

Soil Fertility 101

From the desk of Brad Adreon

*H*arvest is approaching and it's time to plan fertilization for next year's crops. Are you thinking of scrimping on dry fertilizer, or cutting phosphorus and potash out completely this year because of low commodity prices? Think again. Proper soil pH, phosphorus and potash levels are essential for achieving high end yields. 180-bushel corn followed by 60-bushel beans will remove 115 lbs. of phosphorus and 135 lbs. of potash in two years. Two hundred pounds of nitrogen removes four hundred pounds of 98g pel lime. An every-other-year application of a 13-60-60 blend with two hundred pounds of pel lime only adds back half of what has been removed.

When foundation pH, phosphorus and potash levels are optimal, we can begin adding trace elements like sulfur, zinc and boron. A simple soil test will point you in the right direction and help you mitigate unnecessary expense. Dense plant populations coupled with high nitrogen rates will not increase corn or soybean yields in soil that is out of balance.

Fertility should be evaluated on a farm-by-farm, field-by-field basis; no two acres are the same. Soil sampling, soil type and yield history will help you determine the best plan of action for your 2017 crops.

Interested in having us come soil sample for you? We can:

- Pull samples
- Analyze results, including pH, phosphorus, potash and trace element levels
- Provide economical recommendations based on test results from your fields

Soil fertility is important! Treat it right.

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- Fertilizer Trends and Recommendations

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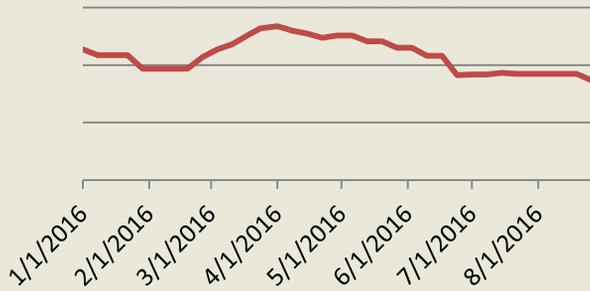
Monday – Friday
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday
Seasonally or
by Appointment
8 a.m. - Noon

Fertilizer Trends and Recommendations

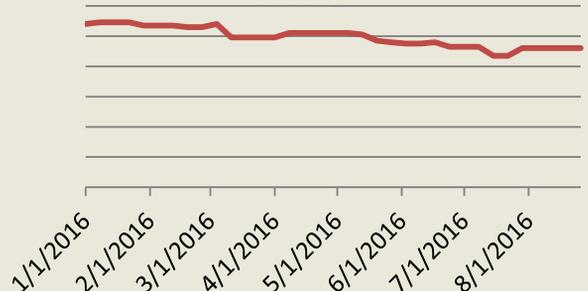
01/01/2016 – 08/26/2016

Anh. Ammonia



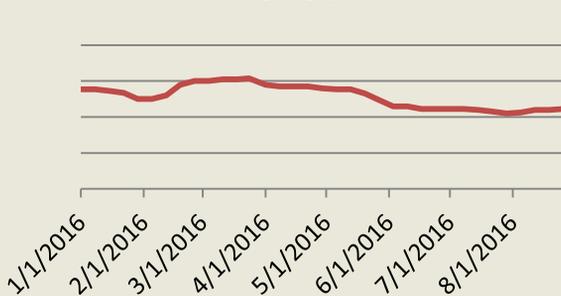
Anhydrous ammonia prices are steady. There may be a few bargains out there for individuals with empty storage. Farmers prepaying anhydrous should be able to prepay retail tons below \$450 for fall application.

AMS



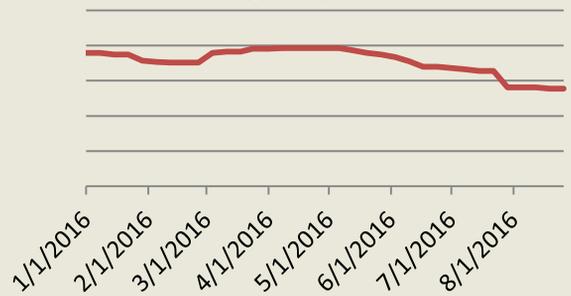
Granular ammonium sulfate is steady. Late summer into early fall is usually the best time to purchase AMS. If you have available storage, buy it soon.

Urea

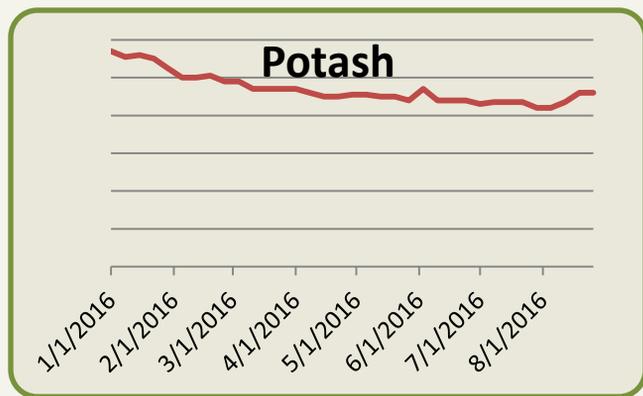
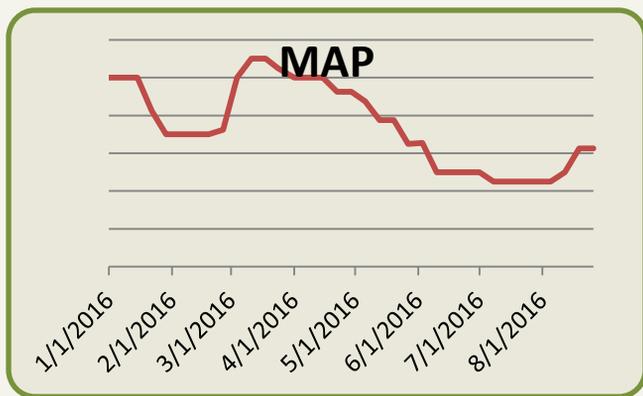


UREA is steady with little or no demand. Fall is traditionally the best time to purchase UREA if you have storage. UREA prices could slip a little lower – but today's price is a bargain.

UAN



Soft demand has kept a lid on UAN prices. Late summer into early fall traditionally is the lowest price period of the year. Cover your 2017 UAN needs now if you can forward contract or have storage.



MAP prices have recovered from their mid-summer low. Winter wheat fertilization has started and the Arkansas River is closed to barge traffic until mid-September. You can cover your 2017 needs now or wait for a possible downturn back to the old lows. MAP is a bargain.

We may have hit bottom and bounced! Prices have increased \$15 to \$25 per ton the last two weeks. Industry talk is that current prices will not retreat to previous lows. The price we have today is still a bargain if you have not covered your 2017 crop needs by now.