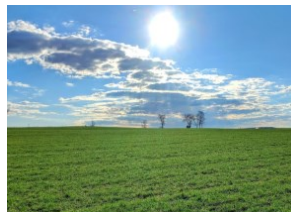


4waRd Thinking Conversations

Top 4 - April Edition

April is when life begins to spring back into action on the farm. It's a great time to engage in conversation around pre-planting 4R practices for corn and soybeans to ensure your farmers have the RIGHT tools and information in place to make good nutrient stewardship decisions during the growing season. It's also the RIGHT time to make decisions around supplemental nutrient applications for small grains.



Why it's important...

How to start the conversation...

1 Manure Analysis & Spreader Calibration

Calculating nutrient loading from manure applications and crediting nitrogen contributions will help ensure the RIGHT RATE of supplemental N applications during the growing season.

To get a good handle on how much N you're getting from your manure applications, we should take a manure test and calibrate your spreader. Knowing how much nitrogen you're getting from your manure applications will help us dial in your supplemental fertilizer needs this growing season to ensure we're maximizing yields and minimizing loss.

2 Small Grain Plant Analysis

Understanding the nutrient needs, including micro-nutrients, will help to fine-tune supplemental fertilizer applications and ensure micro-nutrients can be balanced out to maximize yield.

Your next application on wheat is in 7 days. Let's take a plant sample to see what micro-nutrients might be limiting yield.

3 Variable Rate Fertilizer and Planting Prescriptions

Sub-field variability exists in every field. Managing this variability with fertilizer and seed scripts can help balance input costs and drive production.

To get the most out of your fertility plan and variety selection, let's use the yield data you've collected to develop scripts that place seed & fertilizer where there's the greatest yield opportunity.

4 Background Information in Nitrogen Modeling Programs

Nitrogen modeling is a useful tool to calculate late season N applications and monitor a farm's nitrogen program. But, they are only useful when accurate information is used.

I'm excited to work through the Nitrogen modeling process with you this year. Models work best when all background information is accurately detailed. Let's spend some time this week reviewing the inputs so we can be sure to get good data this growing season.



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