

# Logan Ag News

October 2015

## Roundup Ready 2 Xtend Soybeans Available For Pre-Order

Logan Ag is pleased to announce several varieties of new Roundup Ready® 2 Xtend™ soybeans are available for pre-order this fall. Maturity ranges fit well in the Logan Ag footprint, with mid and late Group III and early Group IV varieties offered. Pre-order is essentially a reservation for soybeans in anticipation of commercial launch pending regulatory approval.

**What is Roundup Ready 2 Xtend?** This crop system is a new means to maximize yield potential and weed control. Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybeans are tolerant to glyphosate, as well as pre-emerge and post-emerge applications of dicamba herbicide. Utilizing newest soybean genetics, as well as glyphosate and dicamba herbicides, yields and weed control should be enhanced. Dicamba herbicide (products such as Clarity®) will greatly aid the control of certain glyphosate-resistant weeds such as waterhemp, Palmer amaranth, and marestail.

One of the fears of dicamba application is vapor drift that injures susceptible soybean varieties. While this issue has not yet been rectified, Monsanto is developing low-volatility formulations of dicamba including a pre-mix with glyphosate.

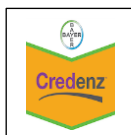
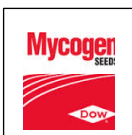
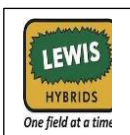
Information from seed suppliers indicates availability is

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## LOCATIONS

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

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



## Get Early Start On 2016 Weed Control With Fall Burndown Program

Following harvest, winter annual weeds such as marestail, henbit and chickweed often “take over” no-till fields. Marestail, in particular, is very difficult to control with many early spring-applied and post-applied herbicides, and causes issues throughout the growing season. Nearly 50% of growers indicate marestail is a top threat in fields to be planted to soybeans. Fall burndown programs target winter annual weeds, and provide several other benefits to growers.

- ❖ Affords opportunity for earlier planting without waiting for weeds to die, thereby maximizing yield potential.
- ❖ In the absence of weed cover, soil warms up more quickly, again enabling earlier planting when conditions are appropriate.
- ❖ Maintains nutrients in soil. Weed growth depletes soil of nutrients, and can decrease yield.
- ❖ No planting restrictions due to use of 2,4-D or dicamba products.

Keep in mind that fall-applied herbicides are not intended to provide control of waterhemp, Palmer amaranth, or other summer annual weeds. The purpose of a fall-applied program is to keep winter annuals controlled through spring planting season. Fall burndown programs typically utilize 2,4-D or dicamba products, along with glyphosate, metribuzin, and/or other herbicides. Sprayers are ready to roll! See your crop specialist now to schedule application.

## Stalk Management Begins Now

Expanded use of Bt traits and fungicides in corn leaves many growers with green stalks in the field after harvest. Bt traits eliminate European corn borer populations, and the resulting lack of damage affords little opportunity for disease to enter stalks. Fungicide applications promote overall plant health, and also maintain stalk integrity well past harvest. While both practices provide higher yields, the healthy stalks remaining do not degrade readily and can pose problems in continuous corn fields.

Logan Ag is pleased to offer a new stalk management tool for growers. Robust™ stimulates microbes that are present in the soil involved with stalk degradation.

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limited to approximately 10% of total soybean supply. Roundup Ready and Xtend are trademarks of Monsanto. Clarity is a trademark of BASF.

## Tar Spot Found In Corn

A corn leaf disease not previously reported in the United States, tar spot, was found in areas of northern Illinois and Indiana in 2015. Tar spot is typically confined to Mexico and Central and South America.

Damage from tar spot in 2015 is not expected to be severe or economically significant. However, specialists want to determine how it arrived in the Corn Belt, as well as any future implications of the disease in corn production. Some believe tar spot may have come north on the winds of Tropical Storm Bill earlier this summer.



Magnified photo of tar spot on corn leaf

Symptoms of tar spot initiate as irregularly shaped bleached lesions with protruding black spore-producing structures. These structures give the affected area a “bumpy” feeling. Tar spot may also be located on leaf sheaths and husks. Those who have seen the disease describe it as “someone dripped tar on the leaves”.

Older research from 1994 in Mexico indicates certain fungicides may provide some control, but none of the primary group of fungicides utilized in commercial corn production lists this disease on the label.

## Expect Heavy Weed Pressure In Prevented Plant Acres

Wet weather forced farmers in Missouri and Illinois to leave acres unplanted in 2015. Estimates in Missouri are as high as 1.7 million unplanted acres, while Illinois reports nearly ½ million unplanted acres. Some farmers applied herbicide to control weeds and curb weed seed production. Most, however, left these fields fallow with no weed management provided. Waterhemp, marestalk, ragweed, foxtail, and fall panicum have now matured, and will produce viable seeds for 2016. Kevin Bradley of the Division of Plant Sciences at the University of Missouri estimates mature waterhemp plants may produce 300,000 to 500,000 seeds per plant, and says all this weed seed waiting to germinate **“may wreak havoc unlike anything we’ve ever experienced before”**.

Bradley recommends a systems approach to weed control for the 2016 season including cultural control methods (narrow rows, optimum planting populations, cover crops, tillage) and effective herbicide programs.

Bradley’s protocol calls for a five-step approach, beginning with a possible fall application if marestalk is one of the anticipated problems. He then recommends

starting “weed-free” next spring utilizing either effective tillage or burndown herbicide application prior to planting. He warns, **“We cannot afford to plant into weeds that have not been adequately controlled or that are already emerged at the time of planting.”** The third step requires the application of full use rate of a pre-emergence residual herbicide (in other words, don’t skimp rates for control of waterhemp). There are a number of recommended herbicides available, and your crop specialist can assist you in selecting the products best suited for your acres. Scouting and early post-emerge application of herbicides for escapes comprises the fourth step of the program, and Bradley advises using high water volume for best coverage. Finally, he recommends the use of “layered” or “overlapping residual” herbicide programs to control late season weed flushes. Again, many herbicides are labeled, and your crop specialist is available to assist you.

## Fall Fertilizer Rates

DAP and potash prices are reduced from year-ago levels, and fall provides a great opportunity to apply fertilizer for the 2016 cropping season. A quick review of maintenance fertilizer rates helps growers plan fertility programs.

YIELD BU/A	DAP LB/A	POTASH LB/A
90	85	42
100	93	47
110	102	52
120	113	57
130	122	60
140	130	65
150	139	70
160	150	75
170	159	80
180	167	83
190	178	88
200	187	93
210	196	98
220	206	102
230	215	107
240	224	112
250	234	116

YIELD BU/A	DAP LB/A	POTASH LB/A
30	57	65
40	74	87
50	91	108
60	111	130
70	130	152

The table on the left highlights removal rates of DAP and potash for various corn yields. Note high rates of DAP required for maintenance application (+0.9 LB DAP per bushel).

The soybean table (above right) shows the tremendous requirement for potash under various yield scenarios. All legume crops including alfalfa hay require heavy application of potash just to cover crop removal rates.

Growers who rotate acres and fertilizer once for both crops should combine the removal rates for corn and soybeans to adequately fertilize for the next two years.

## Des Moines Water Works Lawsuit Dangerous For Ag

In a lawsuit that could be a game-changer for agriculture, the Des Moines Water Works has sued three Iowa counties for high levels of nitrates entering the Raccoon River. At the heart of the suit is the

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agricultural runoff exemption under the Clean Water Act, and whether it is applicable to field tile drains. Since the Des Moines Water Works cannot sue individual farmers, it is holding counties liable for the issue. If the suit is successful, there will be nationwide implications with counties potentially obtaining permits from the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Funds required to improve water quality would eventually be assessed to landowners.

Predictions of the case outcome range from an out of court settlement to lengthy litigation, possibly ending in the Supreme Court. Agricultural interests worry that environmentalists, and ultimately the EPA will gain control over nutrient application through clean water permits. It is critical that agriculture step up to prevent nutrient runoff on its own.

## Final Comments

### Edward L. Logan, Logan Ag President

The Logan Ag mobile update program sent its first text messages in late September. To receive this periodic information pertinent to your operation, sign up today. [Text Logan to 91217](tel:91217). You will receive a short confirmation from the messaging service. Mobile updates will be sent four times monthly. It's a service you expect from Logan Ag.

During a late September road trip, I saw a farmer in southern Illinois making an application of anhydrous ammonia to bean stubble. While this may have been a pre-plant application for wheat, I was flabbergasted to think that a retailer would have allowed this to occur. Soil temperature is still well into the 70's, and nitrogen application should not begin until soil temperature falls into the lower 50's. With the negative exposure the ag industry receives already due to nutrient runoff, a scene like this adds fuel to the fire. Our recommendation for anhydrous ammonia application remains firm – do not begin until soil temperature at the 4" level is 55° or below. Use nitrogen stabilizers in all ammonia applications, as well as with any manure application to retain nitrogen in the more stable ammonium form to prevent N losses.

Herbicide resistance/poor weed control issues have some growers considering Roundup Ready 2 Xtend or Liberty soybeans for 2016. I advise reserving your seed supply early. The availability of seed in the maturity required for optimal yields will be limited. See your Logan Ag crop specialist for Lewis and Credenz brand soybeans today.

Mid-harvest may be time for oil changes in your equipment. Logan Ag has a full line of motor oil and lubricants available for immediate delivery. Many oils and hy/tran fluids can be placed into bulk tanks in your farm shop for convenience. DEF is in stock at our Petroleum Distribution Center in totes, drums and small containers that are ideal for adding fluid to new diesel pickups.

Limestone is again in short supply as quarries don't grind and stockpile tons as they did years ago. Contact us now if limestone is in your fall application plans.

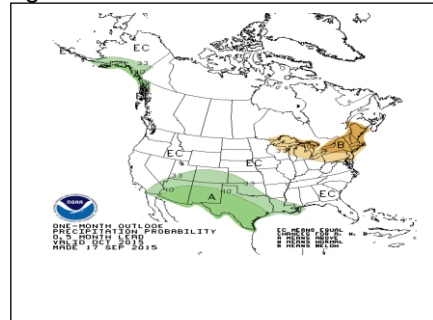
Breakdown/decay of corn residue releases nutrients (especially nitrogen) held in the stalks, and improves soil quality and health by benefitting soil aeration, oxygen level, and water retention capacity. Our recommendation is to apply with fall burndown herbicides to allow the product to begin working as quickly as possible following harvesting.

Robust is a liquid formulation to be applied at the rate of 32 oz. per acre. Get all these benefits for about \$8 per acre. Contact your Logan Ag crop specialist for additional information.

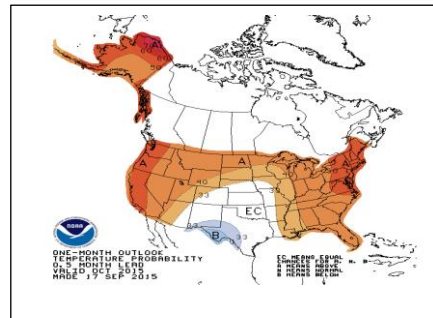
Robust is a trademark of Midtech R&D, Inc.

## October Weather Forecast

The National Weather Service predicts warmer-than-normal temperatures across the Corn Belt in October. Normal rainfall totals are expected across much of the region.



The upper map reveals the potential for normal moisture patterns through the Corn Belt. The lower map shows a band of above normal temperatures stretching across much of the Corn Belt and into the northern Plains. Kansas, Nebraska, western Missouri, and SW Iowa should see normal temperatures during October.



## Post-Harvest Soil Tests

Wrapping up harvest is first and foremost on the mind of every farmer. However, fall is the ideal time to make plans for the 2016 crop. Lower crop prices and the need to "make every dollar count" requires information gained from soil testing to make more efficient use of the dollars spent on fertility. It is the best way to monitor critical soil levels of pH, phosphorus, and potassium.

Most agronomists recommend sampling at least every four years in each field. Further, Logan Ag recommends grid samplings to provide the basis for variable rate application of lime, DAP, and potash. The soil test map and yield map can be utilized to develop prescription fertilizer rates for each grid in the field.

Contact Precision Ag Coordinator Jeff Butler for additional information on Logan Ag's fall soil testing program and schedule your fields now. Crews are working the area regularly, and test results may be available within days.

