



Banding Liquids – Good for Your Crop and Your Cash Flow ***3/27/2014***

Growers are always thinking about bumper crops and record commodity prices. But this year we're seeing a renewed emphasis on **cash flow** and lowering the cost-per-unit-of-production, thanks to the fact that commodity prices have dropped faster than input costs.

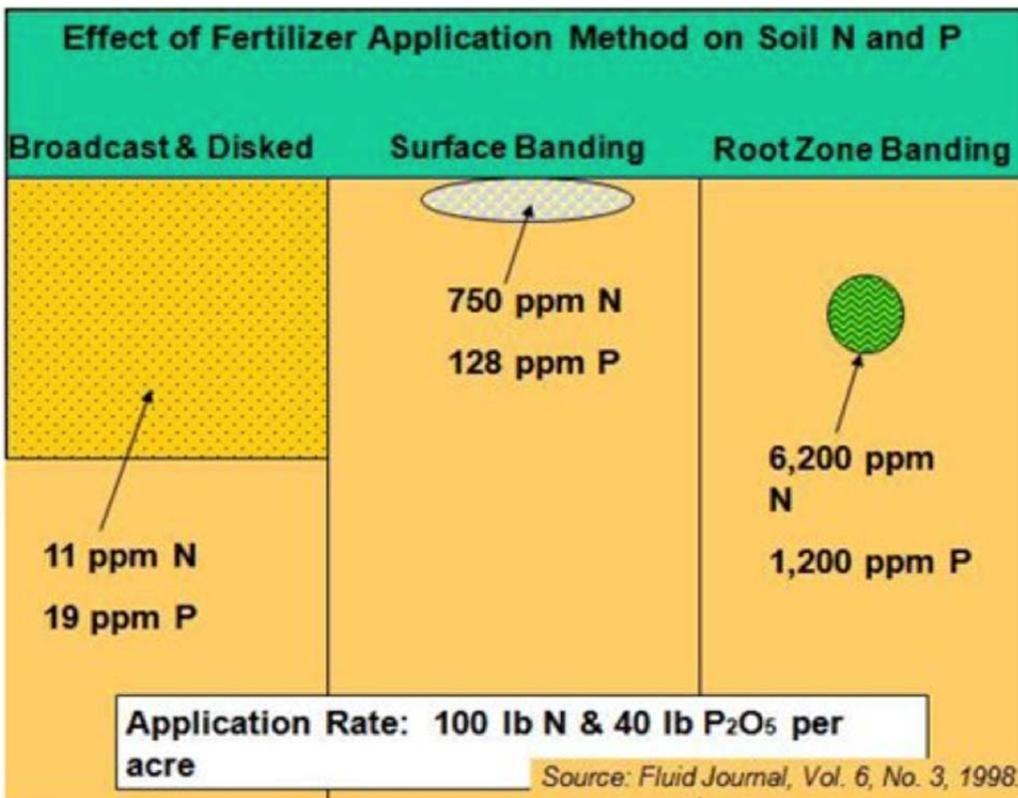
One of the major input costs for a lot of producers is dry fertilizer. And, one of the main reasons that broadcasting dry fertilizer is so expensive is that it is not very efficient in providing for the crop's needs.

This inefficiency is due to a high percentage of the nutrients being "fixed" or "tied up" by the soil itself. For example:

- Phosphorus is subject to being tied up by calcium and/or aluminum
- Potassium gets tied up by the clay colloids in the soil

There are solutions to 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. This puts the fertilizer in contact with relatively less soil and helps overcome the tie up issues. The following illustration helps to demonstrate this.



Another way to improve efficiency is to blend the fertilizer with a chelating or complexing agent. This is accomplished by using materials that have electrical charges that attract to the electrical charges of the fertilizer. This also helps to prevent tie up of fertilizer in the soil. The products that AgriEnergy Resources prefers to use for this are carbon-based materials such as humic and fulvic acids and sugars.

The third approach to increasing efficiency is to ramp up the biological activity in your soil to harness the microbes to recycle nutrients and solubilize nutrients from the soil profile. There are many different organisms that have the ability to act in that capacity. Having a high population of diverse organisms working in your soil really enhances nutrient use efficiency.

Banding liquids is a convenient way to take advantage of all three of these concepts, and to reduce your fertilizer costs. Consider the following:

- 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.

- Liquid fertilizers offer the convenience of being able to blend appropriate rates of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium along with needed micronutrients.
- Humic and fulvic acids and sugars can be added to complex the nutrients to further enhance efficiency.
- And lastly, microbial products such as **SP-1™** can be blended at application time to jumpstart the biology in your soils.

Over the years, we have observed that banding as little as 20# of phosphorus and 20# of potassium can grow top corn yields – even on soils testing low in P and K!

Call your AgriEnergy representative today. Get set up with a competitively priced liquid fertility program for 2014. **Let us help with your bottom line and cash flow, so you can think about the weather, commodity prices, and yields.**