

# Logan Ag News

July 2017

## Fuel For Thought

In 2016, the United States imported more than 650 million gallons biomass-based diesel fuel from Argentina and Indonesia – an increase of 464% over 2014. U.S. biodiesel producers claim the imported biodiesel has been dumped or subsidized at prices below production costs, and has harmed their ability to produce the fuel. On May 5, the U.S. International Trade Commission voted unanimously to continue an investigation by the U.S. Commerce Department into the alleged dumping and unfair subsidies of biodiesel fuels from these countries. It is estimated the subsidies range from 15% to 30%. This move has precedence in the world biodiesel market as the European Union imposed tariffs on biodiesel from both Argentina and Indonesia in 2013.



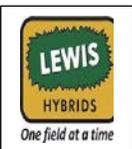
If charges of dumping and subsidies are affirmed, the U.S. will likely impose import duties to restrict this activity. It is expected increased demand for domestically produced biodiesel would follow. Total imported biodiesel volume accounts for just under 50% of current U.S. demand of 2 billion gallons. Rabobank predicts U.S. soybean oil prices could increase by 15% to 20% as increased domestic biodiesel production would result in 20-year lows of soy oil stocks.

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## LOCATIONS

- \* Griggsville, IL 217-833-2375; 1-800-LOGAN AG
- \* Pittsburg, OH 937-692-5181 (JACK BAKER)
- \* Paris, MO 660-327-1111 (DEAN OSBORN, MEGAN MORGAN)

[www.LOGANAG.com](http://www.LOGANAG.com)



## Most Troublesome Weeds

Palmer amaranth – a weed that many Midwestern growers hope they never see – has been ranked as the #1 most troublesome and difficult-to-control weed by a group of nearly 200 weed scientists across the U.S. and Canada. The survey of weed scientists conducted by the Weed Science Society of America determined common lambsquarters is the weed most commonly found in 12 categories of broadleaf crops, fruits, and vegetables.

For those who are fortunate to not yet experience Palmer amaranth in row crops, there are several key identification characteristics to look for during weed scouting.



\*Palmer amaranth sometimes, but not always, has a white chevron (V-shaped watermark) on its leaves as shown above.

\*There is no hair on stems enabling scouts to rule out other pigweed species except waterhemp which is also hairless.

\*Compared to waterhemp, Palmer amaranth leaves are wider and more closely resemble redroot pigweed. Palmer leaves are without hair.

\*Leaf petioles (stems that attach the leaf to the main stalk) are as long or longer than the leaf as shown in the picture above left.

\*Palmer heads can extend up to 3 feet. Seed heads have prickly, stiff, and sharp bracts which can be painful to those who grab the seed head without gloves.



Now for the Top 10 Most Troublesome Weed list...

1. **Palmer amaranth**
2. **Common Lambsquarters**
3. **Marestail**
4. **Morningglory (ivyleaf, pitted, tall)**

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ADM, one of the United States' largest biodiesel producers, and the National Biodiesel Board support the investigation and any potential import duties.

## Container Recycling Day At Logan Ag In Griggsville

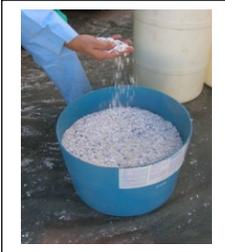
The Illinois Department of Agriculture offers recycling of empty crop protection chemical containers at Logan Agri-Service in Griggsville on July 25 from 1-3 PM. Poly containers that are clean and dry with lids and labels removed will be accepted. More than 1.6 million pounds of plastic has been collected through the recycling program in Illinois since its inception over 20 years ago. For more information, contact **Troy Kennedy** at 217-833-2375.

Triple rinsing containers prepares them for recycling. Follow the procedures below:

1. Fill empty container to ~20% level with water
2. Replace the cap and shake vigorously to remove any residue
3. Empty the container into a spray tank for future use of rinsate
4. Repeat steps 1-3 twice more until container is clean

**Be certain to remove all labels, foil seals, and caps before bringing containers to the recycling site.** Check with your local Farm Bureau for other recycling sites in Illinois.

Chemical containers are chipped for future use in products such as agricultural drain tile and pipe, highway sign posts, highway and agricultural fence posts, underground utility conduit, wire and cable spool (reel) flanges, industrial pallets, and landscape edging.



## Don't Forget DRA With Soybean Dicamba Products

Federal labels for soybean dicamba products require use of a Drift Reduction Agent (DRA) when applying these herbicides. Logan Ag warehouse locations have several versions of DRA's available including **Astonish™**, **Capsule™**, and **VaporGard™ + DRA**.

**Astonish** is a liquid formulation that contains water conditioning agents to reduce hard water antagonism without changing water pH. Among its attributes are excellent spreading of water droplets for excellent coverage, rapid penetration of the leaf cuticle for quick absorption of herbicides, and reduced dry down of spray droplets on the leaf surface. Use rate is 54 oz/100 gallons.

**Capsule**, also a liquid formulation, maximizes droplet retention, coverage, and drift control for better herbicide uptake. It contains a non-ammonia water conditioner, and was developed specifically to tank mix with dicamba products. Use rate is 2 qts/100 gallons.

**VaporGard + DRA** is a water conditioner and nonionic surfactant plus drift reduction agent. The water conditioner is designed to increase the activity of glyphosate in hard water. The nonionic surfactant helps improve the performance of loaded glyphosate herbicides. Additionally, VaporGard + DRA contains a defoamer to help control foam in the spray tank. Use rate is 5 pints/100 gallons.

If you plan to use any of the new dicamba formulations in soybeans, please review labeled tank-mix partners and application guidelines on these websites.

[www.engeniatankmix.com](http://www.engeniatankmix.com)

[www.xtendimaxapplicationrequirements.com](http://www.xtendimaxapplicationrequirements.com)

[www.fexapanapplicationrequirements.com](http://www.fexapanapplicationrequirements.com)

There are frequent additions to dicamba labels. Check before you apply.

Initial performance reports of dicamba products in soybeans are positive, and there are minimal instances of off-target drift locally as applicators adhere closely to label application requirements and recommendations. However, that is not necessarily the case in Arkansas where 40 complaints of off target dicamba movement have been filed with the Arkansas State Plant Board as of June 12. Some of these complaints cover 1000 acres or more.

The problem arises from the sheer sensitivity of susceptible crops to dicamba. Contamination of as little as 1 teaspoon dicamba in 1000 gallons water can cause soybean leaves to cup. While no yield loss is expected from most drift issues, the number of complaints in Arkansas is alarming. Tom Barber from the University of Arkansas suggests the current situation may stem from contaminated dust blowing from fields where dicamba has been applied if all other application requirements have been followed. Astonish and Capsule are trademarks of Midtech R&D. VaporGard + DRA is a trademark of Van Diest Supply Company.

## New Faces At Logan Ag

Logan Ag is pleased to introduce new personnel at its Griggsville facility.

**Michael White** joins the transportation division, and is currently in training at various fuel terminals in Illinois, Missouri, and Iowa to gain 24/7 loading accessibility. Mike resides in Pittsfield, and is engaged to Lisa Bradshaw. He has two daughters. Emma (19) is a student attending Illinois State University. Ellie (15) attends Beardstown High School. Over the past 20 years, Mike has been employed at Excel Corporation in Beardstown and DOT Foods in Mt. Sterling. Please join us in welcoming Michael White to the Logan Ag team.



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Assisting Logan Ag over the summer months are local



college students **Isaac Whitaker** (right) and **Ryan Kelley** (left). Isaac is enrolled at Western Illinois University in Macomb where he majors in agriculture. Isaac is in his third summer stint with Logan Ag, and has

been working in seed treating, warehousing, delivery, and crop scouting. Ryan will begin his secondary education this fall at John Wood Community College, and is a 2017 graduate of Griggsville-Perry High School where he excelled in academics and athletics. Ryan is “learning the ropes” of the ag business, and has a very good teacher as his dad is John Kelley – a longtime Logan Ag team member.

We’re pleased to have Isaac and Ryan with us this summer!

## Final Comments

Edward L. Logan, Logan Ag President  
Wow! What a spring! Record rainfall. Record replant acres, with some replanted a second time. As of this writing (June 16), some acres next to levee in the Illinois River bottom have not been planted the first time yet due

to water levels above flood stage. Corn leaves rolled during the first full week of June due to a “flash drought” after as much as 20 inches rain in April and sufficient subsoil moisture. Then, heavy rain and strong wind blew corn over with some stalk breakage as shown in the photo to the right. There is no “normal” spring anymore.



I’ve not noticed sulfur deficiency in corn in 2017 to the extent we’ve seen in previous years. Many growers followed our recommendations and have applied liquid or dry forms of sulfur with their fertility program. We will continue to make across-the-board recommendations for sulfur in corn fertility programs this fall and next spring.

The early season stress on corn and soybeans caused by excessive rain and humidity makes fungicide application imperative for plant health maintenance and disease prevention. Logan Ag offers aerial application service (helicopter and airplane) in Illinois and Missouri. Make a point now to discuss corn (apply at Vt) and soybean (apply at R3) fungicide programs with your local crop specialist. If you did not sidedress or add supplemental nitrogen, consider including 1-2 gallons per acre of slow release nitrogen in your corn fungicide program. Today’s corn hybrids require tremendous quantities of nitrogen later in the season, and these slow release liquid N fertilizers provide the extra “punch” to carry corn through grain fill.

5. **Waterhemp (tall, common)**
6. **Nutsedge (yellow, purple)**
7. **Kochia**
8. **Common ragweed**
9. **Giant ragweed**
10. **Nightshade (black, hairy)**

Five of the weeds making the Top 10 list (Palmer amaranth, common lambsquarters, marehail, waterhemp, and common ragweed) have confirmed multiple cases of herbicide resistance (glyphosate, PPO, ALS, etc.). Herbicide resistance is the reason weed scientists and crop protection chemical retailers advise using “layered” residual herbicides (pre-emerge and post-emerge) for effective control.

## Price Trends

Compared to year-ago levels, fertilizer and petroleum prices in the Midwest Cornbelt states of IA, IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, and WI are mixed. Most fertilizer products with the exception of potash are lower. Below is a table listing price trends as of June 12.

|                |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| <b>NH3</b>     | ↓ <b>\$100-\$110/TON</b> |
| <b>UREA</b>    | ↓ <b>\$25/TON</b>        |
| <b>32%</b>     | ↓ <b>\$45/TON</b>        |
| <b>DAP</b>     | ↓ <b>\$5-\$10/TON</b>    |
| <b>POTASH</b>  | ↑ <b>\$30-\$35/TON</b>   |
| <b>GASOHOL</b> | ↑ <b>\$.05/GALLON</b>    |
| <b>DIESEL</b>  | ↓ <b>\$.11/GALLON</b>    |

Nitrogen prices moving down strongly due to oversupply

Nitrogen prices are trending down strongly. Noted grain market analyst Al Kluis recommended producers lock in 50% of 2018 nitrogen requirements in early June. Logan Ag suppliers believe there is additional downside in nitrogen markets, and anticipate retail NH3 prices for fall application to be +/- 25¢ per unit N.

According to the June 9 issue of “Fertilizer Dealer Report”, Midwest Cornbelt retail fertilizer prices have followed wholesale price trends. Currently, anhydrous ammonia retail prices range from \$80 to \$110/ton lower than last year; urea is \$40/ton lower; 32% liquid is steady although 28% prices are lower; DAP is \$14 to \$23/ton lower; potash is \$6 lower to \$27 higher than year ago levels.

## Liberty Traits/Herbicide Attracting Interest

To gain regulatory approval for the acquisition of Monsanto, Bayer announced its LibertyLink trait and glufosinate herbicide business is for sale. Syngenta and BASF have expressed interest, and others could enter the bidding. Syngenta, already in the process of being acquired by ChemChina, would potentially add the LibertyLink trait to its current seed lineup. BASF is not currently involved in the seed business, but lost more than 4% of its chemical sales revenue in 2016 and seeks to boost sales in the future. Bloomberg reports the voluntary sale by Bayer could bring as much as \$2.5 to \$3 billion.

