



## ***Reasons for Optimism***

5/24/2019

We know it's been an extremely, challenging planting season across the country. Mother Nature doesn't make it easy, but our outlook doesn't need to be as gloomy as the weather. It's not fair, but what are the options? There have been positive situations with late planting.

We've all experienced earlier planted crops typically outshine those planted later, but here are some real life examples of late successes:

- **On May 31, 2011**, a northeast Ohio dealer, who is a firm believer of in-furrow starter programs, saw a 36.5 bushel increase on treated corn. He blended 2 gallons of **SP-1™** with 5 gallons of **PKT Blend** in-furrow and yielded 223.68 bushels/acre. It was also **4 points drier at harvest!**
- **On June 4, 2013**, a northwest Illinois farmer replanted an 80-acres of organic corn. That field averaged 248 bushels/acre of dry corn.

You may still be questioning the odds of high yields as we get later and later, but that doesn't mean a good corn crop is out of reach. There are things you can do to assure your corn crop doesn't experience a "bad day". Consider:

- Re-evaluating the maturity of the hybrids you plant.
- Pushing your crop to maturity - starter fertilizer can help accelerate early root development and growth. A southern Illinois farmer recently used a starter, which consisted of 5 gallons of **4-21-4**, .5 gallons trace element mix, and 3 gallons of **SP-1™** in-furrow. As you can see in the picture, there's already a visible difference between the treated and check. Last year,

the same grower, conducted a similar trial showing the check made 240.6 bushels/acre, while the treated made 292.8 bushels/acre.

- Be on the lookout for insects such as wire worms, seed corn

maggots, black cutworms, and army worms. They flock to the green growth created by weeds and cover crops. *Adding protection with the planter may be warranted - Ask us how.*



Much of the crop will be planted in less-than-desirable conditions. There's one more option to consider. In the last Ground Work, we talked about using a highly available calcium and a microbial package to restore soil tilth and allow biology to work its' magic. Didn't receive it - Call your rep, and we'll be sure to e-mail it to you.

Tillage can also play a role. We've seen creating a mulch of fine soil on the surface changes the way water moves by capillary action, allowing the soil to begin "healing" itself. Case in point, was corn planted into very wet timber soil, which caused the soil to crust on the surface. The field was rotary-hoed to help break the crust to establish the corn stand. The soil was so hard, it required a second hoeing to achieve that, however one week later (without rain), the soil became so loose, you could dig freely, by hand, 3-4 inches deep. This can be created with a rotary-hoe, drag-harrow, tine-weeder, or row crop cultivator.

Stay tune for more thought on how to get late planted crops to the finish line. *Consult your AgriEnergy representative for things you can do to help your crops win the race against the weather! 815.872.1190.*