



Beat the Cash Flow Crunch by Banding Liquids

10/6/2014

Many growers are concerned about cash flow for the coming year as commodity prices have come down faster than input prices, creating a potential cash flow and profit crunch. This means a renewed emphasis on **lowering cost per unit of production** is needed.

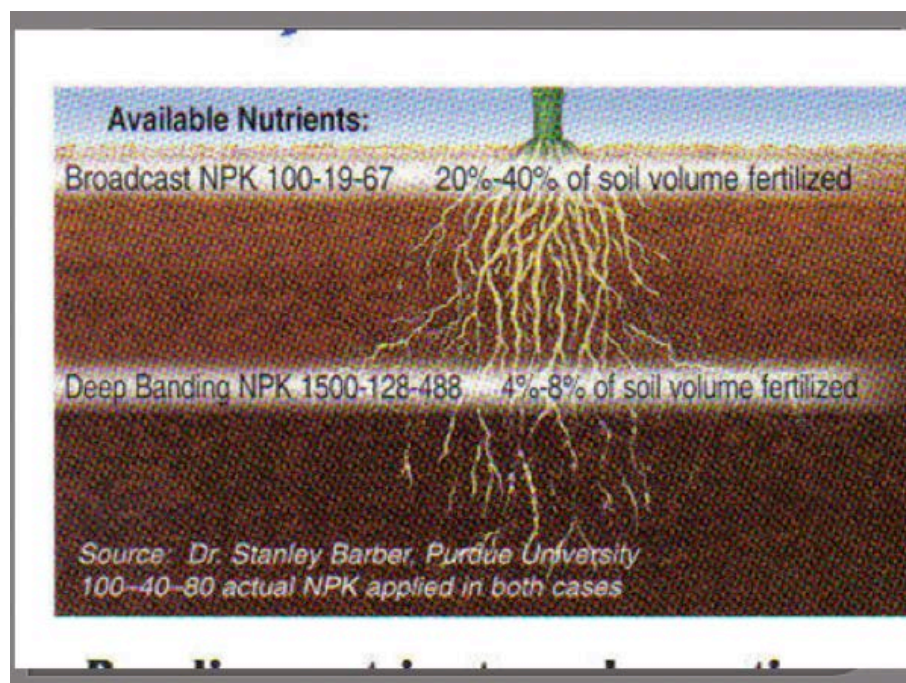
One of the major costs for a lot of producers is dry fertilizer used for crop production. One of the main reasons that broadcasting dry fertilizer is so expensive is that it is not very efficient in providing for the crops needs. This inefficiency is due to a high percentage of the nutrients being “fixed” or tied up by the soil itself. Phosphorus is subject to being tied up by calcium and/or aluminum. Potassium gets tied up within the lattice of the clay crystals, especially if it is too wet or too dry.

There are ways to manage around this problem. One effective tool is to **band fertilizer**.

- Banding refers to applying fertilizer in a narrow strip rather than spreading it over the entire surface of the field.
- Banding concentrates nutrients to favor uptake by overwhelming the soils fixation capacity thereby delaying immobilization of nutrients.
- You can band liquids for the same or less money than broadcasting dry fertilizer and achieve better results.

For example, to replace the phosphorus and potassium in a 220 bushel/acre corn crop, it would take 205# of 18-46-0 and 103# of 0-0-60. That broadcast application would cost around \$85/acre. We have observed over the years that banding as little as 20-25# of phosphorus and 20-25# of potassium can grow top corn yields even on soils testing low in P and K. This fall, that application could be done for \$50/acre.

The bottom line is that banding allows greater nutrient uptake with fewer applied nutrients. **More bang for the buck.** The illustration below helps to demonstrate this:



There are many options for banding liquids.

- Liquids can be put in furrow for quick, early access by the crop. Be sure to use a fertilizer that is seed safe for your conditions.
- Liquid fertilizer can be banded beside the row at planting time as well.
- Other options for banding liquids include fall or spring strip till applications and sidedress applications.
- Banding can be done in one application or a combination of applications.

Liquid fertilizers offer the convenience of being able to blend appropriate rates of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium along with needed micronutrients. **A uniform blend** can be delivered **within close proximity to the roots** when the crop needs it. Humic and fulvic acids and sugars can be added to complex and buffer the nutrients and enhance fertilizer efficiency. Adding microbial products such as **SP-1™** further enhances efficiency.

*Consult your **AgriEnergy Resources** representative before you order dry fertilizer. We can build a liquid fertility program suited to your farm and help you ease the cash flow crunch.*

Our Bottom Line: Banding AgriEnergy's liquid fertilizers can help YOUR 2015 Bottom Line!