

Logan Ag News

December 2017

Light At The End Of The Tunnel For Grain Prices

Much of today's news in agriculture is gloomy. Grain markets have gone in the wrong direction over the past several months, there is roaring controversy over NAFTA and the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and dicamba drift threatens the future of new soybean technology. Amid all is the EPA's **19.24 billion-gallon biofuels quota for 2018** with the potential for an increase. Compared to the biofuels quota for 2017, the new quota represents a **2.34% increase**. The majority of renewable fuel is produced from corn and soybeans grown on U.S. farms. Present technology produces 2.8 gallons of ethanol from each bushel of corn and 1.5 gallons biodiesel from each bushel of soybeans. **Any increase in the biofuels quota creates additional domestic demand for corn and soybeans, and provides at least the possibility of increased grain prices at the elevator.**

President Trump and the U.S. EPA were accused of caving into pressure from the biofuels lobby and a few Republican senators – notably Ernst, Fischer, and Grassley. **Logan Ag approves of the increase in biofuels quota.** Oil lobbyists oppose any increase in biofuels quota as do national and state organizations representing petroleum marketers. Logan Ag is a member of Petroleum

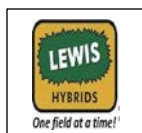


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LOCATIONS

- * 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)

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Tips For 2018 Soybeans

Soybeans in many locations produced outstanding yields in 2017, and many growers plan to maintain or increase soybean acreage in 2018. Logan Ag has several tips for high-yield soybeans.

- **Seed Selection:** Determine the trait which best fits your operation. Many growers opt for Roundup Ready® 2 Xtend® or LibertyLink® traits for better control of herbicide resistant weeds. Select varieties with good plant health qualities including nematode and Sudden Death Syndrome resistance.
- **Planting Date:** Plant early if possible to take advantage of increased flowering potential.
- **Soil Type:** Plant soybeans on better drained soils to aid early season growth and deter seedling diseases such as Pythium and Phytophthora.
- **Fertilization:** High yielding soybeans require top fertility. Soil pH, P, and K levels must be within desired ranges. Logan Ag recommends soil pH in the 6.5-6.8 range; P1 level at 40-45 LB per acre; K level at 275 LB per acre or more depending upon CEC (Cation Exchange Capacity). K test levels on dark soils should be 350 LB per acre.
- **Weed Control:** Broadleaf weeds and grasses are very competitive with soybeans. Acceptable weed control requires two or more herbicide trips. Full rates of residual herbicides must be applied pre- and post-emerge for season-long weed control.
- **Disease/Insect Control and Prevention:** ALL soybeans should receive fungicide and insecticide at R3 growth stage to improve plant health and control any leaf feeding insects.
- **Seed Treatment:** ALL soybeans should be treated with fungicide, insecticide, and inoculation at minimum. Top yields require treatment to control nematodes and SDS, as well as biological growth stimulants.



Logan Ag is proud to represent some of the top soybean brands in the industry including **Lewis Hybrids, Stine, AgriGold, Mycogen, and Credenz**. Please review our recommendations for 2018 and plan your purchases with one of our crop specialists. With a fleet of box and bulk tenders, as well as availability of seed pods for on-farm bulk storage, Logan Ag is ready to serve your

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Marketers Association of America and Illinois Petroleum Marketers Association. Both organizations opposed EPA's mandate, and Logan Ag president Edward Logan expressed his disappointment with their position in email correspondence to leadership and declined to support requests from the associations for monetary contributions to their Political Action Committees (PAC).

Logan Ag encourages all producers and trucking firms to utilize biofuels in their operation. Logan Ag has made vast improvements to its Petroleum Distribution Facility with heated and insulated biodiesel storage tanks for better blending capability in cold weather months. Storage capacity of soy biodiesel at the Griggsville facility has increased to 15,000 gallons. **All Logan Ag trucks, tractors, and application equipment use B11.** Furthermore, Logan Ag no longer stores or sells non-ethanol gasoline from its facility. All gas is blended with 10% ethanol, and we provide E15 (15% ethanol blend) at our 24/7 facility in Griggsville. **All gasoline powered vehicles in the Logan Ag fleet use E15.**

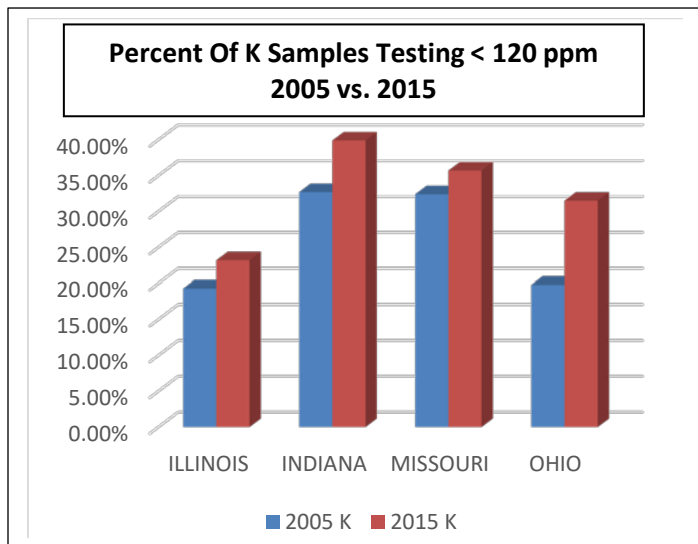
BURN WHAT YOU GROW! Support the biofuels industry and, in turn, support yourself with increased grain prices.

More On Potassium

Potassium (K) deficiency symptoms were widespread in 2017. The October issue of *Logan Ag News* discussed potassium deficiency in soybeans. In this article, another important aspect of the increasing potassium problem is revealed as it relates to corn.

An increasing percentage of soil samples fall below critical levels for potassium

The International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) conducts periodic surveys of soil testing labs to analyze soil test data. In the most recent analysis conducted in 2015, IPNI found that the percentage of potassium (K) samples testing below critical levels increased significantly in several Corn Belt states compared to 2005 samples.



Critical levels occur when only crop removal rate is required with no product required for buildup. Critical K test levels for various states are as follows: Illinois 145 ppm (290 LB/acre); Indiana 100 ppm (200 LB/acre); Missouri 110 ppm (220 LB/acre); Ohio 125 ppm (250 LB/acre).

Many farmers feel they adequately apply potash (0-0-60) for crop removal – roughly 0.45 LB/bushel for corn, 2.15 LB/bushel for soybeans, 0.5 LB/bushel for wheat, and 80 LB/ton for alfalfa/clover hay. However, some have not considered those years when yields exceeded application rates. Another factor to consider in the declining K test value is the prevalence of corn hybrids with the rootworm trait.

A study conducted by Dr. Fred Below of the University of Illinois found that

corn hybrids with the rootworm trait uptake 13% more potassium

than their conventional counterparts. Why? Dr. Below's study found that



hybrids with the rootworm trait had a **9% increase in biomass** (above-ground plant parts) and **10% yield advantage.** The increased plant biomass and yield combine to pull more available potassium from the soil.

Nearly 80% of potassium uptake in corn occurs before tassel, with the greatest period of uptake between V6 and V10. Adequate potassium levels support uptake of water, regulate water loss from leaves during periods of moisture stress, and aid stalk strength and standability.

Logan Ag recommendations for potash application rates are based on yield goals, current soil test values, and Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC). Contact your local crop specialist for details, and be certain each field is tested at least every four years.

NemaStrike Launch Delayed

Monsanto's highly advertised seed treatment for control of soil nematodes in corn and soybeans, NemaStrike™, has been pulled from the marketplace for the 2018 season due to concerns over user skin irritation.

The U.S. EPA approved NemaStrike technology earlier this year, and more than 400 growers in Monsanto's 2017 Ground Breakers program used the product safely. However, some limited incidences of skin irritation surfaced during preparations for the 2018 commercial launch.

Agronomists have known for some time that nematodes are responsible for yield losses in corn and

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soybeans. Monsanto trials over the past 3 growing seasons quantified yield increases over standard treatments at 7 bushels per acre in corn and 3 bushels per acre in soybeans.

Logan Ag plans to substitute Poncho®/VOTiVO® for nematode control in soybeans during the 2018 season. Poncho/VOTiVO is highly effective in controlling Soybean Cyst Nematodes (SCN), and is a viable and less expensive alternative to NemaStrike.

NemaStrike is a trademark of Monsanto. Poncho and VOTiVO are trademarks of Bayer.

Final Comments

Edward Logan, Logan Ag President
 Congratulations to Pittsfield High School FFA on its recognition as 2017 National FFA Premier Chapter in the Building Communities category. The chapter's activities propelling them to the national award included Corn to the Capital where members advocated corn as the Illinois state grain, planting trees for the City of Pittsfield's Arbor Day project, and Heroes Among Us signs in the City of Pittsfield. Pittsfield FFA was selected over 8568 other chapters throughout the U.S.



Dicamba herbicides for Xtend soybeans are now classified as Restricted Use Pesticides. New federal labeling requires attendance at applicator training sessions before 2018 use season. Logan Ag plans training meetings in Illinois and Missouri. Watch future issues of *Logan Ag News* for details or contact your crop specialist at Griggsville or Paris.

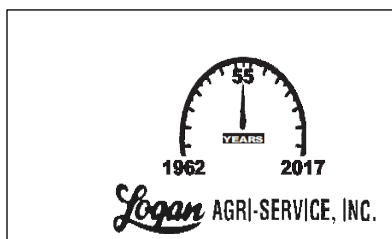
The Logan Ag team wishes you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Our offices will be open Monday-Friday except as noted below:

- Monday – Dec. 25 – CLOSED**
- Tuesday – Dec. 26 – CLOSED**
- Monday – Jan. 1 – CLOSED**
- Tuesday – Jan. 2 – CLOSED**



Prepay crop protection chemical and fertilizer prices will soon be available. Fertilizer prices are expected to increase slightly above fall levels. Closure of several chemical manufacturing facilities in China for environmental concerns forces prices of some generic herbicides and insecticides higher, with some supply issues anticipated. Branded crop protection chemical prices are expected to remain steady to slightly higher. Your Logan Ag crop specialist is prepared to help you find the most economical solutions for insect, weed, and disease control. Take advantage of our financing options to secure prepay prices at reduced interest rates through the growing season.

Logan Ag celebrated its 55th year in business in 2017. On behalf of our team, I thank you for your support and look forward to continuing our relationship in 2018!



needs. Our state-of-the-art On Demand soybean treatment system coats each seed with the precise quantity of fungicide, insecticide, inoculant, nematicide, and growth regulators.

LEWIS HYBRIDS

- **3572X** – 3.5 maturity Xtend. Good SDS tolerance and high yield potential. Plant on more productive soils for best results. Bushy plant type shows response to fungicide application.
- **3682X** – 3.6 maturity Xtend. New for 2018. Go anywhere bean (except sand) with good agronomic package and high yield potential.
- **3872X** – 3.8 maturity Xtend. Plant at moderate population on better soils. Good SDS tolerance.
- **4182X** – 4.1 maturity Xtend. New for 2018. Go anywhere bean with excellent yield potential. Excellent choice for no-till.

STINE

- **34BA20** – 3.4 maturity with glyphosate tolerance. Good emergence. Resistance to Soybean Cyst Nematode (SCN). Medium plant height.
- **36LE32** – 3.6 maturity LibertyLink. Strong emergence and good standability. SCN resistant. Very good tolerance to SDS.
- **38LE02** – 3.8 maturity LibertyLink. Stine's top seller in 2017. Medium plant height with very good emergence and standability. Very good tolerance to SDS. SCN resistant.

AGRIGOLD

- **3520RX** – 3.5 maturity Xtend. Go anywhere bean with great emergence, yield, and grain quality.
- **3690RX** – 3.6 maturity Xtend. Best used on dry stressed soils. Excellent drought tolerance.
- **3712RX** – 3.7 maturity Xtend. Outstanding yields on most productive soil. SDS tolerance. Great standability.

MYCOGEN

- **5N343R2** – 3.4 maturity with glyphosate tolerance. Go anywhere bean with good tolerance to SDS. Taller plant height.
- **5N387R2** – 3.8 maturity with glyphosate tolerance. Go anywhere bean that has good stress tolerance on any row width.
- **5N4155R2** – 4.1 maturity with glyphosate tolerance. Go anywhere bean with frog-eye leaf spot tolerance.

CREDENZ

- **CZ3601LL** – 3.6 maturity LibertyLink. Moderately bushy plant with great standability. Fits wide or narrow rows. Go anywhere bean.
- **CZ3841LL** – 3.8 maturity LibertyLink. Excellent emergence. Top seller and U of I yield winner.
- **CZ4105LL** – 4.1 maturity LibertyLink. Tall plant with excellent standability. Better on well drained productive soils.

USE LOGAN AGRI-YIELD PREMIUM FOLIAR WITH FIRST POSTEMERGE CHEMICAL APPLICATION OR WITH R3 FUNGICIDE APPLICATION FOR TOP YIELDS

Roundup Ready and Xtend are trademarks of Monsanto. LibertyLink is a trademark of Bayer.

