

Western MO MFA Agri Services

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2011 WHEAT OFF TO A GREAT START... now caught up in a wet stand still

By: **Brandon Bruce—Agronomist**

Special points of interest:

- Animals do need minerals
- Is seed treatment a good idea?
- What's happening in the grain market

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I realize the wet conditions are impacting nearly all wheat acres by creating application obstacles and possible plant health issues. However, being aware and addressing these issues as they arise can still allow for a good wheat harvest. It goes to show how quickly our environment can change and how little control we have. Being in the field and/or in contact with a consultant can assist in making management decisions around these changing environmental factors.

As I am writing, most of the fields remain wet, but were top dressed with nitrogen (N) in

some manner. Whether you planned the split nitrogen application, applied a half rate with the airplane or not yet



applied any, the remaining N should be applied soon. Most of the wheat in Barton and Jasper County is in the stem elongation to jointing stage (first node) of development. According to Peter

Scharf with the University of Missouri "the optimum window to spring apply nitrogen is prior to jointing of the first node. But, applying up to the formation of the second node should not result in any yield loss."

The late winter wet conditions has pushed back our typical N top dress timing, but I feel most fields were applied or will be applied in the optimum window. Recent studies indicate a 10 bushel increase from mid March application vs. mid February. I do realize the later applications pose more

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Animal Mineral Nutrition By: Tony Kroger

Mineral nutrition is a small part of the complete nutrition of an animal. It can often be ignored and yet it is critical to the well-being and top performance of every animal after energy and protein needs have been met. The need to meet the mineral re-

quirements of animals has become more important with the better genetics we have in livestock today compared to even 10 years ago.

Each animal has different dietary requirements for minerals that are directly linked to the animals' physiological

state, size, sex, age, species, breed, genetics, diet and productivity. Animals need minerals for maintenance, production, reproduction, growth and immune function. Feeding minerals increases the rumen microbe **continued on page 2**

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Risk of injury to the wheat from N product and/or application equipment. At the latest the N should be applied prior to flag leaf emergence because the plant nutrient demand increases signifi-

cantly and the flag leaf provides 75% of the photosynthate needed for maximum grain production. The flag leaf is typically visible after the third node. Adjusting the N application timing may

lead to increased yields and profitability. Feel free to contact or consult with your local MFA Agri Services Representative.

Animal Mineral Nutrition... continued from page 1

population which gives better forage digestion and greater amounts of microbial protein being produced.

The most convenient way to insure that the animal has adequate access to Mineral is to put it out free choice. Even though MFA Gold Star Minerals are weatherized we recommend using mineral feeders with covered tops. Your local MFA store has several styles to choose from. Weatherization helps reduce caking, wind

loss, dust, separation, water absorption and gives a more uniform mineral intake.

MFA Gold Star minerals are designed to give optimum performance to all types of livestock. Bioplex trace minerals, (chelated zinc, copper and manganese) are all utilized in Gold Star Minerals. Bioplex trace minerals are easily absorbed and retained by the animals and reduce the chance of a mineral deficiency. Gold Star minerals

are all natural unless medication has been added.

To achieve top performance in your animals use MFA Gold Star Minerals. We have one to fit every need you might have from general purpose to the latest in technology for fly control and "summer slump" from endophyte-infested fescue. Stop in at your nearby MFA supplier and visit with the folks about all your farming operation needs.

MFA Gold Star Minerals are designed to give optimum performance to all types of livestock.

Soybean Treatment By: Jesse Medlin



I remember treating soybeans in an old washtub with that nasty black stuff that you mixed by hand. (I am sure EPA or OSHA would have heart failure at that remark.)

Two products I would like to talk about are Cruiser Max Plus and Acceleron. Both products are a fungicide and insecticide combination. Both products improve plant health through more rapid and increased

emergence of seedlings, protection from a wide variety of insects and diseases. Insect protection includes aphids, bean leaf beetles, wireworm, white grubs, leafhopper and thrips. Disease fighting protection include pythium, phytophthoa, fusarium and rhizoctonia. By protecting the genetic yield potential of high yielding seed, increasing plant vigor and performance you will see a defi-

nite return on your investment.

We will treat Anyone's beans regardless of brand; however, we do offer bulk delivery on any of our Asgrow, DeKalb or Morsoy beans. I have treated our beans the last two years And believe that it pays dividends well beyond the expense. Give us a call for pricing and to get scheduled for treatment on beans.

Continuing to Welcome Amos Carrick

Amos grew up in Diamond, MO always having a keen interest for things that grow. After high school, he graduated from Missouri State University in Springfield, MO with a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy. Amos was an active member and officer of the Agronomy Club.

After college, Amos went to

work at the MFA Agri-Service in Neosho, MO. He left there to become a partner in a retail and wholesale greenhouse operation. Following that, he was very anxious to get back into the agronomic workforce. He currently resides in Carthage, MO with his wife and children.

As the agronomist for La-

mar, Carytown, Lockwood, lantha, Irwin and Mt. Vernon he looks forward to meeting new customers and finding ways that he can serve them and help their operations succeed in any way that he can. He works in seed sales, crop consulting and is always willing to answer questions about agronomic practices.



Amos Carrick
Agronomist

Grain Commentary By: Jesse Medlin

To say the least, the past couple of weeks have been interesting on the grain markets. We have had big ups, big downs, sideways, about anything you could want. With all of the activity going on around the world, it has been hard to read how one incident is going to affect the markets. Some things I would look at as beneficial, the Trade sees as bearish. Other things I would view as harmful to the market the Trade views as bullish. A comment from Goldman the other day said people

needed to get out of the commodity market for a while. China is flexing its muscle a little letting everyone know that they have a 3 trillion dollar reserve. Japanese economy is in turmoil. European markets are struggling again. Now, throw in the mix that South America is harvesting a huge bean crop and they are selling at about half the price per bushel as US beans. US legislators are trying to somehow finish out the years with all kind of juggling going on with the budget. What

direction will the markets move??? Let's talk corn first. As we look at the markets today we see old crop corn needs to find a home before the end of July with an 83 cent inverse to December (December is 83 cents less than July board). End users will try to come out of harvest owning all that they can at the lowest levels especially with talk of short supply. There is some carry from December out to deferred months: 8 cent to March, continued....page 4

Time, weather and world events all affect the future for commodity markets.

Our New Grain Originator

I would like to re-introduce Felicia Costley to you all. Felicia has been with us almost 5 years. As Felicia says, "What happened?! I started as part time during harvest and was sucked into full time." We are so pleased that Felicia has taken on our new position as Grain Originator.

Felicia was born in Arkansas but has lived in Lamar most of her life. After high school she attended Missouri Southern. She mar-

ried Will Costley and they have a farm northeast of Lamar. She manages to keep busy other than with a full time job. She and Will have 5 boys and just recently a daughter-in-law. Felicia is very active in her church. She is director of Upward Cheerleading at Grace Place.

Felicia has been working very hard to learn all that she can about the grain business... reading, attending meetings with other

originators and asking thousands of questions. Her desire is to be able to give you the best information she can on what the market is doing and the best information available on future markets. Along with her wonderful personality and Christian ethics she is a joy to talk with.

Give Felicia a call and get to know our new Grain Originator.



Felicia Costley
Grain Originator



Western MO MFA Agri Services

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Iantha Bulk Plant: 417-682-2037
Irwin Bulk Plant: 417-884-2474
Carytown: 417-394-2435
Lockwood: 417-232-4516
Mt. Vernon: 417-466-3752



We're on the Web: www.lamarmfa.com

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**If you can
lock in a
profit then
lock in a
percentage of
your crop at
that profit.**

15 cents to May unfortunately, depending on the amount end users get purchased during harvest time -frame it could take a while to see basis improvement so they don't offset the carry. There is a lot of time and factors to consider before harvest with weather being the biggest factor along with planting delays and dry weather.

Beans are a little different than corn. There is an inverse of 8 cents to November. However, it comes back in January with de-

ferred months trading even for now with January. So, what this tells me is that beans need to be marketed by March 2012 before we lose export markets to South America. Once again there is a lot of time and factors that will come into play with weather being the largest one. Crush margins have been very slim for processor's this year so they will try to stock up all they can at lower prices during harvest. ADM did buy the Prairie Pride facility and hope to be crushing by June or July. We will have

"delivered" bids into there as well as to the port however, their space will be limited for harvest.

Wheat is a totally different animal. There is 40 cents carry out to March 2012. If you have milling quality wheat it is the one commodity that will pay you big dividends to hold as long as it is good quality and can be kept in good condition. With the carry in the board and basis improvement the potential is there to pick up 60 to 80 cents in the January thru March time frame.