



Finish and Evaluate

8/23/13

We're approaching September. It's time to put our finishing management in place for our current crop year, and to evaluate our fields for 2014.

Finishing our 2013 Crops

Many of our foliar successes have been late season applications. Filling pods, ears, or fruit without cannibalizing the plant can be aided with late season fertility. We have several late season options we can customize to your crops.

A recent **Ground Work** article addressed "winterizing" your crops. We need to finish out some late planted crops, build root reserves in our perennials, and put "the icing on the cake" of some very good crops. Can your yield and test weight still be bumped?

Thinking 2014

Spend some time observing and gathering data for next year.

Did your fertility program do its job? Most of us are in the time frame when deficiencies will show if the fertility is short. Tissue testing and stalk nitrate testing will give an indication of proper fertility. Plant testing can help you and us in designing the right program for next year.

If you have followed AgriEnergy for a period of time you know we are proud of our program's ability to reduce the amount of added nitrogen and phosphorus required for your crop. We look at plots to continuously evaluate performance; but in the absence of plots on your farm, plant testing and visual observations go a long way.

How is your tilth and soil health? Did excessive rain set you back? Whether you are new to biological farming or suffered from the weather this year there are things to be done for next year's benefit.

Have you soil tested recently? Would you benefit from lime, gypsum, or other calcium sources such as **Practi-Cal**?

Do you need some fall tillage? The odds of keeping tilled soils "loose" increase dramatically with the addition of calcium and a live microbial package such as **Residuece™**. When we mechanically loosen the soil deep (4 or more inches) we desire for the soil to stay loose enough for roots to penetrate deep next spring/summer. If we change the soil charges with calcium AND colonize the fresh residue to a greater aerobic depth, we GREATLY increase the odds of obtaining a deeper aerobic zone with greater root mass.

Talk with your AER representative about finishing your 2013 crop and planning for your 2014 crop. Your rep can help you with:

- Late season foliars
- Putting your perennials to bed
- Late season field evaluations
- Soil testing and recommendations
- Tillage needs
- Strip-till fertilizers
- Residue management