



Welcome to Ground Work

Fertilizing Soybeans

11/6/2012

When it comes to fertility, many times soybeans are left to scavenge whatever they can find after a corn crop. But with soybean prices where they are now, a growing number of farmers are doing everything they can to increase yields.

This year, one of our growers in northern Indiana raised 70-bushel soybeans, compared to his farm's average yield of 50-55 bushels. The extra 15-20 bushels at 2012 prices put a smile on his face and money in his bank account.

So, how'd he do it? First, he laid the base back in the fall of 2010 with gypsum in some weak areas. He followed up with liquid hog manure in the fall of 2011. At planting time this spring he applied **Practi-Cal**, **SP-1™**, **Trace Pak**, and molasses in a 2x2 band. The goal was to solubilize more nutrients and increase uptake with a much larger root system. He also used a late season fungicide.

This summer on our field visits we observed a very large number of feeder roots, especially on the side with the **Practi-Cal** and **SP-1™**.

Check out this photo we took of the feeder roots:



This fall, after harvesting his 70-bushel soybeans, the grower applied **Residue™** and drilled in a cover crop to help loosen the soil, decompose the bean residue, and turn those large root systems into carbon and stable nutrients for next year's corn crop.

Bottom line: A good fertility program pays!