

## New Life to Old Chemistries

From the desk of Craig Knudsen

Each growing season weeds become more difficult to control.

Contributing factors are:

- Poor Timing
- Reduced or “cut- rate” herbicides
- Weed resistance to chemicals

No “silver bullet” herbicides are coming out to save the day so there has been a shift back to “older” herbicides. These “older” herbicides do not provide a single, simple answer to combat resistant weeds but when used in combination with “newer” herbicides, enhanced weed control has been achieved. Products being used include:

- Sencor
- Sceptor
- Pursuit
- Prowl
- Blazer
- Treflan

Combinations of old and new products will help manage resistant weeds, but we must use high rates to achieve the control we want in all fields. The right timing, adjuvants and coverage also play an important role in herbicide efficacy.

Great timing is a result of first scouting and then applying herbicides before emerged weeds outgrow your chemical program. Giving weeds “the finger” (see attached illustration) is a great way to judge weed height and application timing. Weeds should be shorter than three inches when you spray.

Three inch tall weeds have less growing points, smaller root systems and are easier to cover than taller weeds. (cont'd)...

### In this Issue

- New Life to Old Chemistries
- Fertilizer Trends and Recommendations

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## SMALL WEEDS

BEST MANAGEMENT FOR ALL HERBICIDES



Using the correct adjuvant package in your tank mix greatly enhances efficacy. Chemical manufacturers spend years researching and testing their products to maximize their killing power and still maintain crop safety. Do not buy after market adjuvants that advertise a “one size fits all” label. Instead, read and follow manufacturer label directions. If a product calls for crop oil then by all means use crop oil! Do not listen to coffee shop talk about what you can “get away with”. The people that cut rates and don’t follow label directions are the same people who are asking for re-sprays, because for some reason, herbicides aren’t killing weeds on their farm.

Proper coverage is the “third leg” on every successful spray program stool. Applicators cannot expect consistent results with inconsistent application methods. Proper tips, water volume, pressure and sprayer speed all play a huge role in herbicide performance. A systemic product like glyphosate would work fairly well with low

water volume, air induction nozzles and fairly high sprayer speeds (10 to 12 mph). A product like Liberty or Cobra would be the polar opposite. Liberty and Cobra both require optimal coverage so 20 gallons per acre, bi-directional spray tips and 80 to 90 PSI at 5 to 7 mph are required for best results. If you spray Liberty or Cobra the same way you spray Roundup you will probably have a product failure. The question you must ask yourself is, “Did the product I used fail, or did I fail to use that product correctly?” Ninety-nine percent of the time, herbicides work as advertised if they are applied as the manufacturer recommends. Herbicide failures are generally attributed to “human error”.

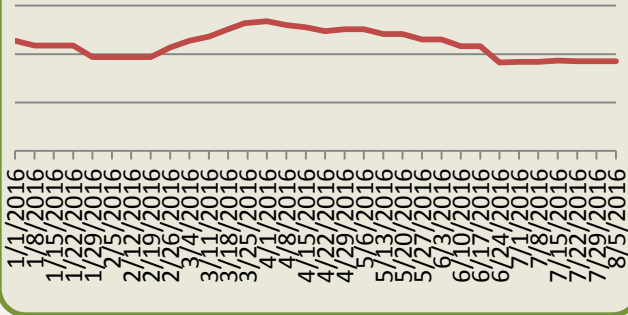
In 2017, Enlist (2,4-D) and Extend (Banvel) traits and chemistry will be available. These new traits will allow the use of chemistries formerly unavailable to soybean and cotton fields. With these new traits, sites of action and chemistry farmers will be able to achieve greater control of noxious weeds in their fields, but they are not “catch all/cure all” solutions. Farmers will still need to use pre-emerge and residual herbicides to control weeds before they emerge or these new products will fail as well. Good stewardship of new traits and herbicides will ensure that they will be viable for years to come.

For more information, please contact your Wickman Chemical sales representative today!

# Fertilizer Trends and Recommendations

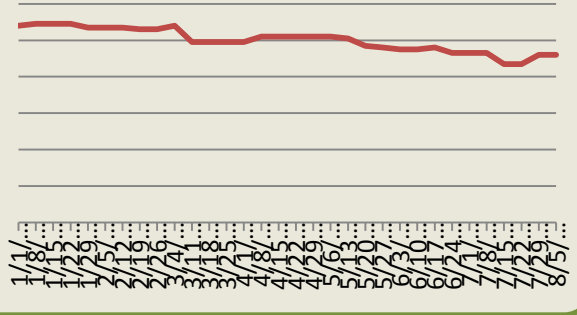
01/01/2016 – 08/05/2016

## Anh. Ammonia



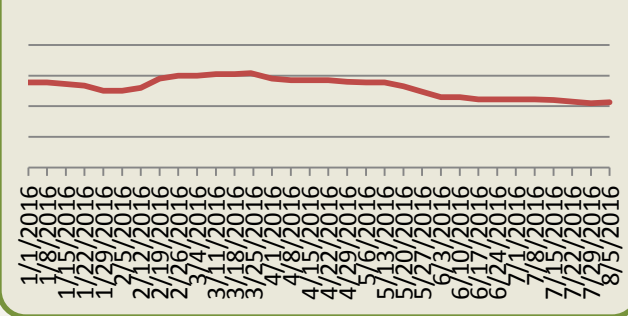
We are currently in a summer-fill market. Producers should stay in contact with local retailers and buy on price breaks in the market. Around \$445 retail anhydrous ammonia should be a fair price for farmers in the upper Midwest given current wholesale prices on urea and anhydrous ammonia.

## AMS



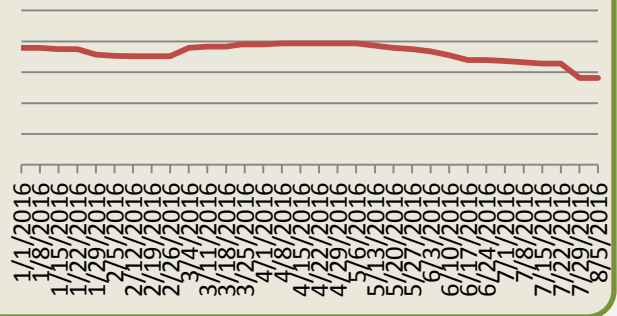
AMS prices have recovered slightly from the last report. Buy on an as needed basis or buy and store if you have available capital and storage. It is hard to go wrong at the current price.

## Urea

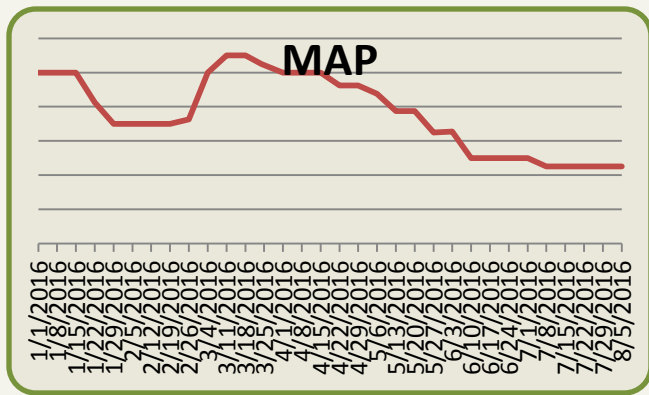


Urea continues to be a bargain in comparison to other nitrogen sources. Generally, mid to late fall is the best times to buy Urea. This year may be an exception to the rule. Current Urea prices are a bargain.

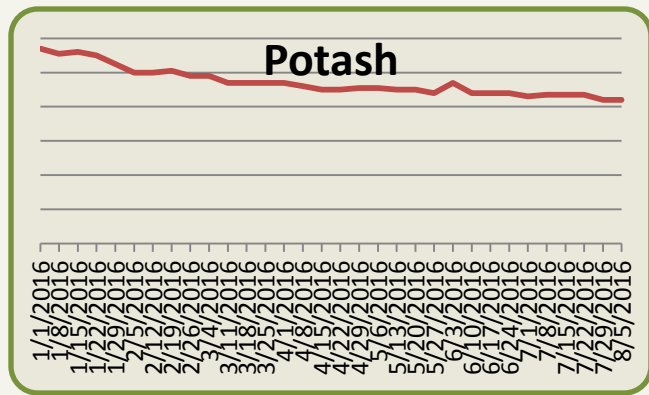
## UAN



UAN prices are softer since last report although our current costs on the wholesale level have not changed. UAN, like Urea and NH<sub>3</sub>, could trade lower but it's more than likely at or near the bottom end of its price range. Cover your 2017 UAN needs by mid fall.



MAP and DAP prices are steady to slightly higher since last report. Current MAP and DAP prices are probably at or near the bottom end of their price range. Wickman Farms has purchased their 2017 MAP needs.



Potash is at or near the bottom end of its price range. One domestic producer has shut down production; others are cutting back. We think Potash is a good buy at current levels. Wickman Farms has covered their 2017 and 2018 Potash needs.