



Newsletter

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CaroVail

Agronomy Update

February 5, 2016

Locations

Auburn

55 Columbus St
Auburn, NY 13021
315-253-7379

Bernardston

472 Northfield Road
Bernardston, MA
01337
413-648-9900

Niverville

831 Route 28
Niverville, NY 12130
518-784-9166

Oriskany Falls

8341 US State Rt 20
Oriskany Falls, NY
13425
315-841-3201

Salem

4134 State Rt 22
Salem, NY 12865
518-854-9446

Tri Valley Crop Ctr

337 State Hwy 162
Sprakers, NY 12166
518-673-5336



SPRING

Frank Flis

Well the groundhog didn't see his shadow in PA. I think the ones closer to home may have seen it though as it was a bright sunny day in a lot of the northeast. What does it all mean??

The calendar says, as of Feb 2nd, that there are only 47 days until the first day of spring. Grower meetings and the NY Farm show are near. How are those spring plans progressing?

The coming spring, as all those before it, will be unique, as will it's challenges. The agricultural industry is experiencing new consolidation with CO-OPS combining, Dow and Dupont merging, ChemChina likely acquiring Syngenta, and commodities showing little sign of a near-term rebound. Planning, as always, can help navigate through the challenges. Look critically at your operation and consider:

- Which acres will give the best return and maximize economic yields?
- What acre mix will make the most sense to maintain consistency in the crop rotation of the farm?
- Am I using realistic yield goals based on past field performance and pushing your most productive fields will most always give the best return.

Also, ask yourself if you are managing the primary nutrients [Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus(P), and Potassium (K)] first with special attention to Sulfur (S) , Magnesium (mg), Calcium (Ca) and Boron (B). The necessary amounts of each will depend on soil test levels, crop needs, and source of nutrient. Ca and Mg can usually be managed best with a sound pH management program with limestone where Mg supplementation may also be provided with the addition of K-Mag in the fertilization program. S requirements have come to the forefront with the reduction of air pollutants, which had previously provided extra sulfur through rain events. S is critical in protein formation, efficiency of the N used by the plant, and yield. Boron is essential for cell division and the regulation of the metabolism of plant carbohydrates. A continuous supply is necessary in all living plants and with new yield ceilings, the addition of Boron to the fertility program shows quality and quantity responses in crops.

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Tri Valley

N/S ratios depend on plant species. For grasses, which include corn, 10/1-14/1 is adequate, whereas high protein plant legumes require an 8/1-10/1. S can be derived from animal manure. A test should be used to determine the amount that may be available. The presence of S in manure can be dependent on animal species and the nutrition for the livestock (sources of protein used in their diets will have an impact). S can be added to fertilizer in many forms: be sure to be aware of the form as many forms such as elemental S can have a low solubility and limited availability to the plant.

The addition of Ammonium Sulfate will give alternate N as well as readily available S and a be incorporated into banded and broadcast fertilizers. Ammonium Thiosulfate solution can be added to liquid UAN, and Polyphosphate starters and sidedress options when using liquid fertilizers. Spring will come as it always has and planning will help set goals and establish a path for achieving those goals. There will always be the unknown (weather conditions, for one) to add to the enjoyment of crop production. Despite the lore, the woodchuck may not have the ultimate prediction. Maybe it will be EL Nino or something else, so brace yourselves for the challenges by planning and preparing, and shine up the planters.

Upcoming Grower Meetings

- February 9th – Niverville, Niverville Fire Hall 9:00am - 3:45pm
- February 10th – Salem, Greenwich Elks Lodge 8:30am - 3:15pm
- February 11th – Tri Valley, South Minden Fire Dept 8:30am - 3:15pm
- February 12th – Oriskany Falls, Cazenovia American Legion 8:30am – 3:00pm