



# Clunette Kernel

Spring 2009 Edition

As we emerge from our winter hibernation we hear the birds chirping, we see that the flowers are blooming, and that the trees are starting to bud. There is even the faint scent of churned dirt in the air, what does that mean? Well it means that it's time for the latest edition of the Clunette Kernel that's what!

## Early Season Wheat Evaluation

As the snow finally melts away and the puddles dry, we find ourselves evaluating our wheat, checking stands, watching for early season diseases, and checking insect pressure. Remember that the best time to really evaluate your wheat stand is around mid April.

When scouting for Aphids early in the season it's important to remember to look just above the crown region of the plant. Until there is significant enough growth these insects will feed down towards the bottom of the plant. It is important to monitor for Aphid infestations because these insects can open the plants up to other infections and greatly reduce yield. We should note that if necessary, one can time the application of an insecticide with their spring plant health application.

As May and June arrive we should begin to watch for our late season wheat diseases; Powdery Mildew, Septoria, Rust, and Head Scab. Usually the onset of cool, humid weather brings these diseases out. There are a few management practices that growers can utilize to decrease their risk of infection. One would be to plant varieties of wheat that are resistant to these diseases. Practicing crop rotation is another helpful management practice as well. We all know crop health is always important but remember, for diseases

like Powdery Mildew, excess nitrogen levels will only worsen the symptoms and help the disease spread faster.

A good management practice to utilize is a plant health program. Programs such as these typically focus on scouting and prevention. Research has shown that programs such as these aid in fighting off fungal diseases by protecting the plant further into the season. Here at the Elevator we utilize a program that focuses on early scouting as well as an application of Coron, Harmony Extra, and Quilt. When applied at the right time we've seen exceptional results at preventing fungal infection as well as suppressing weed growth. If you would like to learn more about plant health programs for wheat contact John, Jared or Gabe.

## What is the right corn population?

Since 1989 Pioneer Agronomy Sciences researchers have been studying corn populations all across the United States and Canada. As stress tolerance of corn hybrids have improved research has shown that planting corn at higher populations does actually lead to higher yields. The following are the "optimum economic planting rates" for certain pioneer hybrids:

**35K04-** 35,414    **34P92-** 31,712

**35F44-** 35,301    **34F97-** 33,080

**33F88-** 34,684    **33D14-** 31,933

Keep in mind that these populations came from hundreds of different environments over the past 20 years. These planting rates came from using a seed cost of \$2.75/1000 seeds, and a corn price of \$4.25/bu. As you can see on average most hybrids from this research were between 31,000 and 35,000.

So what can we conclude from these numbers and information? Planting at higher populations isn't necessarily a bad thing, and as growers we should start considering planting at these higher rates. Talk with your local seed consultant if you have concerns about planting at higher populations, or if you have questions about other pioneer hybrids.

### **What is Optimum AcreMax 1, and what does this mean for refuge corn?**

Pending EPA approval Pioneer Hi-Breds will be introducing the next phase in corn rootworm (CRW) technology. Optimum AcreMax 1 is the latest method of delivering effective and efficient below- and above-ground insect control. What is Optimum AcreMax 1 you ask? It's the first seed to have refuge already included in the bag. Pioneer is proposing that every bag of seed contains 98% of a pioneer brand hybrid with Herculex XTRA and no less than 2% of a hybrid containing Herculex RW and or Herculex I.

So what does this mean to you as a grower? Why, added grower convenience and simplified refuge compliance of course. Optimum AcreMax 1 allows for a reduction in the amount of structured CRW refuge due to its "in-the-bag" concept. Pioneer scientists have confirmed that this system of refuge extends the effectiveness of CRW protection and eliminates the need for separate blocks or strips.

Optimum AcreMax 1 provides CRW protection at the right size, right place, and right time. With the refuge integrated throughout the field randomly, you are more efficiently reducing the risk of producing resistant beetles by decreasing the dispersal distance. In a five year study performed by Pioneer, researchers were unable to detect any resistant CRW beetles in a number of different growing environments. Optimum AcreMax 1 products will simplify farm management by eliminating the need to plant separate refuge blocks that require special up-front planning and additional in-season management.

Look for Optimum AcreMax 1 products to be available for the 2010 growing season. Some things to consider

this year when planting your refuge corn; plant your refuge in blocks. Planting the refuge in blocks will make it easier to monitor for problems as well as apply treatment if necessary. Also if you are one of our growers in our scouting program make sure your scout knows where your refuge is that way they can monitor it throughout the season. If you have any questions on Optimum AcreMax1 or questions about planting refuge corn in general please contact Gabe, Jared, or Jessica.

### **What's new with seed treatments/seed treating?**

It's about that time of the year, when the augers get dusted off from this past winter and soybean treating begins. Some of our products will be the same from years past. However, this year in addition to Apron Max, Cruiser Maxx, and Optimize, we'll be doing trials with a product called Teprosyn Mn.

Teprosyn Mn is a seed treatment that enables soybeans to uptake and utilize manganese better when it's available during early stages of crop development. It's during these critical growth stages that roots may not be fully developed or plants lack sufficient leaf growth to utilize a foliar application of manganese. Manganese is important for: photosynthesis, nitrogen metabolism, protein synthesis, and enzyme activation in many processes. Teprosyn Mn is especially suited for RoundUp Ready soybeans and soils that are naturally deficient in manganese.

Teprosyn Mn is a suspension concentrate product, making it easier to use. It contains 27.4% manganese. It is easy to use and has a quick drying formula which enables it to not only adhere well to the seed but also allows for a more even coating as well. There are no negative effects on germination and Teprosyn Mn is mixable with other seed treatments.

In addition to our new seed treatment we also have a larger capacity seed treater. We've upgraded to a treater that can treat 2000 units an hour. We are hoping to speed up our treating process so that we can get our growers back into their fields as quickly as possible and to cut down on waiting time. For further

questions on Teprosyn Mn or any of our other seed treatments, or if you have questions on our seed treater please contact Gabe.

### Can I manage my fertilizer dollars better?

With fertilizer prices still high growers find themselves asking what they can do to make their dollars go farther. Well here are a few tips to do just that:

- If possible correct the soil pH before raising phosphorus or potassium levels. This not only saves you money but you also make nutrients in the soil more available to the plant as well. This also helps with the degradation of certain herbicides.
- For fields with higher yield potentials add more phosphorus and potassium. Since not all fields have the same fertility it's wiser to put the fertilizer on those fields that will return at a higher rate.
- Utilize soil sampling data. If fertility levels are adequate enough you may not have to apply extra fertilizer at all.
- Split-apply nitrogen whenever possible. This allows you to apply nitrogen only when the plant needs it and may allow you to reduce the rate as well. You also reduce the risk of leaching and denitrification.

If you have any questions about fertilizer or prices please contact Gabe, John, or Jared.

### What's the bug buzz?

It's that time of year again, the temperatures begin to warm up and so do the insects. Despite the fact that it is only early spring moth traps are already detecting black cutworm moths. They have begun their invasion of the Midwest once again so here are a few things to keep in mind;

- Moths arriving in mid to late April are the moths that will be causing the most damage. However keep track of these early captures, for they will give you insight on later generations.
- Keep track of total heat units on the days when

captures were high, this can help plan scouting activity.

- Their subterranean behavior makes them hard to find, so monitor crop damage and act quickly to avoid serious loss.
- Also keep in mind that black cutworms look for fields that are green early in the spring. They are especially attracted to chickweed and mustards. Utilizing a fall burn down can help prevent early infestation of these moths.

It is important to remember that the sooner you catch the damage the better. Most damage will occur when the plants are just seedlings (VE-V2). If you are not sure if the damage you are seeing is from black cutworms or for more information feel free to contact Meredith.

### Office Update

If you have not sent back your tax exemption form we ask that you please get that in as soon as possible. For those of you that purchase fertilizer, chemical, seed, and/or feed for livestock you are tax exempt for agricultural purposes. Changes in federal and state tax laws require us to charge tax on certain items to those who are not tax exempt. The deadline for these forms was March 10<sup>th</sup> so if you haven't sent it in please send it in as soon as possible. If you do not have a tax exemption number your social security number works as well.

Construction will be starting soon here at the Elevator on a new office building. We are asking for customers to bear with us during this time. We will try our best to keep our main drive as clear as possible however with construction we all know that's hard sometimes. We thank you in advance for your cooperation!

That does it for this edition of the Clunette Kernel! We thank-you for reading along with us. Look for the next edition of the Clunette Kernel in August!

### Quote of the Season

"Nobody got anywhere in the world by simply being content."  
-Louis L' Amour-