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Morral Companies, LLC

With two locations serving you in
Morral and Caledonia

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Importance of Soil Fertility

Many farmers significantly reduced their applications of phosphorus and potash for the 2009 cropping year. While most farmers chose to reduce applications due to economic reasons, we can not expect corn and soybeans to continue to produce high yields without replenishing these important crop nutrients.

Several side effects will begin to appear if adequate rates of fertilizer are not applied. Not only will yields begin to decline, but we will see slower emergence in the spring by weaker seedlings. The plants will not be able to root as deeply and thus will suffer more from drought conditions. Resistance to disease and insects will suffer and the total plant health will decline, making for a poor quality grain.

Seed companies continue to announce new and higher yielding seed. Without adequate levels of soil fertility, these new expensive seeds can not reach their yield potential. The best way to determine what your soils need is to let us do soil testing for you. Depending on your soil type, soil test K₂O levels will be reduced by 2 # per acre for every 10 # of K₂O removed by the crop. For phosphorus, soil test P₂O₅ levels will be reduced by every 15 # of P₂O₅ removed by the crop. Consider your own yields and what nutrients they remove from the soil and you quickly see how the soil is being depleted.

There are several good decision making aids that help farmers calculate the dollar return to fertilizer use and the potential loss from not using enough fertilizer. One good method is to check out the web sight www.ipni.net. From the sight index, click on the

Fertilizer Economics link and go to "Web Articles" from IPNI and finally click on "Economics of Fertilization". If you prefer contact one of Morral Companies' agronomists and they will be happy to do the calculations for you. Have a safe and successful harvest.

Don't Forget the Basic 4R's of Starter Fertilizer

Starter fertilizer can be considered either 2x2 or row placement of NPK fertilizer. Both of these are considered very efficient methods of maximizing your fertilizer dollars and insuring your corn gets off to a fast start and a uniform stand. Uptake of phosphorus through the 5th leaf stage is critical in establishing the yield potential of the plant. The reason why these fertilizers are so efficient is they meet the requirements of the 4R's.

Right Time – at planting

Right Place – close to germinating seed

Right Amount – 5-20 gallons depending on placement

Right Available Nutrients – available NPK

Morral Companies manufactures a complete line of starter fertilizers, pop-ups and NPK's, and has programs to support your needs. We can deliver product to your farm or have convenient pick up at our plants. As with other fertilizer prices, starters have declined and make economic sense to apply this spring.

Whether you're currently using starters, trading planters or would like to discuss using these products, please call one of our agronomists to discuss.

Fall Herbicide Application

Fall is an excellent time to get one step ahead of weed control for the following year, especially in a no-till situation. Whether it is corn or soybeans, there are products available to assist you.

Generally a fall application consists of 2,4-D or glyphosate (or a combination of), and a residual type product. Depending on the product, residual herbicides can help eliminate winter annuals that have already emerged, along with glyphosate and 2,4-D. The primary benefit of a residual is to keep new weeds from emerging in the late fall and early spring. Examples of residual products in the fall for soybeans include Autumn (Bayer), Canopy EX (DuPont), Envive (DuPont), and Valor XLT (Valent). For fields going to corn the following spring, there are a few products available such as Autumn (Bayer), and Simazine or Princep (Syngenta). These are just a few examples of products that are used with each having different uses and benefits.

Many times we are asked why a fall herbicide application is beneficial to an operation. There are numerous answers to this question. The primary goal of a fall application is a chance to start clean, or have lower weed pressure in the spring season. Having a clean seedbed allows for soils to dry and warm up quicker which makes a more suitable seed bed at planting time. Also, newly emerged seedlings are not competing for water, nutrients, and light with weeds.

There is also a timing benefit to fall applications on certain years. If the fall season allows it, fall can be a great time to spray. Sometimes we have a couple of weeks after corn harvest is complete to make spray applications. Fall applications allow the workload to be spread out later

into the year and can help take a little pressure off of the spring season. Another benefit of spraying in the fall is it allows the use of 2,4-D. It seems that lately our springs have not allowed for an early burn down using 2,4-D because growers simply do not want to wait the 7-15 day time period to plant. This chemistry is an excellent choice for hard to control weeds, like dandelion, that works well in the fall with very noticeable results in the spring.

There are many products marketed for fall application. Certain products are more effective than others at controlling specific weeds so it is very important to use the product that best fits your situation. A word of caution, depending on what chemistry is applied in the fall, switching crops for the following year may not be an option. There are a few products that allow either crop to be planted, but most are very restricted as to what may be planted the following spring. As always, it is extremely important to read and follow the label directions to avoid crop injury.

Farm Maps

Please let us know if there have been any changes to any of your farms such as acreage, waterways, or ownership. This will ensure that we maintain an accurate set of application maps and avoid any application errors.

Soil Sampling & Seed Info

As we look forward to yet another promising fall harvest, let us take a minute to focus on a few key practices for the upcoming year. This fall should present us a perfect opportunity to pull some soil samples whether it be a composite field sample or by enrolling in our grid soil sampling program. While a composite sample may tell us about the overall picture of your soil

fertility levels, there is no better way to determine the specific needs of your fertility program than by pulling grid soil samples. Our program involves a process of laying out 2.5 acre grids across your farm and sampling from each grid. This program in combination with variable rate lime and fertilizer applications should provide the most accurate and economical use of essential crop nutrients.

In conjunction with an accurate fertility map, it is critical to focus on your seed needs by placing "The Right Product on the Right Acre." As seed technology continually changes at an incredible pace, it is necessary to know what varieties will perform best under which conditions, whether it is soil type, weather conditions, fertility levels, or a number of other factors. Let us, in combination with Pioneer Seed genetics provide you with the information and technology needed to place "The Right Product on the Right Acre." An immense resource for local seed related information is Pioneer's Growing Point website: www.pioneer.com/growingpoint.

This fall will also provide a great opportunity to maximize the use of our weigh wagon to perform yield monitor calibrations and side by side variety comparisons. Contact any one of our local crop specialists to discuss our grid mapping program or to schedule the use of our weigh wagons.

Restricted Use Pesticide License

If you are going to be applying your own restricted use pesticides (RUP's), we need to have a current copy of your RUP license before this spring. It is your responsibility to maintain this license if you do your own spraying.

A list of RUP's can be found at: <http://www.ohioagriculture.gov/plant/curr/pr/plnt-pr-index.stm>

Morrall Companies new Convey-All Equipment Dealer

Morrall Companies is excited to introduce Convey-All Equipment as one of the newest products available at our locations. As the seed industry from year to year continues to grow and adapt new methods of becoming more efficient, it became obvious that we needed to take the next step in being able to service our customers with what they need. Convey-All equipment is specifically designed to handle seed and grain with quality in mind. All of Convey-All Equipment utilizes belt conveyors, not screw augers. Growers who raise seed or transfer their own seed around the farm will greatly benefit from using these units. As planting equipment is becoming more evolved and bulk seed is becoming more widespread this seed handling equipment is a necessity. This is where our Seed Tenders have a perfect fit into your operation. Morrall Companies has always wanted to provide our customers with the best, and by handling Convey-All Equipment we ensure you that you will get the best seed handling equipment you need for your operation.

We offer the full line of Convey-All equipment and will be able to help assist in customizing these items for your specific needs. A few items that have been popular lately are Seed Tenders, Drive over Conveyors, and Gooseneck Conveyors. There are a few seed tenders on display at the Caledonia location. Please feel free to stop in and look or call your sales rep at Morrall Companies and we will be pleased to help you. There are many offers available to you as a grower purchasing this equipment, so we strongly urge you to consider us when making your next seed or grain handling equipment purchase.

White Mold & Corn Ear Molds

WHITE MOLD IN SOYBEANS

Area soybean fields have been hit with Sclerotinia White Mold. It will most likely be found in every field. The majority of fields will have small pockets that will have minimal effect on overall yield. These pockets will show up as small areas that die off ahead of the surrounding beans. However, there will be a few fields that will have moderate to heavy damage. These fields could suffer 10%-25% yield reductions.

The cool, wet summer that we have experienced set this mold outbreak up nicely. Our normal summers produce enough heat and dry spells to keep this fungus in check. In fact, we have not had a large outbreak in Ohio for quite a few years. The mold requires decaying plant material to get started, then the right combination of moisture and temperatures to spread. Little can be done to control the infection once it is visible in the field, and prevention with fungicides is erratic at best. Suggested practices:

- Crop rotation is the number one recommendation
- Plant resistant varieties. This is very challenging for seed companies due to the infrequent occurrence of this problem.
- Start with clean seed. Stems and debris are carriers.
- Control weeds. They can also serve as hosts.
- Tillage to bury residues.

More information about this problem is available through an OSU Extension Fact Sheet (http://ohioline.osu.edu/ac-fact/pdf/AC_45_08.pdf).

DIPLODIA EAR ROT IN CORN

There are a lot of things going on in our corn fields this fall, and most of them are not good. The majority of disease problems that we will be seeing will involve Diplodia Ear Rot. Of all the nasty rots, fungus, and diseases we can get in corn, this one is probably the least damaging to the overall crop, and therefore, your investment. However, in sufficient quantity it will cause yield reductions. The basics of Diplodia Ear Rot:

It appears as a whitish mold, usually starting at the base of the ear and working its way up the ear. It can start at the tip and work its way down. This can occur when there is some form of damage to the tip; i.e., insect feeding, bird damage. Diplodia does not create a toxin that impairs grain use in the livestock industry. The main form of loss will be in low test weight kernels on infected grain.

Diplodia survives in corn residue, but is very mobile with the wind. Tillage does not necessarily insulate you from this mold problem. Combined with other molds that may be in the field with Diplodia, it will be prudent to set your combine fan setting at elevated levels to blow light, diseased kernels out of the back of the machine.

More information about this problem is available through:
www.ohioline.osu.edu/ac-fact/0046.html
www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/BP/BP.75-W.pdf

Dear Valued Customer,

By the time you read this letter, I hope your harvest is well under way. 2009 has been an incredible challenge for everyone in the ag business. We all hope that next year will have less volatility and continued strong demand for your output.

We have been adding new assets and repairing old ones to meet your needs. Please stop and see what's new at both Morral and Caledonia. New rolling stock, new application equipment, new seed handling equipment, new tanks, and a couple new building additions, just to name a few.

Morral was one of the original "Hub" plants in Ohio and has been servicing local farmers for many years. Our growth has not happened on its own – good customers like you have built two tremendous facilities to take care of your needs. Thank you for your business – we very much appreciate it.

If I can help in any way, please feel free to call me or email at dqgates@morralcompanies.com. You can also reach us on Facebook or Twitter. Please enjoy the newsletter and stay safe. Thanks again.
Sincerely,

Daryl R. Gates
President & CEO



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