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The Seed Consultant



A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE FIELD

Plan for Better Soybean Yields in 2017

For the past several years, corn and soybean genetics have greatly improved in yield potential, disease tolerance, SCN protection, and stronger emergence. Lately, many corn growers have broken the 200 bushel mark with better management practices, genetic selection, and applying crop inputs in a timely manner.

Soybean yields, in 2016, varied throughout the SCI selling area. Too much water early, affected the stands of April plantings and later, at harvest, yields were lower than normal. Lack of moisture in July and early August was a factor for lower yields in some areas as well. For plantings mid to late May of 2016, many fields caught rain at pod filling time resulting in higher yields. Another factor to consider in higher soybean yields is the fact that genetics are better than five years ago, with higher yield potential. Soybean growers are adapting newer planting practices and managing the

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crop through the different growth stages however maintaining yield consistency of 70 bushel is still lagging. Research has shown maximum yield potential in soybeans is genetically set. Actual yield potential varies with environmental conditions and management decisions. Other items to consider for building higher soybean yields:

Maintain a Healthy Root Zone

Keeping roots healthy will improve water retention needed by the plants during periods of stress and allow the plant during the vegetative stage to maximize photosynthesis, critical to high yields. Need to select varieties with SCN protection. Premium seed treatments, like Turbo Treat, will protect the seed against soil borne diseases and insects more so than a standard treatment. Reduce soil compaction, a problem early on that restricts root development. Improve soil fertility levels to maintain plant health during vegetative and reproductive growth stages.

Variety Selection

Select high-yielding varieties with good agronomic traits that match stress, will maximize yield potential. We do this practice in corn, soybeans are no different.

Plant Early and Plant Right

Delayed planting can reduce up to .7 bushel per acre per day yield loss after May 10. Start right and end right.

Row Spacing

Greatest yield advantage is with a 10 to 15 inch row spacing as well as maximizing light interception.

Plant Population

From several research studies having a final harvest stand of 125,000 plants per acre has the best return. Depending on field conditions at planting time, rates can vary.

Manage Weeds Early

Weeds compete in soybeans for water, nutrients, and sunlight. Plan for a pre-emerge application followed by post application to clean up whatever weeds are present especially those that are glyphosate resistant.

Nutrient Deficiencies

If deficiencies appear on plant leaves early, correct with a foliar application.

In past, we have fine tuned management practices in corn and yields have risen. Soybean yields of 70 to 80 bushel are realistic however we need to keep in mind what the plant needs to maximize yield. We can't control the environmental conditions however we can change some of our management practices and build healthier plants for higher yields.

By Bill Mullen, CCA,
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Wishing, to all our customers and their families, a joyous holiday season as well as a successful year in 2017.

2017 SCI Winter Agronomy Meetings



DATES AND LOCATIONS:

(All meetings will begin with lunch at 11:30 a.m.)

During January and February of 2017 Seed Consultants will again host several Winter Agronomy Meetings across the Eastern Corn Belt. 2016 was a challenging year that everyone can learn from and SCI's agronomy staff will have a great deal of information to discuss. In addition to a review of 2016, agronomists will address important factors that are currently affecting our customers. What are the best strategies for controlling problem weeds? Do foliar sugar applications increase corn and soybean yields? Did fungicide applications pay in 2016? What caused green stem in soybeans and what can be done about it? For answers to these questions and more, make sure to attend a Winter Agronomy Meeting in your area.

DATE	LOCATION	RESTAURANT
January 4	Warsaw, IN	Wyndam Garden,
January 4	Ottawa, OH	Red Pig Inn
January 5	Terra Haute, IN	Ricks Smoke House
January 5	WCH, OH	Rusty Keg
January 6	Brookville, OH	Rob's Family Restaurant
January 9	Nashport, OH	Virtues Golf Club (formerly Longaberger)
January 10	Decatur, IN	Back 40 Junction
January 11	Richmond, KY	Golden Corral
January 11	Tiffin, OH	Camden Falls
January 12	Wooster, OH	Jakes' Steakhouse
January 13	Plain City, OH	Der Dutchman
January 18	Hillsboro, OH	Ponderosa
January 19	Bellville, OH	Der Dutchman
January 30	Bowling Green, OH	Holiday Inn Express
January 31	Owensboro, KY	MoonLite BBQ
February 1	Seymour, IN	The Pines
February 1	Bunker Hill, IN	Dutch Café
February 2	Hagerstown, IN	Willies and Reds



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Is Vomitoxin an Issue in 2016 Grain Bin Corn

Due to timely rainfall this past August, corn fields at harvest time were found to have noticeable ear rots. Ear rot was more prevalent in the central and northern part of the SCI sales area (OH, IN, MI, and PA). Moldy corn was evident as it was being unloaded from the combine. Some of this grain went directly to elevators where it was found to have four to ten parts per million vomitoxin. This took many producers by surprise. Some sold it and took the discount which lowered the price per bushel drastically. Some left the premises and came back later to be retested, hoping vomitoxin levels would be lower and others, having grain bins at the farm, took it back home to dry and move later. Producers who have infected corn with vomitoxin stored in bins need to make sure everything is being done to keep the grain in good condition prior to moving it off the farm and selling the grain.

STEP 1

Dry the infected grain to 13 to 13.5%, making sure the intense heat kills the toxin and prevents mold development while in storage.

STEP 2

Keep dried grain in a cool temperature environment, mid-thirties to mid-forties. If stored grain reaches higher temperatures in the bin, there is a good chance of fungal growth returning and toxins may be produced again.

STEP 3

With corn stored in bins, check grain periodically for mold development, insect presence, and temperature fluctuations so as not to have poor quality issues. It would be a good idea to take a sample to an elevator periodically to test for vomitoxin and to insure the grain is in good condition. An ELISA test will determine if a certain toxin is present in the grain or not. A farmer can purchase an ELISA test kit, they are easy, quick and affordable and can detect the presence of vomitoxin.

STEP 4

If stored grain is severely affected, move it out of the bin and off the farm before the quality of the grain continues to deteriorate, which will decrease the price when sold.

A fact sheet regarding the testing and storage of corn with vomitoxin is available at:

<http://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/plpath-cer-04>. Other universities or grain companies would have similar sheets detailing this issue in stored grain and how to keep the grain in good condition prior to selling.

Not every corn producer has this problem in stored grain but it does exist this year. With lower corn prices, we need to do our best to keep corn quality at maximum and prevent lower prices at market. As corn producers take the time to manage the crop during the growing season, it is also key to manage corn in the bins after harvest.

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Winter Maintenance Worth the Effort

Have you ever heard someone say, “What do farmers do in the winter?” As you are aware, there are a lot of answers to this question. Winter is a great time to get ready for spring planting, which will be here before we know it. One of the most important parts of the growing season is planting. It’s crucial that your crops get off to a good start and it’s important to make sure that your planter is field-ready when the time comes. Planting seed into the best possible growing conditions is a one of the most important tasks of spring field work. A planter in need of some adjustment can result in varied seed placement, uneven emergence, and ultimately a reduction in yield potential.

Check for and replace any parts of your planter that are excessively worn. No-till coulters or disk openers that are worn out will not create the proper seed furrow and may cause poor seed placement. Good seed-to-soil contact is critical in ensuring seed germination and uniform emergence. Emergence that is uneven can cause a loss in yield potential. No-till coulters should be adjusted to operate at the same depth or slightly shallower than disk openers. Seed firmers in good condition will also promote adequate seed-to-soil contact. Check the chains and sprockets on your planter. Make sure chains are operated at the correct tension and replace any sprockets that are worn as well as chains that are stiff, rusty, or excessively worn. Smooth chain operation is a critical component of proper planter operation and seed spacing. Any hesitation or jerk in the system will result in seed spacing that is not uniform.

One of the most important aspects of planter maintenance is calibration of your planter. Make the necessary adjustments to your planter to make certain

it will plant at the population you desire. Broken or worn parts on planter units should be replaced and units should be periodically calibrated. Along with performing maintenance on planter units make sure seed tubes are clean and are not damaged such that they will prevent even seed spacing. Calibration of your planter and units will reduce skips, doubles, and triples in seed placement. Research has shown that skips, doubles, and triples can cause a reduction in yield potential. In the recent publication *Corn Stand Establishment and Planter Maintenance*, Purdue Extension Agronomist Bob Nielsen states “Yield data from our small-plot research and from replicated strip trials indicate that about 2.5 bushels per acre are lost for every 1 inch increase in the standard deviation of the plant-to-plant spacings.” Uniform seed spacing minimizes competition between plants for water and nutrients and promotes efficient use of sunlight.

Once you’ve gone through your planter, it’s a good idea to test it out before you head to the field. It is important to evaluate a planter under conditions closely resembling those you will find in the field. Keep in mind a gravel driveway in the barnyard may work but it might not accurately resemble field conditions. Evaluate your planter’s performance at the speed you will be operating in the field. Check your planter for smooth operation, make sure seed spacing and depth is even and accurate. Making a few adjustments to your planter this winter will require some time and effort. This is time well spent and it could really pay off in the spring.

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Soybean Green Stem Syndrome

In many areas of the eastern Corn Belt, soybean growers had difficulties this harvest due to green stem syndrome.

When green stem syndrome occurs, stems and leaves can remain green after pods have matured. As a result, while pods and seeds are mature and dry enough to be harvested, harvest operations can be slowed as combines have more difficulty dealing with stems and leaves that are still green.

In addition to creating harvest delays, green stem syndrome can increase fuel consumption and result in shattering losses if growers delay harvest until stems have fully matured.



Photo courtesy of Pioneer.com

The occurrence of green stems varies from year-to-year and can be affected by several factors, such as:

- Viral infections
- Insect feeding
- Late planting
- Drought stress
- Application of fungicides

Successful management of green stem syndrome requires management practices that include timely planting, establishing adequate plant stands, irrigation, and controlling insects/pests. By making these management practices a priority, growers can minimize the likelihood that green stem syndrome will develop in their soybean fields. Although green stem syndrome slows down harvest, soybeans should be harvested as soon as pods are fully mature in order to minimize harvest losses due to shattering.

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SCI FINANCING

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Purchase & Approval Date	Fixed 0%	Fixed 0%
December - January 5, 2017	4.0%	4.0%
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March 2017	1.0%	1.0%
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Between the Rows

Updates from Daniel Call, general manager

As harvest is now completed across most of our market territory, it's fitting to take one more look at the 2016 growing season. Our customers have reported corn yields from the 100 bushel yield levels in extremely drought stricken areas to well above 200 bushels per acre in areas which received needed rains during early post pollination corn development. But overall the 2016 growing season will be remembered for its record soybean yields. We continue to hear reports of fantastic record-setting soybean yields. Pictures and videos of yield monitors bouncing around 100 bushels per acre have been shared throughout our market footprint this fall.

As we turn our attention toward 2017, I am excited about the new products we have to bring to your operations. These products will bring additional yield potential and value to your operation. The products have been bred for the eastern corn belt's unique growing environment and thoroughly tested in our replicated research program to ensure they will perform for our customers. We've had our best ever performance in 3rd party testing this year where many of these new products have shined.



Make sure you plan to attend one of our Agronomy Meetings this January. Our agronomy staff has prepared an excellent agenda with key lessons from 2016. We hope you take advantage of these meetings to learn new ideas and techniques to make 2017 your most productive year ever. Allow Seed Consultants to show you why we are, "Simply, the Best Value in the Seed Industry™".

As harvest winds down, take time to enjoy the fruits of your labor and time with your family. Be thankful for the opportunity to farm in the most abundant country on earth.

DON'T MISS OUR WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER!

The SCI free e-newsletter comes via e-mail every Monday. The newsletter is packed full of current agronomic topics. Subscribe by sending your e-mail address to matt@seedconsultants.com or by signing up on our website at www.seedconsultants.com.

Successfully,

Daniel Call

General Manager

