

Top yields begin at Logan Ag!
Contact us for seed, fertilizer, crop protection chemicals, petroleum products
and custom application.

LOGAN AG NEWS

Logan Agri-Service, Inc
Griggsville, IL
1-800-LOGAN AG

Star City, IN
574-727-7804

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Pittsburg, OH
937-692-5181

Addition To Staff

The Logan Ag sales team welcomes **Eric Bien**. Eric joined the staff in late November, and will primarily cover areas south and east of Griggsville. Bien (pronounced *Bē-in*) is in the process of meeting with crop protection chemical and seed representatives to learn respective product lineups for 2010, and is currently working in the Griggsville office.

The entire portfolio of products will be available from Eric, including Mycogen Seed and Lewis Hybrids, fertilizer, petroleum products and crop protection chemicals.

Eric resides in Jacksonville. You may contact him in the Griggsville office at 1-800-LOGAN AG, by cell phone at 217-491-0425, or email ebien@loganag.com. Eric is anxious to meet and work with many of you soon.

Mycogen Seeds Perform Well

Mycogen corn hybrids performed very well in plots coordinated by Logan Ag's Indiana representative, Steve Crosby.

In Steve's home plot at Star City, IN, **Mycogen 2C598** was the plot leader at 175.5 bushels, beating the plot average by 20 bushels per acre. Of particular note was the moisture level of 18.8% and test weight of 58 LB. Other top performers in Steve's home plot were **Mycogen 2G611**, **Mycogen 2W587** and **Mycogen 2P535**. All these hybrids yielded above 170 bushels per acre on Steve's sandy clay loam soil.

At the Crosby Dairy Farm plot, cooperater Bob Crosby reports Mycogen **2W705** produced

199.2 bushels per acre and beat the plot average by 13.4 bushels. Other top performers on Bob's sandy loam soils were **Mycogen 2P686**, **Mycogen 2H697** and **Mycogen 2V732**.

For top yielding corn and soybeans in Indiana, contact Steve Crosby at 574-727-7804 or email scrosby@loganag.com. Don't forget the money-saving rebates available when you purchase a minimum of 60 bags Mycogen seed corn and qualifying herbicides. See or call Steve or any of the Logan Ag staff for details of this program.

Chemical Comments

Crop protection chemical representatives from major manufacturers are outstanding resources for information on pest control products and localized recommendations. Inside this issue of "Logan Ag News" are comments from **John Kladstrup** of Dow AgroSciences, **Skip Shively** of BASF, **Jim French** of Monsanto and **Ryan Booton** of Bayer Crop Science.

Look for comments from other reps in future editions of this newsletter. Contact the Logan Ag sales team for information regarding specific products and/or weed and insect control recommendations.

Fertilizer Market Update

Logan Ag offers this brief perspective on the status of fertilizer markets with information updated as of late November, 2009. Please realize that fertilizer markets change frequently.

Wet fields continue to hamper remaining harvest and fertilizer application in many areas of western Illinois. Fall anhydrous

ammonia application may be finished. Spring 2010 pre-pay ammonia prices show strength at levels \$100 per ton or more above fall 2009. Tons under contract for delivery prior to December 31, 2009 are subject to storage fees of \$10 per ton per month or cancellation at the discretion of the supplier. While formal announcement has not been received from suppliers, all indicators suggest that fall tons not applied will be cancelled due to substantial price increases.

Dry urea and nitrogen solutions (28% and 32%) continue their upward climb, due in large part to the lack of anhydrous ammonia application this fall. Our suggestion is to secure urea and UAN for spring application now. Contact your Logan Ag crop specialist.

DAP, and phosphates in general, show price strength. Recent increases are only slight, however. Growers in northern Illinois and some other regions are now able to make fall applications, and this activity is contributing to increased price. Expect some moderate price adjustment upward for spring application.

There's good news for growers in the potash market. Wholesale prices are approximately 40-45% below a year ago, and do not appear to have any upward strength. Availability of Russian imports has weakened the position of Canadian producers.

Overall, the price position of each nutrient is down substantially from year ago levels. Current ammonia price for fall delivery is down as much as \$600 per ton. 28% liquid nitrogen price is down approximately \$100 per ton. DAP price has been reduced as much as \$350 per ton, while potash price is down more nearly \$400 per ton.

The reduced prices for NPK make it feasible to replace nutrients removed by the 2009 crop, as well as make up for reduced rate applications.

Glyphosate Resistant Waterhemp

Waterhemp plants resistant to post-emerge applications of glyphosate have been documented in northeast Missouri, and will likely continue their eastward trek into Illinois. For growers who utilize glyphosate exclusively to control weeds and grasses in crops, the resistant weeds pose a huge threat to maintaining weed-free fields in the future.

What can be done if resistant weed populations become normal in your area? The University of Missouri recommends utilizing pre-emerge herbicides labeled for control of waterhemp such as products containing Valor or Authority in soybeans. Follow-up treatments with glyphosate and/or PPO-inhibiting herbicides such as Phoenix or Flexstar should provide relatively clean fields. Liberty Link soybeans also provide an effective option, but pre-emerge herbicides should again be utilized for best control of resistant waterhemp.

In corn, there are several options for control including most pre-mix herbicides and post-emerge products such as Distinct, Callisto, Impact and Laudis. Atrazine alone, applied pre- or postemergence, does not provide adequate control.

Tillage Challenges After 2009 Harvest

In order to start the spring of

2010 with minimal compaction and residue, we face several issues from 2009. Late planting and delayed harvest due to wet fields provide little opportunity for proper fall tillage. Logan Ag's agronomy team, Roger and Brett Forsberg of Ag Alliance, offer the following suggestions.

The first challenge is dealing with crop residue. If available, a Turbo Till is the best option. Other "vertical tillage" style tools work well also. It's important for those continuous corn acres that stalks are properly sized and rootballs cut in order to facilitate microbial decomposition over the winter months.

Combine and grain cart tracks and ruts are huge issues for many growers after a wet fall harvest period. A disk will move surface soil to fill in ruts, but also compacts soil beneath the surface. If a disk is utilized to fill in ruts and tracks, follow up with a chisel or ripper to eliminate the compaction layer established by the disk.

After fall tillage, field conditions should be as "planter ready" as possible. Compaction remaining from harvest will likely lead to some fields staying wet next spring. Reduced leveling trips will eliminate additional compaction problems.

Some may consider planting soybeans after corn if wet weather patterns continue throughout the fall and early winter. If soybeans are planted, use treated beans as disease pressure will be high due to cold soils and lack of decomposition of corn stalk residue. If a field has been in corn for two or more years, soybean inoculation is highly recommended.

Above all, sizing residue and especially rootballs, is a critical step for establishing proper stands next spring.