

Logan Ag News

April 2017

We've Come A Long Way

Following some tough years in the early 1980's including the infamous 1983 drought, the three year average yield (1981-83) for corn and soybeans was 101 bushels/acre and 29 bushels/acre respectively. Since then, average yields of both crops have increased dramatically with corn and soybean averages both up nearly 70%. Certified Crop Adviser and Logan Ag president Edward Logan points to several reasons for the high level of yield increase over the past 30-something years.

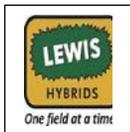
- **GENETICS:** Seed companies have done a tremendous job improving genetics of corn and soybeans. Increased early season vigor in corn hybrids has enabled growers to plant 30 days earlier compared to the early 1980's. The early planting dates allow fuller season corn to tassel and pollinate prior to the onset of heat and drought stress often incurred in mid-to-late July. Better stress tolerance facilitates higher planting populations (10,000 to 12,000 more plants per acre) and subsequent yield improvement. Earlier corn planting dates also allowed earlier soybean planting of later maturing varieties with increased yield potential.
- **SEED TECHNOLOGY:** Corn has responded to trait insertion including glyphosate, rootworm, and Bt. Weed control in corn and soybeans improved and subsequent reduced weed competition helped add yield. Control of below-ground insects such as corn rootworm increased root mass for better uptake of

continued on page 2

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



Early Season Corn Insects

Early season corn pests often cause damage that impacts stand count, stalk quality, and final yield. A discussion of **wireworm**, **cutworm**, and **European corn borer** follows.

WIREWORM: These wiry, hard bodied, reddish-brown worms are about 1" long when fully grown. Worms feed on seed and seedling plants. Gaps or wilted plants within the row may indicate the presence of wireworms. Use soil insecticides at planting for control. No rescue treatment is available.



BLACK CUTWORM: Larvae are light-gray to black, and grow to 1-1/2" in length. Damage occurs when larvae chew and cut plants above or just below the soil surface. Cutting usually occurs at night. Scout 1 to 2 times weekly after emergence. Preventive and rescue insecticides provide excellent control. Rescue insecticide should be applied when 2-3% of plants are cut, and worms less than 1" long are present.



EUROPEAN CORN BORER: European corn borer (ECB) can devastate non-Bt corn hybrids. Worm infestation can occur anytime from emergence to harvest with as many as three generations of ECB causing damage to stalks, stalk quality, and ear size. Moth flight prior to egg laying is evident by windshield splatter during evening driving. The first moths of the year are attracted to tallest corn. 1st generation ECB reduces yield by 5% per each entry into the stalk, while 2nd generation causes 3% loss per stalk entry. Acceptable rescue control is obtained with properly timed insecticide application before borers tunnel into the stalk or leaf mid-rib.



Text **LOGAN** to **91217** for insect alerts and other important information during the growing season.

continued on page 3

continued from page 1

available moisture and nutrients, again adding yield. Bt corn has controlled above-ground insects such as European corn borer, increasing yield through better stalk quality, improved ear retention, and increased ear size.

GROWER MANAGEMENT: Compared to the early 1980's, the number of soil samples submitted for testing has increased by 330% due in large part to the widespread adoption of precision agriculture. Precise placement of nutrients added yield in lower fertility areas of the field, and helped crops overcome nutrient stress issues. Planter improvements facilitated better placement and spacing of seed to provide higher yield. Conservation tillage/fewer trips across the field helped retain soil moisture and reduced yield-robbing compaction layers. Increased use of fungicides and foliar nutrition in corn and soybeans improved yield by controlling disease and mitigating stress factors.

The future is exciting as new traits such as dicamba, 2,4-D, and Balance™ GT are introduced into the soybean market for enhance weed control options. Improved genetics, growth regulators/stimulants, biologicals, seed treatments, and more will provide growers options to continue increasing yields for the next several years.

Dicamba Update

"Living" labels for Engenia™, XtendiMax™ with VaporGrip™ Technology, and FeXapan™ plus VaporGrip™ Technology are updated regularly with additional adjuvants and herbicides approved for tank mixing. Refer to the following websites for current information:

www.engeniatankmix.com

www.xtendimaxapplicationrequirements.com

www.fexapanapplicationrequirements.com

Applicators must leave unsprayed downwind buffer zones of 110' to sensitive crops when applying labeled dicamba products in soybeans.

Roadways can be utilized as part of the buffer zone; grassy field margins or ditchbanks, in general, are not considered to be part of the buffer. Pay particular attention to wind speed, nozzle type, and ground speed during application.

Always refer to product labels for specific application requirements.



Missouri legislators authorized substantial fines for illegal application of herbicides including dicamba. The Missouri Department of Ag can levy fines of as much as \$10,000 per violation if herbicides are not used according to label directions. Chronic violators are fined \$25,000 per violation. Receipts from fines are given to local school districts. In Illinois, violations such as application of non-

labeled dicamba to Roundup Ready 2 Xtend® soybeans can be treated as a Class A Misdemeanor with fines ranging from \$5000 to \$10,000. Misuse may lead to civil litigation and threatens the continued availability of these products for agricultural use. Your Logan Ag crop specialist, manufacturer sales representative, or extension specialist can assist you with questions regarding product labels. Approved nozzles are available – call your Logan Ag crop specialist for details.

Engenia is a trademark of BASF. XtendiMax, and VaporGrip are trademarks of Monsanto. FeXapan is a trademark of DuPont.

Dow/DuPont Merger Approved By European Union – Will Others Follow

The proposed merger of chemical and seed giants Dow and DuPont eked out the blessing of the European Union in late March after the companies agreed to divest substantial assets including a large part of

DuPont's global pesticide business.

EU officials requested the sale of the pesticide business to ensure the merger "does not reduce price competition for existing pesticides or innovation for safer and better products in the future."

The Dow-DuPont merger, worth a reported \$130 billion, awaits regulatory approval in the US, Brazil, China, Australia, and Canada. Both companies are confident of approval.



The divestiture of DuPont's pesticide business has little bearing on row crop producers who presently utilize DuPont crop protection chemicals. Most of the compounds to be sold are used in wheat, sunflowers, rice, and pasture. Other assets involved in the divestiture include DuPont's global research and development organization. Dow must sell two acid co-polymer manufacturing facilities including one located in the US. Neither company is required by the EU to sell any seed assets, meaning that Dow's Enlist 2,4-D tolerant trait platform is retained.

Syngenta and ChemChina await an April 12 decision by the European Union after agreeing in principle with regulators on actions required for the acquisition.

Bayer will file for EU approval of its \$66 billion purchase of Monsanto very soon, and has been in the process of providing a great deal of data to regulators. Many industry analysts anticipate this buyout will require a significant sale of seed assets by one or both companies before approval is granted. Other potential complications include ongoing lawsuits against Monsanto claiming glyphosate is a carcinogen and has caused cancer among users. Monsanto will vigorously defend its position that glyphosate is safe and does not cause cancer. Monsanto's value to Bayer would be greatly diminished if US courts rule in favor of plaintiffs.

Final Comments

Edward Logan, Logan Ag President
The room was filled with customers during Dr. Kevin Bradley's dicamba presentation in Hannibal, MO on March 7. Dr. Bradley informed attendees of his field observations following illegal dicamba application to soybeans in 2016. He cautioned that less than 1 teaspoon of dicamba in 1000 gallons water can cause visible injury to soybeans, and advised growers to take every precaution when applying labeled dicamba products. Much of Bradley's discussion involved how to prevent physical and vapor drift to susceptible crops.



Stop by our warehouses in Griggsville, Paris, or Pittsburg to pick up one of our 55th year caps! Logan Ag is proud of its tradition of providing **quality products, competitive prices, and service that exceeds customer expectations.** We continue to work today with families of some of Jim Logan's original customer base when he began operations in 1962.



Let us know how and when we may serve you in 2017!

For your reference, below are phone numbers of your Logan Ag sales team:

Griggsville Office	217-833-2375
	800-564-2624
Joe Hallock, Sales Manager	217-370-1548
Josh Schaver, COO	217-491-0074
Jordon Schaver, Petroleum Manager	217-491-2890
Troy Kennedy, Griggsville Plant Mgr.	217-491-0424
Court White, Crop Specialist	217-491-7306
Dave Bryant, Crop Specialist	217-491-0003
Mike Sargent, Petroleum Specialist	217-257-5289
Paris Office	660-327-1111
Dean Osborn, Paris Warehouse Mgr.	573-406-8579
Megan Morgan, MO Crop Specialist	217-617-3450
Jack Baker, Pittsburg Warehouse Mgr.	937-692-5181
Edward Logan	217-491-2375

Corn planting began in western Illinois around March 22. Many growers will hit the field as soon as soils dry following a brief, but much needed, rainy spell. Soybean producers will also plant early, and I strongly recommend use of treatment to avoid early season diseases in beans. Logan Ag can over-treat your soybean seed regardless of where purchased in our treatment facility. Consider treatment for Sudden Death Syndrome in early planted beans. Our goal is to assist you in achieving maximum yield and profit potential in your 2017 crops.

Joe Hallock Joins Logan Ag Sales Team

Logan Ag is pleased and excited to announce the addition of **Joe Hallock** to our sales staff! Joe's career in agriculture includes a previous stint in retail ag supply, as well as work with Lewis Hybrids and Stone Seed Co. in western Illinois where he served as DSM for both companies. Joe is well known to many of Logan Ag's local customer base from his tenure as our area DSM with Lewis Hybrids.



Hallock serves as **Sales Manager** for the Paris and Griggsville sales team, and will double as crop specialist for his many contacts in areas east of the Illinois River. His skillset from years in the seed business will greatly aid our staff in positioning corn hybrids and soybean varieties on fields in Illinois and Missouri.

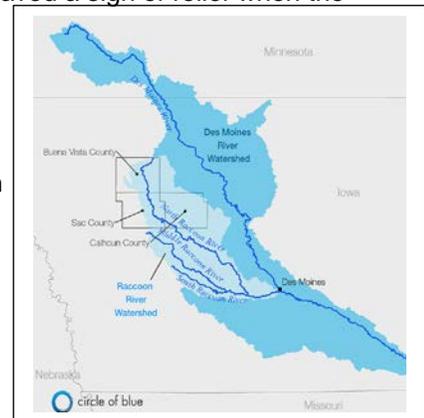
Joe has "skin in the game" as he has a farming operation where he utilizes the products he recommends and positions with our sales team and customers.

Joe resides in Greenfield, IL with his wife Tyann and children Drew (13) and Kara (10). Ty is employed in the Greenfield school system where she serves as Jr. High volleyball coach. Drew and Kara are actively involved in many school activities.

Please join us in extending a hearty welcome to Joe Hallock as he joins the Logan Ag family!

Iowa Water Suit Thrown Out

The lawsuit filed by the Des Moines Water Works against drainage districts in three northwest Iowa counties has been dismissed by a federal judge. Iowa agricultural groups and farmers heaved a sigh of relief when the ruling was announced as the suit could have had serious ramifications for Iowa drainage districts, as well as any farmer with drainage tile. The suit was closely monitored by neighboring states.



The suit requested monetary damages from drainage districts to cover the cost of removing high concentrations of nitrate in drinking water sourced from the Raccoon River. The Des Moines Water Works supplies drinking water to approximately 500,000 customers in the greater Des Moines area. Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad supports the ruling, and encourages the Des Moines Water Works and agricultural groups to work collaboratively to improve water quality in the state.

