



Don't Put the Sprayer Away Yet

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Weather conditions have been extremely variable across the AgriEnergy customer base - everything from can't miss a rain to can't buy a rain. A few areas have had timely rains and are looking at great crop prospects. One fact remains a constant in crop production, regardless of weather conditions. That being, in order to achieve top yields, you have to maintain crop health and vitality all the way to maturity. On corn that means at maturity you should have a green plant with brown husks on it.

It is important to maintain plant health and nutrition in corn and beans until maturity because half of the dry matter, or yield, is accumulated in the last 30 days before maturity. Other crops have a similar pattern - fruit sizing is where the biggest yield gains are to be found. The plants need to keep drawing energy in to continue growing grain or fruit size. Good plant stands and kernel counts are important, but they are not the whole story. A great deal can be lost at the end of the season on crops that don't finish well.

This is where foliar applications of nutrients, biologicals and plant protectants can play a big role. Foliar applications, at critical times, can keep the plant functioning and accumulating yields. *When are foliar applications the most effective?* Any time the plant is not able to get all of its' nutrient needs met from the soil. That can be when the soil is too wet and microbes are not able to thrive and release nutrients in the soil. It can be when soils are too dry and there is not much movement of nutrients in the soil solution. It can be during periods of peak nutrient demand such as pollination and grain fill. How often have you seen a good crop “run out of gas” and end up with a disappointing yield? The kernel count was there but the kernel size and weight came up short, due to a lack of energy in the plant to fill grain properly.

We have seen some of the biggest yield increases with late season foliar applications. Putting energy in the plant and providing missing nutrients during grain fill helps to size the seed better and can also help maintain plant health longer in the season. Late season foliars on corn would be from brown silk through the milk stage. Soybeans can be foliar sprayed very successfully from mid pod fill up to leaf yellowing.

AgriEnergy has a variety of products that can help you finish your crops. For the biological farms, products of choice include **Corn Foliar**, **AgriBoost PK** and additional supplemental micronutrients. Organic farmers might choose from **Pillar 15**, **AgroThrive LF**, **Dramm O fish**, **K-Sulfate**, and a micronutrient package.

We have many other options that can be tailored to fit your situation also. We like to include **SP-1™** in our foliar applications, along with a good adjuvant such as **WakeUp Summer** or **OroBoost**. Tissue, petiole or plant sap tests provide useful information to help make nutrient decisions. Consult your **AgriEnergy Resources** representative to put a late season foliar program together for your farm. At least try it on a few acres and get some side by side comparisons. You might be very pleasantly surprised at the results!