May 2017

Wickman Chemical

DICAMBA TOLERANT CROPS…….WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

From the desk of Craig Knudsen

The 2017 growing season presents a new management challenge with dicamba tolerant crops and proper stewardship of new dicamba formulations. There are three new dicamba products for 'pre' and 'post' application to soybeans and cotton: Engenia (BASF), FeXapan (DuPont) and XtendiMax (Monsanto). Engenia is the new BAPMA based dicamba formulation which provides a strong and effective formula, binding dicamba spray residues to reduce drift and volatility. FeXapan and XtendiMax are both Clarity formulations with added Vapor Grip Technology to reduce drift and volatility. These formulations bring new guidelines; follow label recommendations to ensure proper use. Failure to use the correct tips, spray pressure, sprayer speed and buffer zones may result in off target damage as well as the potential for formal complaints.

The use of AMS or UAN in a tank mix with these products is strictly prohibited due to increased volatility concerns. Current adjuvants approved for use with each product can be found on each respective product's website. Those adjuvants can be found by clicking the links at the bottom of this article. Keep in mind all of these new dicamba products continue to have their labels changed with new requirements, and tank mixes being approved for use, almost every day.

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Monday – Friday
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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

Here are some quick tips for these new dicamba products:

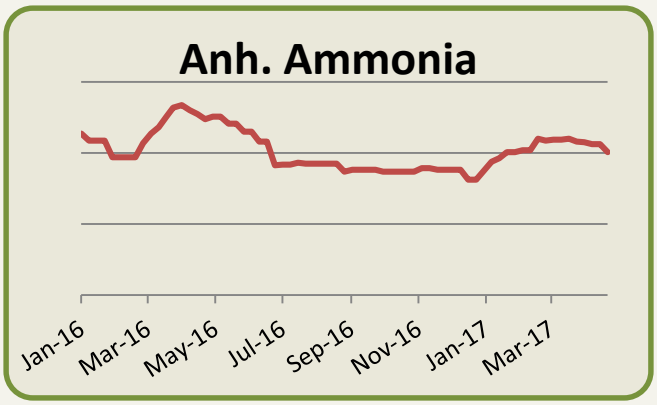
Rate:	-Engenia: 12.8 oz/AC -FeXapan: 22 oz – 44 oz/AC -XtendiMax:22 oz – 44 oz/AC
Maximum weed height:	4" or less
Wind Speed:	-Do NOT spray during an inversion* -Do NOT spray if wind is below 3 mph (probably an inversion) -Do NOT spray if wind is above 15 mph
Minimum Spray Volume:	10 GPA
Nozzles:	Turbo TeeJet TT1 11004
Boom Height:	24" above target
Buffer Zone:	-Engenia – 110' -FeXapan and XtendiMax – 110' for 22 oz rate and 220' for 44 oz rate
Sprayer Clean Out:	Triple rinse using a commercial tank cleaner immediately after spraying is finished. ***DO NOT*** allow to sit overnight.

The use of pre-emerge herbicides will still be a critical part of early season weed control. The use of post- emerge products other than dicamba will be necessary to control all weeds. No tank mixes are currently available with these new dicamba products; you will be required to make an additional application. The post emerge dicamba application is a tool to fight weed resistance, not a rescue treatment for fields that have excessive weed problems. Implementing a season-long weed control plan with multiple sites of action will ensure that dicamba continues to be an effective herbicide trait for extend soybeans and cotton.

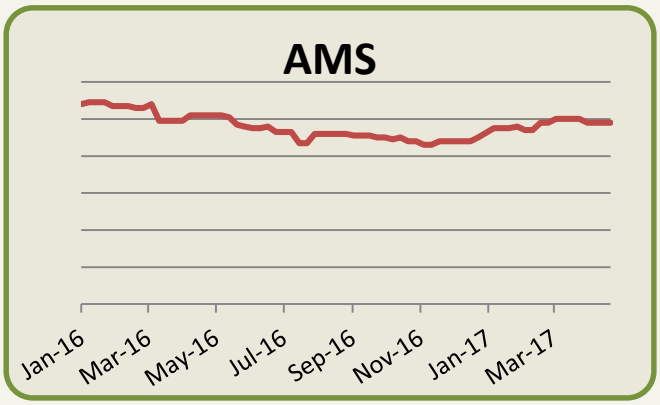
New and current information on each product can be found by clicking the product name below.

* A state in which the air temperature increases with increasing altitude, holding surface air down along with its pollutants.

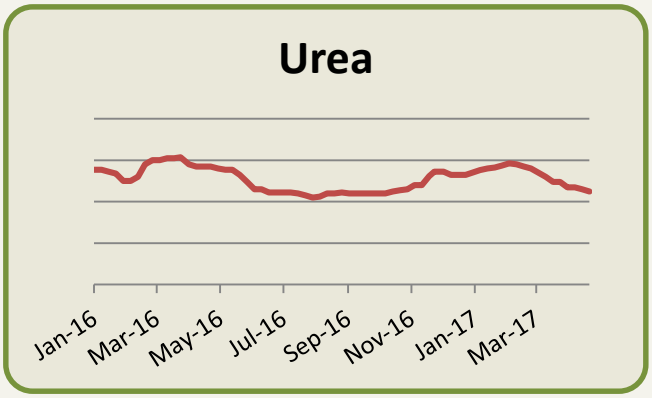
Fertilizer Trends and Recommendations
01/01/2016 – 04/21/2017



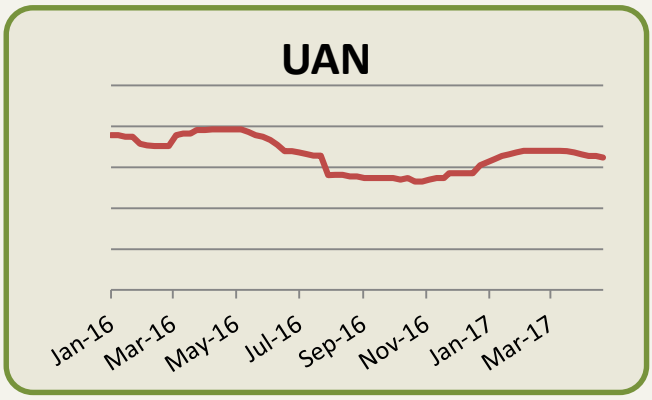
Anhydrous ammonia markets have been unevenly steady since February. Fears that new production facilities would bring prices down have been countered by an early start to the season and strong seasonal demand. Finish up your spring 2017 season at current prices and then sit on the sidelines until the supply becomes burdensome and the market moves lower. If anhydrous ammonia prices do not move to significantly lower levels (like $300/ton), consider other sources like UAN or Urea wherever possible. Grain prices are too low to support $440/ton anhydrous ammonia.



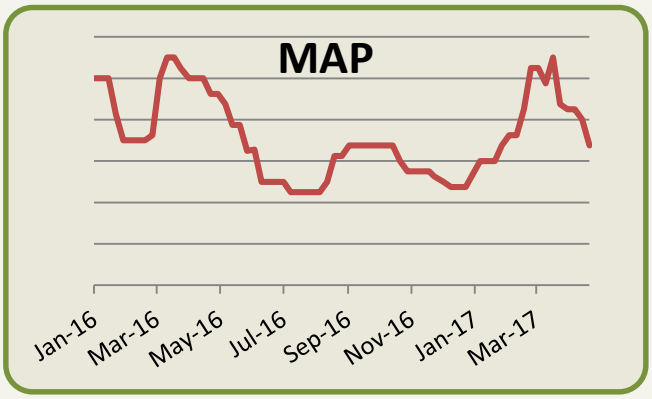
Not a lot happening with AMS pricing. Domestic AMS has been at a higher price than imported tons all winter. Freight and barge movement have dictated price differentials across the midwest. Buy AMS on a hand-to-mouth basis; the AMS market has been steady to slightly lower since summer 2016.



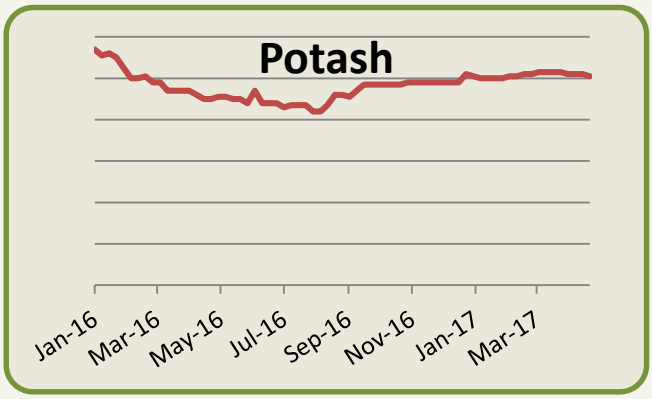
The Urea market has been in a steady decline due to increasing domestic production, an ugly Nola market and slack demand. Look for regional price spikes as short-term demand temporarily pushes prices higher. If you need spring 2017 Urea, buy it now! Future Urea purchases (fall 2017) should be put off; time is on your side.



UAN prices have been steady to maybe $5/ton lower the past 30 days. Cover your spring needs now to avoid in-season spot shortages. Hold off on any future purchases until summer fill prices have been established.



MAP and DAP prices hit their winter highs in mid-to-late March due to tight supplies and good spreading weather. MAP has been $30/ton or more higher than DAP for the last six weeks. Increasing supplies coupled with decreasing demand has pushed MAP and DAP prices into a full-fledged retreat the last 10 days. If you still have acres to spread, cover your spring needs on a hand-to-mouth basis. Future MAP and DAP purchases should be held off until summer fill prices have been established.



Steady demand and brisk movement have created a flat price scenario for potash. Watch the price of imported potash to predict either higher or lower prices this summer. My prediction is that potash summer fill tons may be 5-10% lower than they are today with a fairly weak move to the upside when river traffic closes next November. Cover your potash needs hand-to-mouth for now and buy ahead on seasonal price breaks next summer. I doubt that we see potash prices at the summer of '16 lows again, but time will tell.