Pre Sidedress Nitrate Test (PSNT)

5/20/2015

Over the years, many growers have found the Pre Sidedress Nitrate Test, or **PSNT**, to be a reliable indicator of nitrogen (N) availability to the corn crop. By sampling fields when corn is near the six-leaf stage (8-12" tall), the PSNT predicts whether the soil contains adequate N to carry the plant to maturity. If your soil does not contain **21-25 parts per million** at this time, additional N applications are probably beneficial.

Please note: Colorimetric, tissue, or petiole tests can tell you the *crop's* current nitrogen levels, but they won't predict the *soil's* continued ability to supply needed nitrogen.

The **AgriEnergy Resources** staff has found the PSNT to be a valuable tool in evaluating biologically active soils. Over the years, many plots have shown higher PSNT levels where **Residuce®**, **SP-1™**, and **Myco Seed Treat®** have been included in fertility programs. Why?

- Microbial activity in the soil leads to increased cycling of nitrogen in the rhizosphere, which can lead to a more consistent availability of N to the crop throughout the growing season.

- A biologically active soil can make more efficient use of applied nitrogen sources such as manures, compost, legume cover crops, and N fertilizers. This can mean maintaining or even increasing yields without increasing applications of N fertilizers.

AgriEnergy Resources *strongly recommends and encourages pre sidedress nitrate testing. If you have questions about the PSNT, or need help interpreting the test numbers, give your AgriEnergy Representative a call.* ***We're here to help you evaluate your nitrogen needs.***