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Logan Ag crop advisers recommend corn planting when soil temperatures are 50-51° F and increasing at 2" depth for rapid crop emergence.

# LOGAN AG NEWS

## Grain Vs. Food

**A** trip to your local grocery store reveals rising food prices. News reports often blame high food prices on prices farmers receive for corn, soybeans and wheat. What the media does not report is the impact transportation, labor and markup have on the price of food.

As of March 8, 2011, diesel fuel was slightly more than \$1/gallon higher than a year ago. Transportation costs are typically calculated on a base rate plus a fuel surcharge. Fuel surcharge tables add 1% to the freight rate for every 10¢ in the price of diesel fuel. To put this in perspective, if transportation cost in March 2010 was \$4.00 per loaded mile, today's diesel price would make that rate \$4.40 per loaded mile. This added cost to the grocer is passed to the consumer in higher food prices.

Labor costs have risen significantly also. The US minimum wage rose to \$7.25 per hour effective 7/24/09. Illinois' minimum wage increased to \$8.25 per hour in July 2010. Wage increases at the grocery store and food production facilities are passed on to the consumer in higher food prices.

And what about markup? Who pays for the new grocery store or improvements to the existing store? These "fixed" costs for new stores, improved lighting, new display cases, shopping carts, etc. are also passed to the consumer in higher markups by the grocer.

The next time you hear someone complain about high grain prices driving up the cost of food, be prepared to defend your livelihood. A query to Answers.com reveals that 1 bushel of corn makes sixty-nine 18 oz. boxes of corn flakes (<9¢ per

box). One bushel of wheat is required to bake sixty-nine 1 LB loaves of bread (<11¢ per loaf).

Take heart in the fact that seed, fertilizer, weed/insect control and better equipment have contributed to increased productivity in the US. Rejoice in the fact that food in the US represents less than 10% of our disposable income. Be proud that US agriculture is one of the few bright spots in our economy, providing a \$30 billion trade surplus in 2010. Farmers – thanks to you for all you do!

## Maximize Diesel Performance

**H**igh diesel prices concern every farmer. With a typical planter tractor burning 8-10 gallons per hour and large 4-wheel drive tillage tractors doubling that usage, the spike in fuel price adds \$8 to \$20 per hour to tractor expense. It's imperative to achieve maximum performance from your diesel engine. *That's where Logan Ag can help!*

**Lubrication products:** Logan Ag supplies highest quality motor oil, grease and hydraulic/transmission fluids. Several brands are available in our convenient bulk delivery system.

**Fuel biocide:** Increased use of biodiesel, as well as condensation resulting from storage tanks that are empty or partially filled over winter months promote microbial growth in fuel. Microbial growth in tanks and fuel leads to thick, slimy deposits resulting in plugged fuel filters and clogged injectors. Kathon® 1.5 Fuel Biocide kills microbial growth in less than 24 hours and provides long-lasting protection.

**Premium fuel additive:** Premium additives combine cetane improvers and heavy-duty detergents to promote quick fuel ignition in the combustion

chamber and outstanding injector cleanliness. Lab and field trials of premium fuel are impressive, showing 5 to 7% fuel economy improvement, reduced emissions, and better fuel stability in storage.

Call Logan Ag and let us help **MAXIMIZE** diesel performance with our complete lineup of petroleum products.

Kathon is a registered trademark of Dow Chemical Company.

## Dow Announces New Weed Control System

**D**ow AgroSciences recently announced new **Enlist™** weed control system utilizing a new herbicide tolerant seed trait that will enable producers to apply 2,4-D plus glyphosate post-emergence in both corn and soybeans. Previously called DHT, the Enlist system will tackle such problem weeds as waterhemp, giant ragweed, marehail, morningglory, lambsquarters and others.

With commercial launch scheduled for 2013, corn growers will soon have a new tool in their arsenal to combat glyphosate resistant weeds using the proven performance of 2,4-D in combination with glyphosate to control broadleaf weeds. The Enlist weed control system is potentially a “game-changer”, and will be available in elite germplasm stacked with glyphosate- and insect-tolerant traits. Research trials show no crop response even at rates as high as 2 gallons/A of 2,4-D.

High grower interest in the Enlist weed control system will develop when 2,4-D/glyphosate tolerant soybeans are introduced. Look for these new soybeans in 2014.

Enlist is a trademark of Dow AgroSciences, LLC.

## High Yields Require Healthy Plants

**A**gronomists have suggested for many years that improving plant health can enhance yields. The growth of fungicide application in corn and soybeans is an example of attempts to improve plant health by controlling or preventing yield-robbing diseases.

As producers seek means to take advantage of current crop prices and maximize profit per acre, the use of “nutritional” products to promote plant growth and reduce environmental stress is relevant. The broad category of “nutritionals” includes products containing primary nutrients such as N-P-K, as well as micronutrient mixtures for foliar application.

Foliar nitrogen products have been utilized for several years, and are gaining popularity with post glyphosate and fungicide applications. The increase in use is due to more well-defined nitrogen requirements of corn. Approximately 40 days after planting (waist-high corn), the plant requires 6 LB N/acre/day. The nitrogen usage rate increases to 7.4 LB/acre/day approximately 50 days after planting during critical ear development stages. The key function of foliar applied nitrogen is to provide slow release nitrogen to be utilized as the plant requires additional N.

Micronutrients are critical, yet often overlooked, nutrient requirements of corn and soybeans. **Zinc (Zn)** is mobile in the plant, and its primary function is that of structural enzymes involved in DNA replication and gene expression. **Boron (B)** is involved in sugar and starch metabolism, hormone

metabolism, and flower formation/seed production. Deficiencies are more pronounced in drought periods when root activity is restricted. **Magnesium (Mg)** is critical to the photosynthesis process. **Sulfur (S)** is involved in the formation of amino acids, protein and enzyme synthesis, plant respiration and seed production.

Logan Ag offers several products to address the in-season nutritional needs of corn and soybeans.

- ✓ **SABLE™**: Liquid nitrogen for foliar application to V5-V6 and VT corn, and R3 soybeans. 72% of the nitrogen is slow-release, making it available when the plant requires additional N at critical growth stages. Suggested rate 1-2 gal/A.
- ✓ **BIO-FORGE™**: Foliar applied fertilizer helps corn and soybeans tolerate stress by reducing excess ethylene in plant cells and improves root mass. Suggested rate ½ to 1 pint per acre.
- ✓ **X-TRA POWER™**: Micronutrient formulation containing Mg, manganese, copper and Zn. Enhances root growth and reproductive growth while helping plants maintain healthy hormone balance. Suggested rate 1 quart/A.
- ✓ **HARVEST MORE™ UREA MATE 5-10-27**: Unique blend of NPK plus micros including Magnesium, Boron, and Zinc. Provides nearly any nutrient not available from regular fertilizer program. Suggested rate 3-5 LB/A at V3 growth stage.
- ✓ **SUGAR MOVER™**: Contains Boron to help move sugars from leaves to seed production in beans. Suggested rate 1 qt/A at R3.

**Contact your local Logan Ag rep for more information.**

Sable is a registered trademark of Mid-Tech R&D, Inc. Bio-Forge, X-Tra Power, Harvest More and Sugar Mover are registered trademarks of Stoller, USA.