



Milne-Dinsdale Seed, LLC

“There are no practice fields in farming”.



 **GoldenHarvest[®]**
Corn
 **Soybeans**



FARMERS, START YOUR ENGINES! April has been long-awaited following the harsh winter, and now we turn our attention to the 2014 planting season. As I sit down to write this newsletter, I realize I cannot say all that I want regarding a successful start to the season in just two pages! So the following are a few reminders. More of the WHY and TELL ME MORE are just a phone call away.

SEED STAND & ESTABLISHMENT.

The importance of proper seed placement and establishment to the overall performance of the crop cannot be understated. Typically, we can't offer a

"prescription" of what is going to work, however, this is an area that we have significant control and can offer best practices. Planting the crop right the first time is the goal.

- Corn should be planted at 1.5 – 2.0" & soybeans 1' – 1.5". NO exceptions, NO excuses.
- Even spacing is important. Skips limit yield more than doubles, generally.
- Planting variability increases with speed so the proper planting speed is the one that places seed properly on both planting depth and even spacing.
- Seed firmers assure the seed is placed at the bottom of the furrow and help avoid hanging up on the sidewalls.
- Set down pressure to desired seed depth- adjust as soil types and conditions change (maybe in same day).

EARLY SEASON WATCH-OUTS! April & May are the months that set the stage for a successful crop. With opportunities also comes risks and the ability to control them.

Weed control...start clean and outcompete.

Residual herbicides with first-pass burndown are a must to maximize yield and reduce weed populations in both corn and soybeans. These programs allow the crop to source water, light & nutrients without interruption. Smaller weeds are easier to kill, as they translocate the

active ingredients better than older, tougher weeds. Residuals also offer greater flexibility in the post application. Shoot to kill weeds before they are pop-can tall. Weeds greater than 4" may cost as much as \$3/acre/day in soybeans and 5 to 20 bushels/acre in corn.

Insects & Diseases...IF IT'S IN THE SOIL, THERE IS NO RESCUE TREATMENT.

Early-season diseases and insects generally fall into two categories; above & below ground.

Generally soil-borne pests, have no rescue treatments. Instead we rely on seed treatments to do the heavy lifting and protect young seedlings. Seedling

diseases and some of the soil borne insects & nematodes may injure or kill young seedlings, leading to reduced stands or compromised yield potential (ex. Wireworms, seedling blights). Other diseases infect young plants, which display the symptoms later in the crop's lifecycle (ex. Sudden Death Syndrome, stalk rots). In some cases, no symptomology is seen but overall yields are reduced (ex. Nematodes).

It is important to scout fields after planting to evaluate planter performance, stand & crop establishment, and to have a watchful eye on above ground pests as they become active.

What the heck is that? Have a pest or crop issue you just can't identify? Call or text us for a second opinion from the on-staff agronomist!

PUSHING FOR MORE YIELD? REMEMBER LIEBEG'S LAW and SHOOT FOR THE MOON.

"Growth (yield) is controlled not by the total of resources available, but by the most limiting factor". At the time, Liebeg (a chemist) was speaking about nutrients, but many experts today believe this theory is more widely adapted to a range of different biological

factors. Another way to consider this principal is to ask, "How can

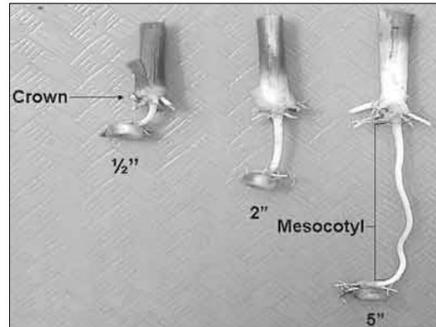
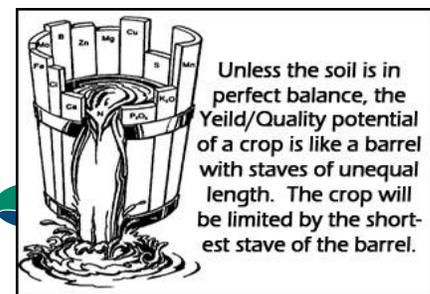


Figure 2. Crown roots develop at nearly the same depth although seeds were planted at 0.5, 2, and 5 inches deep. Corn mesocotyl elongation adjusts for varying seeding depths.



Unless the soil is in perfect balance, the Yield/Quality potential of a crop is like a barrel with staves of unequal length. The crop will be limited by the shortest stave of the barrel.



we minimize crop stress”? It is with this in mind that we can start to look at tools available to push the top-end yields we see in trade magazines and grower contests. If we consider Liebeg’s Law, a wide world of tools exist to shoot for the moon. The use and efficacy of standard fungicide-insecticide treatments are well established, however, a new frontier in biologicals is opening up. Over-treating corn with biological compounds and the addition of biologicals to the soybean treatment slurries are gaining popularity. The use of starter fertilizer is regaining attention and more importantly, the fertilizer options and placement are being revisited in an attempt to maximize return on investment (ROI). Maybe just as important is the use and placement on micro-elements such as zinc, sulfur and molybdenum.

The post-applied fungicide market has a good jump on many of the biologicals for in-field performance data, both as an early post with herbicide (V4-V8) and at R1 (corn), R3 (soya), and overall there are bushel’s to be gained with these applications. The new frontier is going to be the post-application of biologicals & fertilizer configurations to maximize on what Liebeg’s Law.

ONLINE RESOURCES TO GET MOST OUT OF CHEMICAL APPLICATIONS. MU

Integrated Pest & Crop Management offers several tools on-line for effective chemical application techniques. Examples include: “Effective Burndown of Cover Crops”, “Cleaning Field Sprayers to Avoid Crop Injury” & Herbicide Efficacy Trials. For more information, go to: ipm.missouri.edu

Thank you for choosing Milne-Dinsdale Seed, LLC, Golden Harvest® corn and NK® soybeans. It is our commitment to provide you with the best service in NW Missouri. We value your trust in our company, and we will do our best to meet your expectations. Plants at Oregon & Maryville are open and offering TruBulk® seed delivery this season to better serve you. We offer on-staff agronomic support, 100% replant (with qualified purchase), use of seed tenders (based upon availability) and high quality seed when YOU need it. At Milne-Dinsdale Seed,

LLC we know, “There are no practice fields in farming”.



We wish you much success in 2014!



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