

Planting season is only 60 days away! Your Logan Ag crop specialist is ready to discuss your seed, fertility and weed control program. Call today and take advantage of our winter prices.

# LOGAN AG NEWS

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## Doubles and Triples Are For Baseball

**B**aseball players consider a double to be a good hit, and if they're fortunate enough to hit one in the gap they may get a triple. But in corn planting, those doubles, triples and gaps (skips) must be avoided if growers expect a "home run" yield.

Time spent with the planter now will help avoid uneven plant spacing. Each planter, whether air/vacuum or finger pickup, must be checked annually. Air or vacuum planters require close attention to specifications matching pressure setting to specific seed sizes. Finger pickup planters are less flexible with varying seed sizes, and perform best when the units are set for the particular seed size to be used. Determining the optimum planting speed is critical to accurate plant spacing and population with finger pickup planters. For best results, plant no faster than you can walk.

Uniform depth placement and the resulting even emergence is another critical factor in achieving top yields. The goal is to see each kernel emerge within 24-48 hours of its row mate. Seed firmers improve seed-to-soil contact and enhance emergence.

Planters are amazing machines, and require proper maintenance to keep them functioning at peak performance. With today's higher planting populations, the strain on the planter unit is tremendous. In fact, a planter operating at 5 MPH dropping 34,000 kernels per acre is expected to accurately space and place more than 14 kernels per row per second. A planting speed of 6 MPH increases the

rate of seed drop in each row to more than 17 kernels per second.

Logan Ag offers a seed unit maintenance program for our customers. Bring your units to Logan Ag on Thursday, February 4. Brett Forsberg with Ag Alliance will take the units to his shop and check seed drop and placement for a nominal fee. Required parts are extra. Contact Troy Kennedy at Logan Ag for details. Hit more "singles" for top yields in 2010!

## New Employee

**J**osh Schaver recently joined the office staff at Logan Ag in Griggsville. Josh is a 2008 graduate of Monmouth (IL) College with a degree in Business Administration and finance. His duties at Logan Ag include agronomy and petroleum accounting, management of accounts receivable, sales reconciliation and employee safety training.

Josh is engaged to Mackenzie Jones of Beardstown, IL and the couple plans a summer 2010 wedding.

Please join us in welcoming Josh to the Logan Ag team!

## Chemical Comments

**C**rop 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 **Nathan Cross** of Gowan and **John Jennings** of AMVAC.

Thanks to all the representatives who provide timely product information for "Logan Ag News". Contact the Logan Ag sales team for information

regarding specific products and/or weed and insect control recommendations.

## Spring NPK Availability Issues Loom

Late harvest dates and persistent wet weather delayed the majority of fall fertilizer applications across the Midwest. Many growers and retailers fear potential supply problems with anhydrous ammonia this spring as a result of the limited fall application season.

At Logan Ag, fall-applied anhydrous ammonia tonnage was approximately 15% of normal. With so many growers geared toward anhydrous ammonia as the primary source of nitrogen, tremendous strain will be placed on tanks, tool bars and distribution facilities in the short application season prior to planting. While some product availability issues may occur, Logan Ag feels well-prepared to face the upcoming season.

The company recently acquired 5 new wagons – two wagons feature double 1450-gallon tanks and 3 wagons are equipped with single 1450-gallon tanks. The net result is an increase in available supply of more than 21 tons of product. Two additional pickups are in place for prompt delivery service. The most important aspect of the Logan Ag spring plan is that all anhydrous ammonia has been secured at the Palmyra, MO terminal. While the distance to our bulk storage tanks at Perry and Griggsville is a bit further than our traditional supply terminal at Meredosia, past experience provides us confidence that our contract carriers will be able to keep our tank well supplied during the busy application season ahead.

At this point, we see no supply or logistics issues with DAP, potash, urea or nitrogen solutions for spring application in our trade area.

The Logan Ag application fleet now includes three spinner application rigs, one pneumatic applicator, and three row crop sprayers. An experienced, qualified staff is ready to provide custom application services throughout the area this spring.

## Improving N Efficiency

Several products are available in the market claiming to improve the efficiency of applied nitrogen. Depending on the type of nitrogen product applied and the method of application, Logan Ag recommends products described below.

**N-Serve®** is the product of choice for anhydrous ammonia and incorporated urea. N-Serve maintains nitrogen in the ammonium form for a longer period of time, providing more efficient early growth of the corn plant. Yield increase and moisture decrease is common with spring N-Serve application.

**Instinct™** is a new product formulation that provides the characteristics of N-Serve, but is designed for incorporated nitrogen solutions and manure.

**Agrotain®**, applied to urea or nitrogen solutions, stops nitrogen volatility up to 14 days. Agrotain is recommended for surface applications only.

**Agrotain® Plus** controls nitrogen loss above and below the surface for surface applied nitrogen solutions. Agrotain Plus is similar to Agrotain in stopping nitrogen volatility, but provides the added benefit of protection from losses due to leaching and denitrification. Agrotain Plus is

recommended for growers seeking maximum yields from surface-applied nitrogen solutions.

All the above products have been utilized on the Logan Ag farm, and we confidently recommend their usage in the applications described.

Many growers have interest in ESN®. ESN is a polymer coated urea that is comprised of 44% nitrogen (compared to 46% nitrogen in standard urea) and 2% plastic coating. The plastic coating controls the release of nitrogen, and is broken down by a combination of heat and moisture. In the absence of heat or moisture as in cool or dry conditions, all the nitrogen may not be available to the growing plant at the time required for maximum yield. ESN performs best when incorporated. At this time, Logan Ag does not have ESN available.

N-Serve® and Instinct™ are trademarks of Dow AgroSciences LLC. Agrotain® is a registered trademark of Phosphate Resource Limited Partnership and is licensed exclusively to Agrotain International, LLC. Agrotain® Plus is manufactured, used and sold under license from IMC Phosphates Company. ESN® is a registered trademark of Agrium Inc.

## A Great Site

Looking for a chemical label or hybrid description? What about the latest crop advisory from the university? Need an update on weather conditions in your area? You'll find this information and more at [www.loganag.com](http://www.loganag.com).

The Logan Ag web site is designed for you to easily navigate from weather forecasts to pesticide labels to phone numbers and email addresses of our staff. Past issues of "Logan Ag News" are available.

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BUSINESS! LET US KNOW  
HOW AND WHEN WE MAY  
SERVE YOU.**