

# Logan Ag News

July 2019

## Prevent Plant – Now What?

Producers across the Midwest experienced excessive rain, high water in rivers and creeks, and field conditions which prevented planting. While insurance helps with some of the financial toll, many questions come into play with regard to weed control and getting these Prevent Plant fields ready to plant in 2020.



Wet fields forced Prevent Plant

Below are some ideas to consider.

- **WEED CONTROL:** Controlling weeds is imperative. Grass and broadleaf weeds must be kept in check to prevent an explosion in the field seedbank. Of particular importance is waterhemp. Mowing is not the answer! Waterhemp and many grasses will produce seed when only 3-4" in height. If planning to control weeds only with herbicides, plan multiple applications of burndown herbicides to maintain a weed-free field throughout the summer and early fall. Residual herbicides may be applied, but without crop canopy the expected length of control will be much less than normal.
- **FALLOW SYNDROME:** Leaving a field "bare" may lead to problems from *fallow syndrome* in 2020. Barren fields can cause phosphorus deficiency in planted crops the following year due to lack of microbial activity in the soil. This situation



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## LOCATIONS

- \* Griggsville, IL 217-833-2375; 1-800-LOGAN AG
- \* Pittsburg, OH 937-692-5181 (JACK BAKER)
- \* Paris, MO DEAN OSBORN 573-406-8579; MEGAN MORGAN 217-617-3450

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## Illinois Department Of Ag Extends Dicamba Application Deadline

A decision by the Illinois Department of Agriculture which Director John Sullivan called "difficult but correct" extends the cut-off date for dicamba application in Illinois to July 15. Under previous IL rules, no dicamba application could occur after June 30. Neighboring states have not made any changes to dicamba application cut-off dates.

**Illinois extends dicamba application cut-off to July 15 but no more than 45 days after planting, whichever comes first**



The extension is viewed positively by many Illinois applicators in light of delayed planting across much of the state. However, anyone applying dicamba must recognize potential drift issues and use utmost caution during the application process. Logan Ag will utilize its Redball Hood during dicamba application to evaluate its effectiveness in preventing off-target movement of herbicide and vapor drift.

## Illinois Motor Fuel Tax Increases July 1

**BOHICA** (Bend Over Here It Comes Again)! Effective July 1, motor fuel tax in the state of Illinois takes a dramatic increase as the legislature attempts to balance the budget and make improvements to highways and bridges in the state.

**FILL HIGHWAY FUEL STORAGE TANKS BEFORE JUNE 30 TO BEAT NEW TAX RATES**

The motor fuel tax rate for **gasoline and ethanol blends** doubles from the current 19¢ per gallon to **38¢ per gallon**. Tax rate for **diesel and biodiesel blends** increases from the current 21.5¢ per gallon to **45.5¢ per gallon** (yes – it more than doubles on diesel!). The tax rate for diesel applies only to "clear" diesel used for highway purposes and fortunately does not impact dyed diesel for off-road use (tractors and combines).



Other tax increases signed into law include \$1 per pack on cigarettes and additional tax on gaming including video poker and slots at bars, convenience stores and truck stops throughout the state. We can only hope the new tax money is used for its intended purpose.

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was noticed in cornfields following the Great Flood of 1993 when lack of mycorrhiza fungi prevented uptake of available phosphorus in the soil by plant roots.

Starter P fertilizer placed in-furrow or near the roots helps the problem; broadcast P fertilizer has no effect.

- o **COVER CROPS:** Multiple herbicide applications to keep fields weed-free and potential issues with fallow syndrome make planting cover crops on Prevent Plant acres the obvious choice for many producers. Cover crops protect soils from wind and water erosion over the summer and winter months and improve soil quality and biological activity.

Logan Ag recommends a warm-season grass crop such as Pearl Millet for early summer planting.

Brassicas such as radishes or turnips are better suited for mid-to-late summer planting. Feed oats, if available, also provide relatively inexpensive cover and will improve soil tilth and biological activity.



Pearl Millet



Pearl Millet root system

Contact your Logan Ag crop specialist for additional information about available cover crop seed for Prevent Plant acres.

## Considerations For Late Planted Soybeans

Soggy field conditions have prevented some growers in both upland fields and river bottoms from planting crops through late June. If you opt to plant soybeans in these fields to salvage a crop, the following considerations are suggested.

- a) **YIELD.** First and foremost, yield will likely be reduced considerably compared to earlier planting dates. Review the chart compiled from research at the University of Missouri.
- b) **MATURITY.** Geography dictates bean maturity for late-planting. In northern IL, northern IN, OH and MI, it is recommended to shorten the maturity group as much as 1.0 when planting in late June or early July. In central and southern regions of IL, central and southern IN and MO, plant your planned maturity group until early July.
- c) **ROW SPACING.** Use a split-row planter or drill for late planting. Narrow rows help increase light interception by the plant and improve yield, as well as weed control.

PLANTING DATE	YIELD AS % OF EXPECTED
May 8	99%
June 26	72%
July 3	65%
July 10	54%

Early frost is always a concern with late planted crops. Use of **Plant Growth Regulators** (PGR's) at early growth stages helps increase above and below ground growth

and crop development. Visit with your Logan Ag crop specialist for more information on PGR's and how they can increase plant growth and yield.

## From The Field

Crop scouts report wide growth stage variation in corn and soybeans, as well as various levels of weed issues, nutrient deficiencies and more. Below are a few "watch-outs" as you walk your fields.

As of late June, corn height ranged from chest-to-head high all the way to 3-4 leaf on late planting. Few insect issues have been reported thus far. At this time, the major insect concern is **European Corn Borer** (ECB) on **non-Bt corn hybrids**.

1<sup>st</sup> generation ECB lays egg masses on leaves. The developing larvae chew through leaves (see photo upper right) leaving "shotholes".



The larvae grow and tunnel into the stalk near the base of the plant, disrupting flow of nutrients and water throughout the season.



Damage from 1<sup>st</sup> generation ECB can be 5% of yield potential for each entry into the stalk, as well as possible stalk rot and standability issues late season. Insecticides provide acceptable control but must be applied before tunneling into the stalk occurs.

Planned 2-pass herbicides programs morphed into 1-pass post programs on many acres. Scouts indicate acceptable control in most situations but **weed control should be monitored until corn reaches the V8-V9 growth stage**. Watch for late outbreaks of **foxtail** and/or **fall panicum** and **waterhemp**. Control measures are available, but many herbicides require the use of drop nozzles for crop safety and optimal coverage. Report any weed control issues to your crop specialist for evaluation of possible respray.

**Nutrient deficiency** symptoms abound in many fields.

Scouts report nitrogen deficiency in wet areas and zinc/sulfur striping (sulfur deficiency shown in photo below) in leaves where no broadcast or in-furrow application of micronutrients occurred. Fields where granular sulfur, liquid ammonium thiosulfate, or MicroSync Plus™ have been applied have good color and no leaf striping.



Wet areas may not justify additional nitrogen application. However, Logan Ag has the AirFlow unit available for post-applied urea in fields requiring supplemental N. An application of **Agri-Yield Premium Foliar** with herbicides or fungicides alleviates many nutrient stresses on the plant including sulfur and zinc deficiency and provides nearly instant response along with very positive ROI.

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The next decision in corn will be application of **fungicides**. An improved cash market for corn helps make this decision easier for many. Spring weather conditions created an ideal environment for the development of leaf diseases. Evaluate yield potential (consider the number of drowned out areas for example) and plan application at tassel to fields with good yield potential (or at V5 with herbicides in later-planted fields). ROI on fungicides will be very positive in 2019 and yield response may be 20 bushels per acre or more in many fields. PGR's can be applied with fungicides.

## Final Comments

### Edward Logan, Logan Ag President

What a year! I've been asked many times if I've ever experienced a spring like this one. Until the first part of June, my answer was "yes". I remember the spring of 1981 vividly. On the evening of June 2, 1981, my wife gave birth to our daughter Dani. I spent several hours at the hospital with Ronda following Dani's birth and then came home and went straight to work without sleep. Corn planting was just beginning in western Illinois on June 2-3. However, the spring of 2019 has now surpassed 1981 with its continued wetness across the entire Midwest, frequent rains, and planting that may extend into July in some areas. Grain markets have reacted favorably – I don't think the total unplanted acres of corn has yet been factored in – and we now must make attempts to maximize yield on our acres to take advantage of the improved market. Our staff has many proven ideas and is ready to discuss these with you.

I am pleased to announce that **Illinois Department of Agriculture Director John Sullivan** will be in attendance and make a short presentation at our Plot Tour in Griggsville this fall. Watch future newsletters for specific time and date.

We are beginning to receive fill programs for fall P&K products. I'm happy to report prices – for now – are considerably less than current levels and lower than I expected. Logan Ag will review and pursue tons aggressively to lock in the best possible pricing position for our customers who plan fall application of fertilizer.

Don't forget fertilizer application on alfalfa-hay acres. Hay bales remove a significant quantity of fertilizer along with sulfur and boron. Our standard recommendation for annual fertility is 100 LB DAP + 350 LB potash + 20 LB 90% Sulfur + 15 LB 14% Boron. Following cutting of hay is also an ideal time to get limestone applied if needed. Plan your fertility and lime application now.

I enjoy columns in the Quincy (IL) Herald-Whig written by Steve Eighinger. Mr. Eighinger seems to share my sense of humor and recently wrote of a creative man in Denver, CO who has an amazing ability to "turn a phrase". One of my favorite phrases listed says, **"I call my horse Mayo and sometimes Mayo neighs."** Think about that one – it creeps up on you like those Fruit of the Loom shorts!

## Watch Adjuvant Rates With Post-Applied Soybean Herbicides

Adjuvants are used (and are often required) with many herbicides to improve performance. However, as temperatures warm there are some precautions with adjuvant use regarding timing and rate.

The photos to the right are from recent herbicide applications to soybeans in the V1-V3 growth stage. Both treatments were made on the same day when heat and humidity levels were high. The upper right photo is an application of Liberty and a reported "strong" 3 LB AMS.



Note the rather intense level of speckling on the larger leaves. The lower right photo is the result of an application of dicamba plus clethodim and a labeled surfactant to improve control of grass and volunteer corn.



Again, note the intense speckling and browning of leaves. In both instances, however, new trifoliolate leaf growth is evident and no long-term plant injury or yield response is expected. The lower leaves on soybean plants eventually fall off.

Certified Crop Adviser Edward Logan reminds Logan Ag crop specialists and growers who self-apply herbicides of a "rule of thumb" learned years ago before glyphosate and glufosinate tolerant bean varieties. Logan states, **"When the sum of the ambient temperature and relative humidity equals 150 or more, cut the adjuvant rate by 50% to reduce soybean leaf burn."** This recommendation does not apply to required drift retardants with dicamba herbicides but does pertain to the addition of any oil used to enhance the performance of clethodim on grass and/or volunteer corn. With Liberty tolerant beans, Logan advises, **"Look at the sky. If the sun is shining brightly, use 2 LB AMS with glufosinate herbicides. If cloudy or overcast conditions prevail, increase the AMS rate to 3 LB per acre."**

Does "burning" soybean leaves have any impact on plant growth and development? Kip Cullers, the Purdy, MO farmer who grew 139 bushel soybeans in 2006, informed all who would listen he regularly "burned" his soybean plants with post-emerge PPO herbicides to help the plant develop more branches. While it is known the majority of the pods are concentrated on the main stem of the soybean plant, creating additional branches provides room for more pods. Burning beans is not what most growers want to see but is not necessarily detrimental.

