

4waRd Thinking Conversations

Top 4 – August Edition

August gives us the opportunity to add some environmental and compliance 4R topics, like regulatory planning, into our conversations. It's also a good time to begin talking about cover crop plantings (and purchasing decisions) for late-fall. Use this less busy time of the growing season to really understand the operation's goals for the year – discuss what's going well and also what decisions should be re-evaluated prior to next growing season.



Why it's important...

How to start the conversation...

1 Prepare for Late Season Soybean Management

As the R3 growth stage approaches it's the opportune time to evaluate the need for disease & insect protection in soybeans. Foliar fertilizers can be included with any application to address deficiencies & imbalances identified through plant sampling.

Let's talk about soybean disease pressure as pods start to form on the upper nodes. Increased pressure from frog eye leaf spot, brown spot and others can reduce seed production and reduced test weight. If applications are needed, this is a great opportunity to take a plant sample and see how things are going.

2 Update Manure Management Plans & Soil Conservation Plans

All farms should have Ag Erosion & Sedimentation plans or Soil Conservation Plans on 100% of their acreage. Likewise, any farm producing or utilizing manure needs some level of nutrient planning.

Let's use this time before harvest to update any outdated regulatory plans you have. Who do you need to call to get that gully in field 3 fixed? I also want to check that your planned yields & applications are accurate.

3 Review Nitrogen Management

Nitrogen deficiencies begin to appear after tasseling. About 20-25% of total nitrogen uptake will occur after tassel, which magnifies the importance of season long nitrogen management that accounts for nitrogen losses and mineralized contributions. It is still important to scout fields for nitrogen deficiencies and follow your Modeling outcomes.

Did you know that 20-25% of total nitrogen uptake by your corn crop occurs after tasseling? What's more, root systems begin to diminish after tasseling. This is the time to evaluate your nitrogen decisions to make sure enough nitrogen is present to finish the crop.

4 Position Summer Cover Crops

August is the perfect time to plant summer cover crop mixes after wheat. Make sure you understand customer's goals for cover cropping and how they intend to manage covers in the spring. Summer covers are a great way to plan for next year's nitrogen needs!

What are your cover crop goals? Will you plant green in the spring? Let's pick a mix (or mixes) that address those goals and decide on a seeding rate that will produce manageable amounts of biomass in spring.



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