

Logan Ag News

May 2019

Glyphosate Debate Continues

In the aftermath of two California jury verdicts awarding plaintiffs multi-million-dollar settlements in their cases claiming Roundup® herbicide caused cancer, the debate regarding the product's safety and future use has intensified. Bayer – the manufacturer of Roundup – plans to appeal both verdicts and rigorously defend the product.

Roundup was first introduced in the mid-1970's and ushered in the age of genetically modified crops and decreased pesticide use. Bayer's Research and Development division claims *"Glyphosate is one of the most studied molecules that has even been introduced into the agricultural marketplace. Time and time again it's been shown to have a tremendous safety record."*

The European Union fought use of glyphosate in crop production for years until a resolution was passed in 2017 granting approval for 5 years. Brazil and Argentina also questioned the use of Roundup and even succeeded in getting sales suspended for a brief period. Upon appeal, Brazil lifted the ban saying *"nothing justified"* the sales suspension. More recently, Vietnam overrode farmers' wishes and banned the importation of glyphosate, effectively eliminating use of the product in the agricultural sector of that country.



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LOCATIONS

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- * Pittsburg, OH 937-692-5181 (JACK BAKER)
- * Paris, MO DEAN OSBORN 573-406-8579; MEGAN MORGAN 217-617-3450

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Redball Hoods Reduce Drift

Dave Weaver – Willmar Fabrication, LLC

Being a good applicator involves arriving at the field on time, applying the right chemical mixtures and killing targeted pests. But what makes an applicator great?

A great applicator is environmentally responsible and takes steps to reduce drift while protecting sensitive crops, endangered species and residential areas.

Redball® Spray Hoods help applicators be more environmentally responsible. Redball Hoods are one of the newest tools in the Midwest to help manage spray drift and are quickly growing in popularity.



"The concept is simple. If you spray inside an enclosed chamber there is less chance for wind to disrupt the spray pattern," explains Steve Claussen, president of Willmar Fabrication LLC – the manufacturer of Redball-Hooded™ Sprayers. *"Since the wind doesn't have access to the spray, more of the spray hits the targeted pest so growers get more value out of the spray he is paying for because he has less particle drift."*

Logan Agri-Service, Inc., in conjunction with Redball Spray Hoods, installed this drift reduction tool on a Rogator sprayer earlier this spring. Logan Ag is one of the first custom applicators in Illinois to realize the potential a hooded sprayer offers to reduce spray drift and minimize off-target movement of herbicides. Company president Edward Logan states, *"Windy conditions in the spring often shut down spray operations especially next to sensitive crops. We believe the Redball Hood will minimize off-target movement. If this system performs as expected, we will certainly consider installing the hoods on other sprayers in the future."*

The Redball Broadcast Hoods have been proven in University of Nebraska and Mississippi State University field testing to reduce particle drift regardless of the spray nozzle when compared to the same on an open boom. In addition, EPA acknowledged the potential for

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The verdicts mentioned above and the more than 11,000 lawsuits on the dockets in the United States alone, as well as the ban in Vietnam are the direct result of a report published in 2015 by the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer which labeled glyphosate as a probable cause of cancer. This conclusion has been disputed and contradicted by regulatory agencies worldwide.

Bayer is fighting back. Hit with the lawsuits after its \$63 billion purchase of Monsanto in 2018, Bayer now is working to educate consumers about the safety of glyphosate and its importance in worldwide crop production. Growers know the effectiveness of glyphosate in weed control despite some of the now resistant weed species and need to inform others about its low use rate, safety, and how it has helped change the face of agriculture.

Roundup is a trademark of Bayer.

Logan Ag On-Farm Research

Corn is king in 2019 on the Logan Ag farm. Following a highly successful switch to some soybeans in 2018, all acres are in corn this year. Several trials are in place and will be monitored throughout the growing season.

Variable Rate Planting: Vari-blocks measuring 80' x 80' are planted in populations ranging from 30,000 to 42,000 in 20" rows. The vari-block planting rate was determined using prior yield maps and soil type variations.



VT Double Pro® vs. SmartStax®:

Logan Ag is comparing a hybrid available in both VT Double Pro and SmartStax on rotated acres to determine if any yield increase can be attributed to stacked traits in similar field conditions.

MicoApply® EndoPrime™: In starter fertilizer application, a trial is in place to determine if Valent's biological for corn provides expected benefit to plant growth and yield.

Seed treatment/plant health: In conjunction with Lewis Hybrids, a trial is in place in the field east of Logan Ag's main facility to determine benefits of a seed-applied biological vs. standard seed corn treatment.

Nitrogen rate: Using the AirFlow unit mounted on a Rogator, a study will be conducted to determine the effect of variable rate urea in sidedress applications to corn in the V6-V8 growth stage.

Throughout the growing season, crop progress will be monitored by high-resolution images from drones. Thanks to Court White, Isaac Whitaker and Roger Hack for their work in planning and implementation of these extensive research projects which we believe will provide valuable information for our customers.

VT Double Pro and Smart Stax are trademarks of Monsanto Technology LLC. MicoApply EndoPrime is a trademark of Mycorrhizal Applications, LLC.

Agri-Yield Premium Foliar

Grain prices are down. Crop input prices have increased somewhat over 2018. You've considered **Logan Agri-Yield™ Premium Foliar** for use in corn and soybeans in 2019 but question its benefit to your bottom line as it's difficult to justify additional expenses this year. What to do?

This question is often posed to the crop specialists at Logan Ag and certainly has merit. Everyone who has used Premium Foliar over the past two growing seasons has been impressed with the nearly immediate crop response seen in the field in both corn and soybeans. However, few users have yield-checked the product.



In 2019, you can apply **Premium Foliar** with confidence of its benefit in crop production. It's sister product – **VersaMax™ AC** – has been named one of Beck's Hybrids **PFR Proven™ products** as a result of testing in Beck's Practical Farm Research Studies. To achieve the PFR Proven designation, products must **"provide positive yield increase during three or more years of testing and average a positive return on investment during that time."**

In Logan Ag trials, **Premium Foliar** has demonstrated positive yield increase (~6 bushels per acre in corn and ~3 bushels per acre in soybeans). These yield increases result in return on investment of more than 4:1 in corn and more than 5:1 in soybeans!

Include **Logan Agri-Yield Premium Foliar** in your post-emerge herbicide and/or fungicide applications in corn and soybeans and see the results for yourself!

Agri-Yield is a trademark of Logan Agri-Service, Inc. VersaMax is a trademark of Rosen's Inc. PFR Proven is a trademark of Beck's.

Year-Round E15 Sales Hopeful

Proponents of ethanol in the U.S. are hopeful the EPA rules in favor of President Trump's March 12 directive to approve E15 ethanol blends year-round. A recently released USDA study is supportive of ethanol blended fuel in its conclusion that greenhouse gas emissions from ethanol are 39% lower than gasoline.

Logan Ag has offered 88-octane E15 at its 24/7 Fuel sites in Griggsville and Milton for several years. Due to the increased ethanol content, E15 is generally priced below 10% ethanol blends. E15 is approved for use in all auto and truck engines built in 2001 or later, comprising nearly 90% of the vehicles on the road today. Despite its obvious benefits of lower cost

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and increased octane, sales of E15 comprise less than 20% of total gas sales at Logan Ag. Logan Ag is committed to the promotion of E15 at its retail facilities and looks forward to the day when E15 will become the fuel of choice for U.S. consumers.

A final thought on the idea of E15 – **if everyone used E15 instead of E10, requirements for corn used to produce ethanol would increase by 50% to nearly 7.5 billion bushels! What effect would that have on corn prices? Get on the bandwagon and use and promote E15!**

Final Comments

Edward Logan, Logan Ag President

Congratulations to Josh Schaver, Logan Ag COO, upon his successful completion of the Go! St. Louis half marathon on April 7! Josh trained for weeks to get in condition for the grueling run through downtown St. Louis which culminated near the Gateway Arch.

For our customers and prospects residing in west-central Illinois and northeast Missouri, tune in to KHQA Channel 7 on **Wednesday May 8** for **Farmers First** sponsored by Logan Ag. The segment airs regularly at 6:15 AM on the second Wednesday of each month and timely topics of interest to those in agriculture are discussed. If you reside outside the Channel 7 viewing area, visit Logan Ag's Facebook page and click on "Posts" to watch YouTube videos of previous Farmers First broadcasts.

We've added another product to the Logan Ag lineup! Logan Premium DEF joins **Premium Foliar, Pasture Pro Mix and PowerMax Diesel** sold under the Logan brand. You can depend on the Logan Ag family of products for top results on your farm and in your equipment.



Watch alfalfa fields for weevil infestation. The tiny green larvae feed on leaves and rob alfalfa of its yield and feed value. Many inexpensive insecticides are labeled for control of alfalfa weevil and should be applied before crop injury damages the crop.

We welcome new members to the Logan Ag team! At Paris, **Britany Williams** is assisting in various duties around the warehouse. She attends Moberly Area Community College majoring in Business and resides in Paris. At Griggsville, **Chad Ruble** is the newest member of the transportation team and is assisting in petroleum, fertilizer and chemical delivery. Chad resides in Pittsfield with his wife Stephanie and his family. **Ethan Wheelan** is on a summer internship program through John Wood Community College where he majors in agriculture. He is learning many facets of the ag retail business that will aid him in future endeavors. Ethan resides in Pleasant Hill. Please join us in welcoming these new faces to Logan Ag!

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hooded booms to reduce drift on the XtendiMax® with VaporGrip® label, saying, **"using a hooded sprayer in combination with approved nozzles may further reduce drift potential"**. The EPA also acknowledged that same potential on the Engenia® herbicide label, stating, **"hooded spray booms are another tool that can be used to minimize spray drift potential."**

"Preventing the potential for spray drift is top of mind for all applicators," said Claussen. *"Redball Hoods are the right tool at the right time in the agriculture industry to help address this vital issue."*

Stop by Logan Agri-Service in Griggsville and ask to see the Redball Spray Hood in operation. The company plans to utilize the 66' hood to spray borders with reduced boom width before extending the booms for full spray pattern throughout the rest of the field.

Engenia is a registered trademark of BASF. VaporGrip and Xtendimax are registered trademarks of Bayer Group. Redball and Redball-Hooded are trademarks of Willmar Fabrication, LLC.

Early Season Growth Stages

Delayed planting across the Midwest due to rain, snow and flooding pushes crop development back a few weeks. Emergence should occur rapidly after planting with warm soil temperatures and early season evaluation of stand should occur quickly following emergence. Crop growth stages become very important as some herbicides restrict application after certain growth stages.

Your Logan Ag crop specialist can provide valuable information regarding labels and application rates of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides in soybeans and corn.



