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# LOGAN AG NEWS

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## Logan Ag Studies Population/N Rate

A study of importance to growers is underway in the 32 acre field east of Logan Ag's main facility in Griggsville. Trials, planned before anhydrous ammonia application last fall, seek to determine the optimal nitrogen rate and planting population rate for two of our top-selling Lewis corn hybrids.

The population study examines Lewis 910VT3 and Lewis 914VT3 in four planting rates ranging from 34,000 to 46,000 seeds per acre. The hybrids are planted east to west across the entire distance of the field. The nitrogen study examines four nitrogen rates ranging from 208 LB to 298 LB, applied north to south across the distance of the field. Anhydrous ammonia was applied last fall in rates ranging from 110 LB to 200 LB per acre. The total nitrogen rate includes fall-applied 28% liquid nitrogen used to help decompose last year's corn stalks before tillage, fall application of DAP, spring weed 'n' feed nitrogen application, and starter fertilizer.

The results of this study will be utilized to help determine an optimal nitrogen rate for high populations and yields in dark soils. Stop by our office to view the study as it progresses throughout the summer.

## Bits and Pieces

- Logan Ag bulk petroleum prices on **5/19/08** were as follows: E10 gasohol @ \$3.963/gallon; B11 premium off-road diesel @ \$4.253; B11 highway diesel @ \$4.971. What a difference a year makes!
- A study released by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln reports that ethanol has a substantial net positive direct energy balance – 1.5 to 1.6 more units of energy are

derived from ethanol than are used to produce it.

- After the first spring cutting is an ideal time to apply P and K to alfalfa. Alfalfa removes approximately 26 LB DAP and 83 LB potash per harvested ton annually. Thus, it is critical to apply required nutrients to continue top production of high quality hay. Logan Ag recommends the addition of boron and sulfur to all alfalfa fertilization programs.
- Custom farming rates increased slightly for 2009 according to the Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey. The average no-till planting rate this year is \$15.80/acre, while no-till soybean drilling is \$14.20/acre. Large round hay baling is \$9.70/bale. Combining for corn ranges from \$29.70/acre to \$33.50/acre. Soybean harvesting is \$28.70/acre.
- New **Integrity**® herbicide from BASF is under evaluation on the Logan Ag farm in 2009. Integrity® combines the BASF grass herbicide Outlook® and new **Kixor**® herbicide for one-pass broadleaf weed and grass control in corn.
- Derek DeSpain joins the Logan Ag staff as a summer intern in May. Derek is a student at Illinois State University, majoring in agriculture. He is a graduate of Griggsville-Perry High School, and will assist in field scouting, evaluating plots, herbicide mixing and loading, etc. until his return to ISU in late August.

## Don't Delay Post Spraying Trips

Control of broadleaf weeds and grass is critical to yield success in the early stages of corn growth. Herbicide manufacturers and agronomists recommend that grass be controlled before reaching 4" height; broadleaf weeds should be

controlled before attaining 6" growth. Grass and broadleaf weeds usually attain these heights by the time corn is at the 2 to 3 leaf stage. If a grower has eliminated a pre-emerge herbicide application, it is vital that field scouting begin within one to two weeks of corn emergence.

Not only do weeds compete with the crop for moisture and sunlight, they also compete for available nitrogen. Emerging grasses take up nitrogen at approximately the same rate as corn until reaching 4" height. At that point, grass takes up nitrogen much more rapidly than corn, and can dramatically reduce the amount of nitrogen available to corn plant at the critical tasseling stage of growth when nitrogen requirements are greatest. In fact, yield trials show that a relatively low infestation of weeds above 4" height can reduce corn yields by as much as 2 bushels per acre due to reduced nitrogen availability.

Contact your Logan Ag crop specialist for assistance with postemerge weed control in GMO and non-GMO corn.

## Early Season Corn Evaluation

**C**orn is subject to many factors that impact its growth and development throughout the growing season as indicated in the accompanying table. Some of the factors such as insect problems and nutrient deficiency may be corrected upon diagnosis. Others such as compaction, deep or shallow planting, herbicide injury, etc. must be identified and steps taken to avoid/correct for subsequent growing seasons. An early scouting program is crucial in finding and alleviating yield limiting factors impacting corn growth and development.