



Management Solutions



Agronomic Solutions, LLC

Spring 2013 Issue

News Flash!

Change for LaGrange County AFOs

We have just received word that a decision was made Tuesday evening, April 23rd, that will affect all new and expanding AFOs in the county.

AFOs (new or expanding) will only need to go to the Plat Committee. If they are denied at the Plat Committee, then they may apply for reconsideration with the Plan Committee. CFOs and CAFOs must still go to both Plat and Plan Committees. They are trying to make the building process easier, one step at a time.

“Weather”

Thinking I was going to be swept off the road while driving home last Wednesday night, I was struck with the question, “Where have all the nutrients gone?” Seeing all the water and corn stalks washing across the road made the whole “weather” issue a reality to me. I thought of all the manure I had seen spread on fields and where might it be tonight.

With all the rain we have experienced in the past couple of weeks, you must consider some very important issues. A few of these are: planting date, spring burndown, and manure application.

PLANTING DATE

Last year planting was early and this year it seems late. The prime planting window to maximize corn yields in most of Indiana is about April 20 to May 10. Just looking at the date would appear that planting is not late; however, little other

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Spring To Do Checklist

Spring is a busy time of year with a lot of work to get done. Here is a quick reminder checklist to make sure everything gets done.

- Get us updated soil samples
- Clean out and inspect manure storages
- Collect manure samples for analysis
- Calibrate manure spreaders
- Spread manure/fertilizer at agronomic rates
- Update manure spreading & operating records
- Complete spring tillage
- Inspect / calibrate planter and drill
- Accurately & carefully plant your crops
- Scout fields for emergence
- Replant only if necessary
- Don't forget to sign up for NRCS EQIP contracts

This is a seasonal publication produced by Agronomic Solutions, LLC for the confined feeding operators. Issues and information addressed in the newsletter will be geared towards animal feeding operation owners and managers. Hopefully you will find its contents useful in your operations. (260) 593-2092

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Value of Manure Current Book Values ...

The charts below show the average manure value per acre.

Current Fertilizer Prices

28% Semi- prepay	560# N/ton	\$385.00/ ton	\$0.688/ # N
18-46-0	920# P ₂ O ₅ /ton	\$625.00 / ton	\$ 0.679/ # P ₂ O ₅
0-0-60 Semi	1200# K ₂ O/ton	\$550.00 / ton	\$0.458/ # K ₂ O

Swine Grower Pit			Dairy Lagoon		
N	33	\$22.70	N	2.1	\$1.44
P	33	\$22.41	P	9	\$6.11
K	27	\$12.37	K	9.3	\$4.26
	Per 1000 gal	\$57.48		Per 1000 gal	\$11.81

4000 gal/A = \$229.92/acre

12,000 gal/ A = \$141.72/acre

Beef – Manure Pack			Litter - Broilers		
N	5.3	\$3.65	N	23.4	\$16.10
P	5.0	\$3.40	P	30.9	\$20.98
K	7.6	\$3.48	K	24.3	\$11.13
	Per ton	\$10.53		Per ton	\$48.21

25 ton/A = \$263.25/acre

5.0 ton/A = \$241.05/acre

...now worth an average \$219/ acre

N - Management ...

How can you make sure you have enough Nitrogen and still be compliant with state rules? Sometimes this really feels like a balancing act. However, having a “management plan” and doing what it says will help to insure no over-application.

To stay in compliance with Indiana and Michigan rules you are **not allowed** to apply more nitrogen than what the crop can use in a single growing season.

A lot of farmers need a “wake up call” to help them understand the importance of knowing and recording just how much they are applying and when. People are watching! And people may be out to inspect your records due to the different rules. This is important in both Indiana and Michigan.

If you are counting on left over N from last year or past manure applications - I'd be surprised if it is still there with the heavy spring rains. There is a way you can still legally apply more N to your field. It starts with a PSNT test. You MUST have the PSNT test results in your records to justify the extra N application.

IDEM SITE VISITS: Steve and Julie no longer inspect solid waste sites, so they are able to visit more farms.

Be sure to have your records up to date; for example: inspections, spread records, annual manure samples, soil tests (1 every 3 years). Please call us if you have any questions or concerns about your N program.

Manure happens, make the most of it ...

When proper manure management practices are followed, livestock manure can be utilized as a valuable nutrient resource rather than be treated as a waste.

Manure is an excellent organic fertilizer containing nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K) and many other essential plant nutrients.

There is no question that adding *modest amounts* of manure to soil can be very beneficial to improve the physical quality of soil and greatly improve soil health and fertility. However, too much of a good thing over a period of time could lead to agronomic and environmental problems.

To prevent problems, intensive livestock operators must use best manure management practices (BMP). It is important to remember that BMP vary from region to region and even from farm to farm, depending on the climatic zone of the farm, the type and number of animals in confinement, the total amount of manure produced and how the manure is collected, stored and applied. It will also depend on the amount of land available to apply manure, soil types on the farm, types of crops grown and crop yield potential.

Manure Management Plans (MMP) need to be specifically tailored to match the needs of each farm. Producers must take a pro-active approach to manure management to ensure the sustainability of both their farm and the environment. Following a step-by-step approach is essential.

Steps include:

- determine amount of manure produced by the operation
- ensure the manure is safely and properly stored
- determine the manure nutrient content before application
- soil sample all fields before manure application
- decide which crops will be grown in each field
- determine manure application rates for each field, based on soil testing and manure testing
- determine when and how to best apply manure



“Weather” continued from page 1

spring fieldwork has been completed due to the frequent rainfall. For some growers, tillage operations, herbicide applications, and nitrogen fertilizer applications must be completed first before they can consider planting their crops.

Early planting favors higher yields, but does not guarantee higher yields. It is true that corn grain yield potential declines with delayed planting after May 1. The good news is that planting date is only one of many YIFs for corn. Farmers know this to be true because some have had June-planted crops that ultimately yielded better than any crop they have ever had..... because the remainder of the growing season following the delayed planting was exceptional.

For example, the crop years 2012 and 2009 represent early and late planting date years in Indiana. About 94% of the state’s crop was planted by May 15 in 2012, but only 20% of the crop was planted by May 15 of 2009. Yet, the earlier planted 2012 crop yielded 38.7% BELOW trend yield and the later planted 2009 crop yielded 9.3% ABOVE trend yield.

Bottom Line: Let’s not succumb quite yet to fear triggered by the prospects of a delayed start to corn planting in 2013. **“Mudding in” a crop early to avoid planting late will almost always end up being an unwise decision.**

SPRING BURNDOWN

This weather cycle - cold, rain, wind, with short spurts of warm sunny days - for the most part kept producers out of field and allowed the winter annual weeds to flourish the past couple of weeks. **Producers will need to make winter annual burndown applications quickly, once conditions allow them to get into fields.**

The slight delay in the planting season has given winter annuals and early emerging summer annuals a head start this year, but with proper herbicides, rates, and application methods producers will be able to get their no-till fields cleaned off and ready for a successful growing season.

MANURE APPLICATIONS

Watch the forecast when planning your spread times. Remember that right before a “big rain” is NOT the best time to apply - as your nutrients will go away with the runoff.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

Indiana, temperatures have been running normal for April with rainfall, as we all know, above normal.

The outlook for the week of April 29 calls for above normal temperatures. Temperatures will retreat to below normal as we head into early to mid May.

The rainfall outlook for the week of April 29 will be slightly below normal. Soil moisture is in good condition across most of the corn and soybean belt in 2013. The exact opposite of 2012. Data continues to suggest a decent growing year compared to 2012 once the wet conditions relax.

To think about ...

Taxes! Taxes!

taken from “Keys for Kids” daily devotionals

Ginger stopped at a store after school and used money left from her allowance to buy a pen, some sticky notes, and a puzzle book. When she went to pay she was surprised at the total price and had to put one thing back. She had not realized there would be tax added.

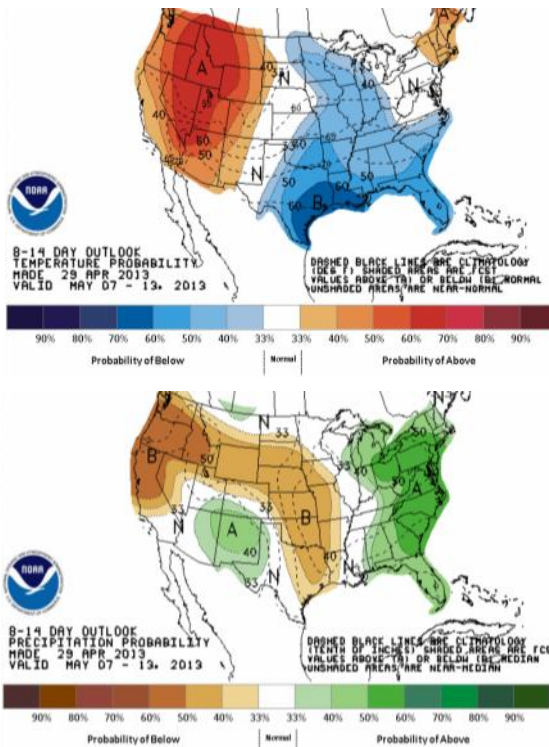
When she got home she showed her mother what she had purchased and asked, “Why do we have to pay taxes?”

Her mother told her that taxes are used to pay for a lot of different things such as road repairs, salaries for public workers such as teachers, policemen, firemen, etc. She concluded with, “In fact, they paid taxes way back in Bible times.”

Ginger thought for a moment. “I remember!” she exclaimed. “Jesus sent Peter to find money in the mouth of a fish. It was to pay taxes for both of them.” (Matthew 17:24-27) Ginger paused, then grinned. “Well, if Jesus paid taxes, I can too!”

As my family was reading this devotional I realized how this same principle applies to every area of our lives. It even applies to the government rules and regulations we all face, but especially I was thinking about all the confined feeding rules. Sometimes it all seems unfair, and perhaps sometimes it is. However, we all need to try to remember Romans 13:3-7:

³For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. **Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right** and you will be commended. ⁴For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. **But if you do wrong, be afraid**, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. ⁶This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. ⁷Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.



Place
Stamp
Here

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BETTER SOILS! BETTER YIELD!

Soil is a living system. In order to produce resources for future generations, we need to have an ample supply of active carbon for the soil.

Replacing the organic carbon lost in the soil is vitally important for the future of agriculture. Carbon influences physical, chemical and biological activity in soil. It plays a critical role in soil health, crop production and plant health and vigor, as well as human health.



SOLUTION!

Early Carbon—Biggest need is
~ EARLY ~

JUMP START YOUR SOIL FOR MAXIMUM YIELD! With Monty's Liquid Carbon™ Soil Conditioner



Prepare your soil now for planting season. Monty's Liquid Carbon Soil Conditioner is designed to reduce compaction and improve overall soil health. Monty's Liquid Carbon enhances micronutrient uptake and the breakdown of plant residue using Monty's proprietary humic technology - the natural science behind your success.

Dates to Remember ...

**Category 14 Exam Dates
at Purdue only**

May 8, June 20, July 1, Aug. 22
call us for more information
(regional testing is over for 2013)

June 5 - 7: World Pork Expo
Iowa State Fairgrounds
Des Moines, IA

**August 21: North American
Manure Expo**
London, Ontario