



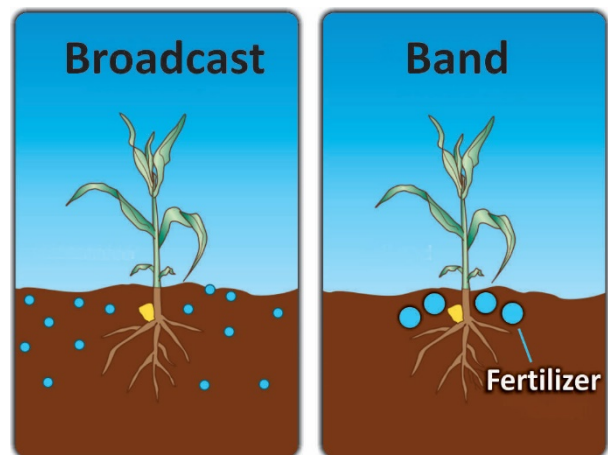
Have You Considered Starter Fertilizer?

We have been discussing the impact of the wet weather the past two seasons. Many growers will face compaction issues, lack of residue decomposition going into spring and a general lack of beneficial biology.

As we contemplate how to deal with issues in the coming season and consider the current market conditions, being efficient is going to be critical to be profitable.

Banding fertilizer has proven to address many of these areas. Banding refers to placing nutrients (fertilizers) into a concentrated area for crop roots to access. These include fall/spring strip till applications, starter fertilizers, either in furrow or "2 x 2".

It is estimated that banding is at least 50% more efficient than broadcasting a fertilizer. A high percentage of the nutrients that get broadcasted are tied up by the soil before the plant can use them.



The inefficiency of broadcasting becomes even more apparent with compacted soils because the roots will explore less in compacted soils. The increased efficiency of banding allows you to save money on fertilizer applications, while maintaining or improving yields.

With the reduction in active soil biology, reduced decomposition of residue and cooler soil temperatures which result from the previous scenarios, there will be a greater nutrient demand early in the season. It is critical to provide enough nutrients to the developing crop.

Consideration should be given to the following:

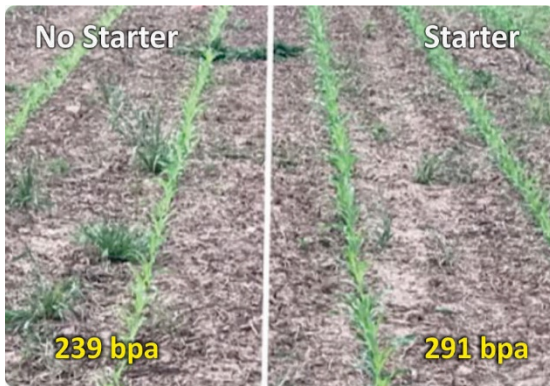
You may need to front load more Nitrogen than normal on your corn acres this season.

Include SP-1 in all starter applications to re-energize soil. SP-1 inoculates the roots with beneficial microbes to increase nutrient cycling and enhance nutrient recovery.

Phosphorus availability from the soil is greatly reduced in cool/compacted soil. A starter is likely the best choice to support early vigorous crop development.



Implement a **Residue** program to reinvigorate your soil health and speed the nutrient recycling of your crop residues.



Starter fertilizer applied at planting allows for precise placement of nutrients near the root zone. We know roots will access what is put on with the planter.

Douglas Plant Health/AgriEnergy has a diverse selection of starter products for organic and conventional growers available for most desired applications.

Conventional growers can choose from our proprietary products such as 4-21-4 and Starter Blend, as well as most common blends. Organic growers can use products like Pillar, Basic O, PKT Blend, N-Force, Dramm O, or 2-0-2.

Your DPH field agronomist can help you make the best choice for your operation.

At our recent seminars, Dan Denman shared that corn yields can be accurately predicted at V6 (knee high corn) by using satellite imagery to measure vegetative growth. This clearly proves the importance of getting our crops off to a great start is directly related to our operations net profit.



815.872.1190

Give us a call today so we can help you maximize your Total Farm Profitability.