

Time For A Change

From the desk of Erich Wickman

Most farmers battle at least three or four weeds (water hemp, kochia, ragweed and mares tail) in their fields that are resistant to glyphosate, HPPD's and ALS chemistry. If resistant weeds reside on your farm you may find the following interesting.

Most farmers go through four stages of weed resistance before they act. The first stage is denial when we (I'm a farmer too) say things like:

- 1) "Those weeds must have emerged after I sprayed!"
- 2) "That generic roundup doesn't kill weeds as well as the name brand."
- 3) "I must be spraying too (early/late - pick one) in the day."
- 4) "I need to quit using that water conditioning agent and go back to A.M.S."

While some of the aforementioned items may be partially true, most farmers do not realize that they are killing off susceptible weeds and opening the door to growing populations of resistant weeds.

In the second stage we have acknowledged resistance and many of us respond by increasing the rate of glyphosate (going from 32 oz to 48 oz to 64 oz). We want to think that "more" is better. When increasing rates of glyphosate fail to kill weeds, we start adding PPO's like Cadet, Resource, Cobra, Blazer or Flexstar. Most of us eventually figure out that "burners" don't work as well as we'd like, can reduce yields and are very expensive.

The third stage of resistance management usually begins with a "low rate" Pre, followed by glyphosate and a PPO. A common program would include 3.2 oz of Sonic or Authority First followed by a full rate of Roundup and Flexstar. The problem with these programs is that they are too little too late. 3.2 oz of Sonic represents a half rate that lasts about 21 days. We already know that a PPO with glyphosate is at best 90% effective and generally leaves us with weedy fields.

The fourth stage of resistance is psychological. The victim breaks down (you and me, "the farmer"), throws up his hands and says things like:

- 1) "I don't care what it costs, as long as it kills those *.*.* weeds."
- 2) "I just want clean fields."
- 3) "How many trips do I have to make and how much chemical is it going to take to get the job done right?"
- 4) "I Quit! - some other sucker can farm this ground."

If you haven't quit and are willing to listen, we have a few reasonable suggestions:

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Monday – Friday

8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday

Seasonally or

by Appointment

8 a.m. - Noon

Step 1)

Start Clean

A) Do not think that you can clean up a field post emerge when you have time!

B) Clean starts mean 100% dead weeds. Two-pass tillage, like a chisel plow followed by a field cultivator, may be adequate but a field cultivator by itself is maybe 80% effective and not good enough.

Or

C) Use a strong burn down (this may include a “fall and spring” burn down) with at least three modes of action such as:

- 1) 1 Quart 4# 2,4-D
- 2) 1 Quart Roundup
- 3) 1 oz Sharpen
- 4) MSO
- 5) A.M.S.

If you can't “afford” this, please refer back to #4 of the fourth stage. If completing your burn down involves delayed planting – by all means DELAY PLANTING! It will save you money in the long run.

Step 2)

Stay Clean

Your clean start should include a full rate Pre with 2 or more sites of actions:

Bean Examples: Treflan/Sencor

Prowl/Pursuit

Envive or Valor XLT

Authority First or Sonic

Corn Examples: Bicep

Keystone

Lexar

Corvus plus Atrazine

Follow label directions, and seek the advice of manufacturing reps or experienced crop advisors. Hot burn downs with a strong pre-emerge chemistry can be “tricky”.

Step 3)

Follow your pre-emerge chemistry with a planned sequential post emerge.

A) Planned sequentials should contain enough chemistry to kill what has emerged and extend your residual control for an additional 45 days. For example:

Roundup w/Prefix – RR beans

Liberty w/Outlook or Dual – LL beans

Impact, Bicep & Dicamba – conventional corn

Halex, Atrazine & Diflex – RR corn

Stop waiting for weeds to emerge. A planned sequential is done by the calendar (21 days post emerge) or by crop development – like V-3 corn or 2nd cotyledon soybeans.

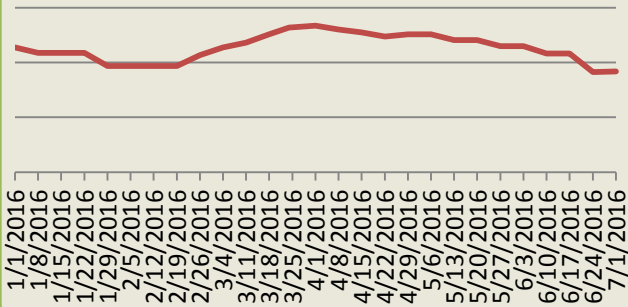
Why don't we recommend a one-pass Pre, Post or two-pass total post program? Because in our experience, 50% of the time none of them work to your satisfaction.

Reflect on your 2016 weed control program now. Did it work well? Was it cost effective? Were two trips at the right time enough? Face your failures head on and learn from your mistakes. Ask questions and get answers from qualified advisors in your area (not some ninny on Ag Talk). If nothing else, go to friends or neighbors with “pristine clean” fields in your neighborhood and ask them what they are doing. Trade in your 2016 weed control program for a new and improved model in 2017!

Fertilizer Trends and Recommendations

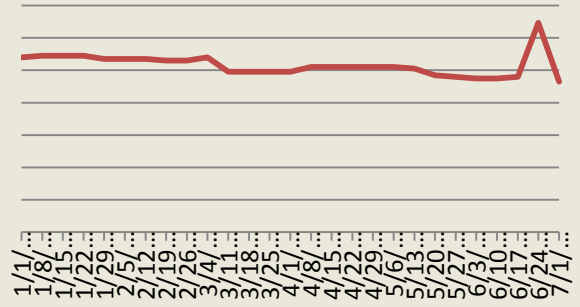
01/01/2016 – 07/01/2017

Anh. Ammonia



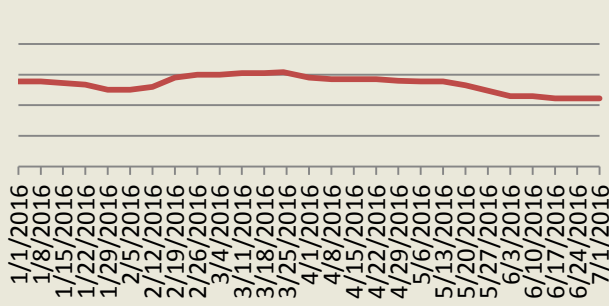
Summer side dressing is winding down and summer fill and fall prepay have begun in earnest. Central Iowa wholesale prices are around \$390 FOB Fort Dodge, so retail prices should be around \$440 to \$500 (depending on terms). Lackluster retail and wholesale movement are a direct result of declining corn prices. Wait for retail pricing below \$445 to cover your fall 2016 needs.

AMS



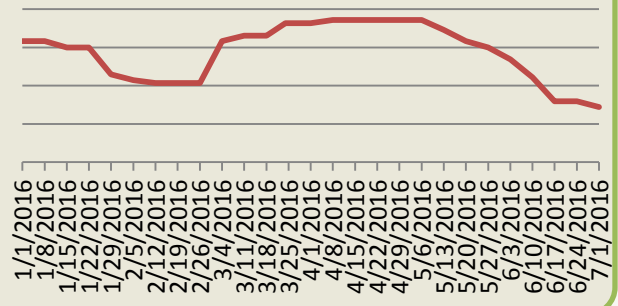
AMS prices have slipped back down to their off season lows and will remain steady to lower until fall spreading begins. If possible, wait until early fall to cover your 2017 needs.

Urea



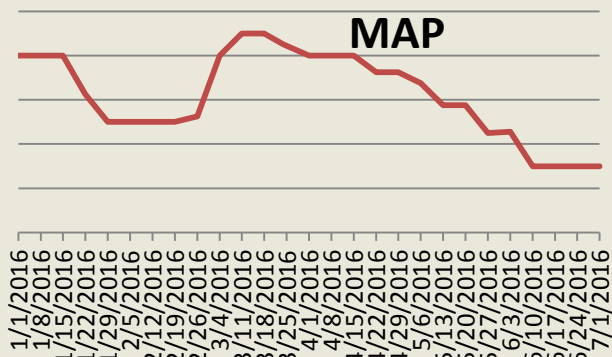
Ample supply and slack demand typical of a late summer market are holding prices steady to lower. Cover your current needs on an as needed basis. Cover your 2017 needs on price breaks late this fall.

UAN



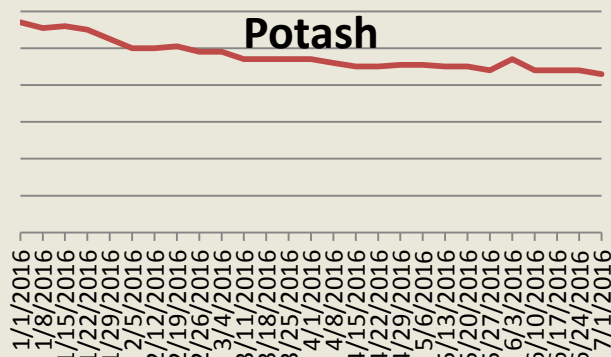
We are at the tail end of summer side dressing. Suppliers are working on UAN summer and fall fill prices. Buy any current needs on a hand-to-mouth basis. Cover 2017 needs on price breaks late summer or early fall.

MAP



Currently, there is very limited demand for phosphates. MAP and DAP prices are \$10 lower than last reported. Lower grain prices have both wholesale and retail buyers sitting on the sidelines. We feel like MAP is a good buy and have covered our farm's needs for 2017.

Potash



Potash pricing remains flat to slightly lower. Again, buyers are sitting on the sidelines due to weaker grain prices. We have purchased enough potash to cover our 2017 and 2018 needs. The price of potash could slip lower but is a bargain at the current price.