efficiency of side-dress applied UAN and sulfur that can be tank-mixed as Ammonium Thiosulfate (ATS; 12-0-0-26).
Consider adding Zinc to your side-dress program. University of Illinois data suggests that the plant uses 95% of its Zn needs after V8. Adding 1 qt. of Trafix Zn to your side-dress applications this summer can help supplement the plants needs for Zn and lead to improved yields as well. For more info please click this link: Hydra-Hume Overview

Another excellent source of Zinc, available through us and made by Winfield, is their Max-IN® Ultra ZMB®. This product contains Zinc (Zn), Manganese (Mn) and Boron (B) that all help optimize crop production. ZMB, as it is commonly called, is typically applied with post emergence glyphosate in corn or soybeans. All Max-IN® products contain CornSorb™ technology which greatly increases the movement of nutrients through the leaf cuticle to internal leaf structures. For more information about this product, please click this link: Max-IN Ultra ZMB Info Link

Crops typically respond to small doses of Plant Growth Regulars (PGR’s). Ascend® by Winfield contains three key PGR’s that stimulate root growth, produce larger leaves for more photosynthesis and wider stems. Ascend® can be applied as a foliar treatment at 6.4 - 10 fl oz/A on corn stages 3-10 and at 3.2 fl oz/A on soybean stages v-3 to v-5 along with most micronutrients and pesticides. It can be applied multiple times, but the most “bang-for-the buck” is an early season application. For more information about Ascend®, please click these links: Ascend Flyer

Ascend Label

Please contact us today about these products and we will see if we can’t help you improve your ROI on your soils.

With your bottom line in mind,

Ron