

Fungicide: Does it Pay to Spray?

From the desk of Jess Maddox

An early spring finds many Kansas wheat growers busy applying fungicide to their wheat. Fungicide arrests the development (stops not reverses) of rust or powdery mildew in wheat for 10 to 21 days. Fungicide can also aid in preventing further damage to wheat plants from frost or drought.

Many producers feel they cannot afford new high end products like Prosaro and are switching to low cost generics such as Tebuconazol or Propiconazol (curatives not preventatives). Generic fungicides can be cost effective if used correctly, please follow label directions. The need for timely applications of fungicide increases as more disease is detected and economic thresholds are met, spray fungicide and continue scouting. Timely applications of fungicide protect yield potential and increase the probability of a profitable crop.

Corn and soybeans have a different set of criteria than wheat. Growers should consider the following before applying fungicide:

1. Do your fields have a history of plant disease?
2. Do you plant continuous corn or soybeans?
3. Are your fields in a continuous no-till rotation?
(Haven't plowed or tilled in years?)
4. Weather patterns that include: Excessive extended rainfall?
Heavy dew? Foggy mornings? High humidity?
5. Do you have insect pressure in your fields?

If you answered yes to any of these questions a regular scouting program is essential. (cont'd)....

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Saturday

Seasonally or
by Appointment
8 a.m. - Noon

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Regular scouting means that you get out of your truck and scout your fields on foot at least once if not twice a week. In addition to scouting you need to be in contact with other farmers, agronomists, crop scouts, or applicators and trade information. Chances are if they are finding disease and insects in their fields the same problems are headed your direction.

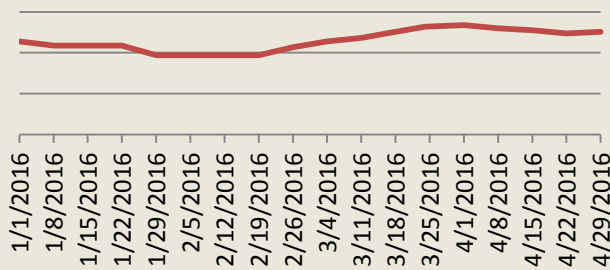
Once you begin to detect insects or plant disease in your field, assess the extent and monitor the size and growth of the problem. Establish treatment costs and economic thresholds. Ask yourself: "At what point do I need to take action?" "When does a \$10 treatment save \$10.01 worth of crop?" "When do I receive a return on investment?" Be realistic: if you are uncertain ask for advice from an independent agronomist, extension specialist or seed company.

There are times when you may have multiple small problems in the same field. No single problem may warrant an application, but by combining an insecticide application with a fungicide application you can eliminate both problems at a low cost and still achieve a "return on your investment." This is especially true when you are using airplanes or helicopters for application. Scouting, knowing your total input costs, and factoring in commodity prices are all important pieces of your "Return on Investment" formula. Apply fungicides and insecticides on an as needed basis, maximize yield and protect your investment...

DON'T SPRAY IF IT DOESN'T PAY!

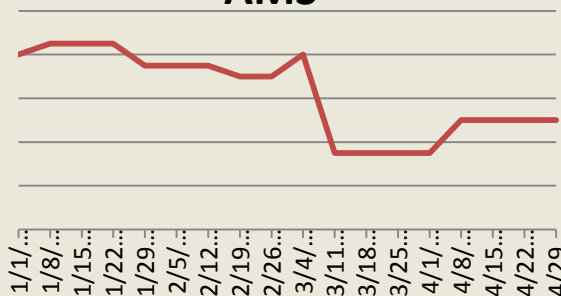
Fertilizer Trends and Recommendations 01/01/2016 – 04/29/2016

Anh. Ammonia



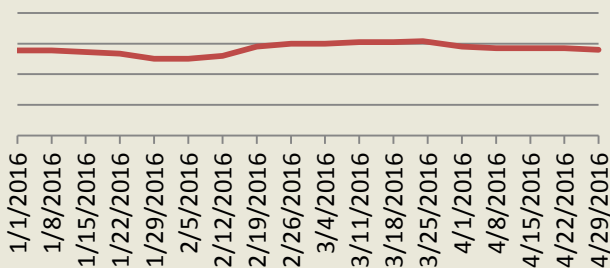
Anhydrous ammonia supplies have been tight for the last 60 days. Producers are finally catching up with demand but do not expect a price break until spring application subsides. Buy as needed for now; wait for breaks in the price this summer before buying fall 2016 anhydrous ammonia.

AMS



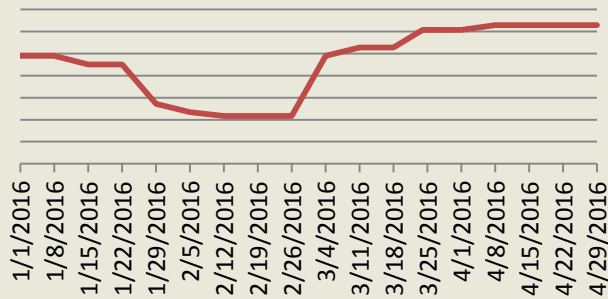
AMS has been in a sideways pattern for several months. Cover seasonal applications as needed. Wait for a break in this market (possibly late summer/early fall) to cover your 2017 needs.

Urea



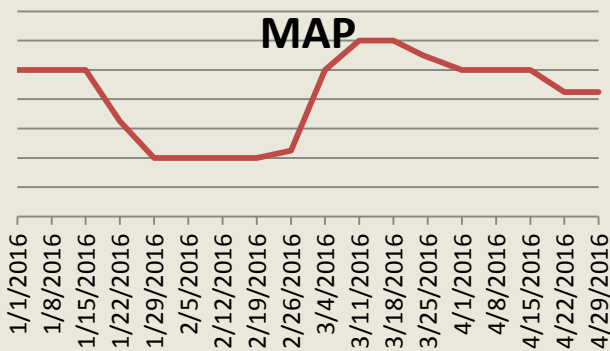
Seasonal demand has kept urea prices from falling. Impending deliveries of foreign product will weigh heavily on the markets this summer. Continue to buy on an “as-needed” basis; wait for breaks in the market this summer and fall before covering 2017 needs.

UAN



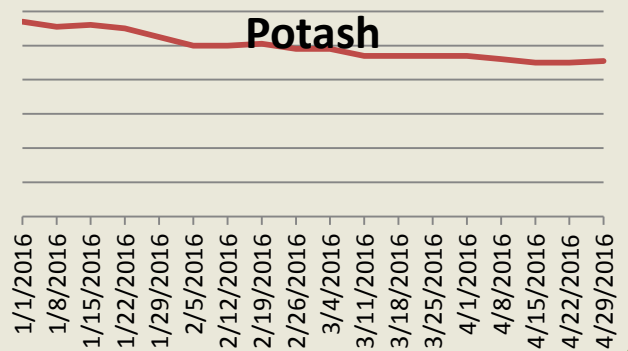
Production issues and firm demand have created a seasonal peak. Cover your current needs on an ‘as-needed’ basis. Wait for a late summer/early fall break in prices before you buy for 2017.

MAP



Retail MAP prices remain steady due to seasonal demand. The anticipation of imported tons and falling crop prices have created a bearish tone in the market this summer. Buy on an “as needed” basis; wait for breaks in the market to cover 2017 crop needs.

Potash



Lackluster demand, an oversupplied market and bearish reports make it difficult to get excited about buying potash. Production cuts and transportation costs are our biggest concerns. We are at historical lows and should consider buying ahead at these levels. Wait for breaks in the market and cover all of your 2017 needs; consider buying a two-year supply if possible. Remember, the cure for lower prices is “lower prices”.....we are at or near the bottom.