

THE HAY STACK

JUNE 2018

Meet the intern....

Name: **Hunter Welch**

Hometown: **Elk Point**

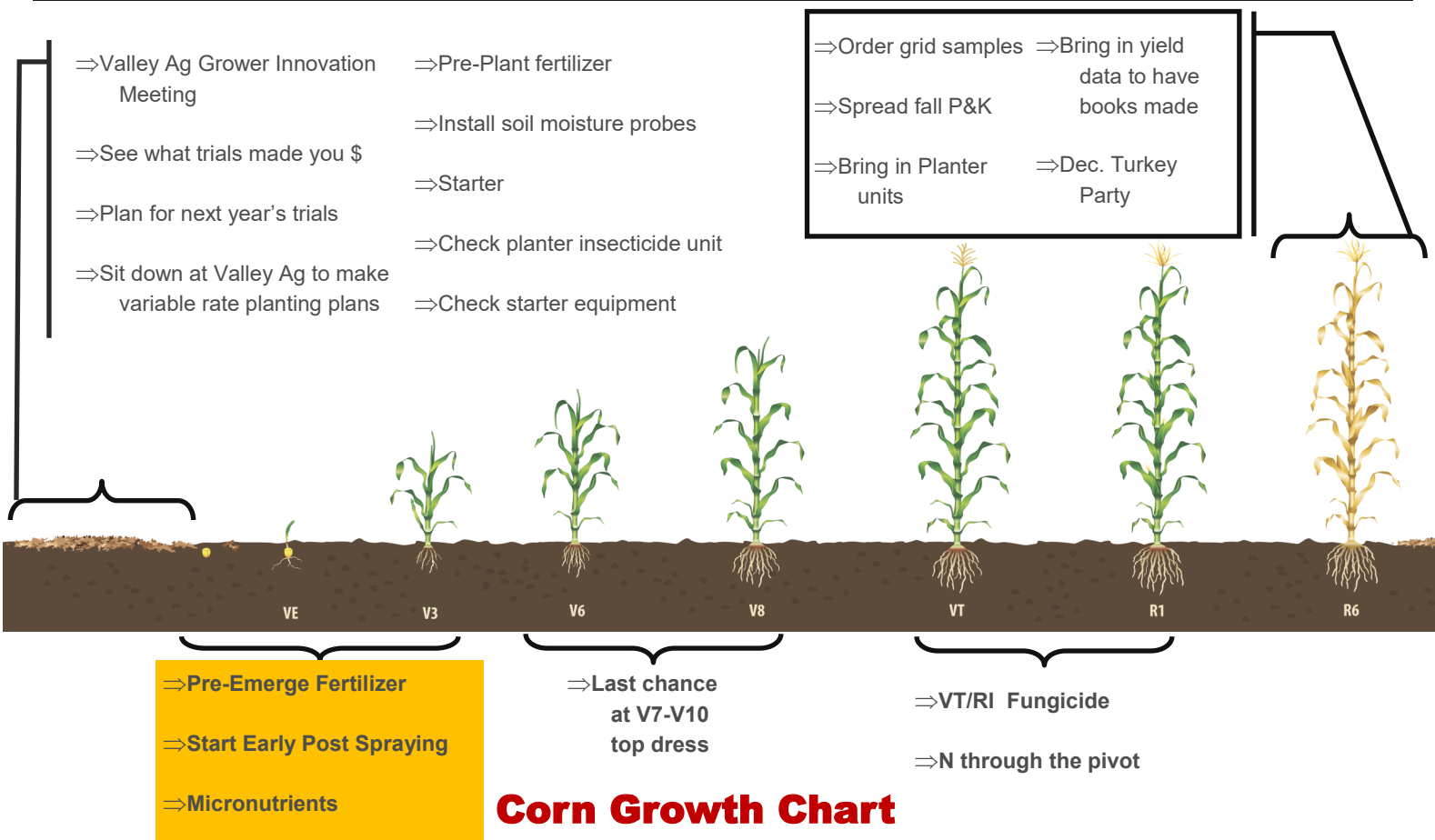
What do you hope to learn? **How to properly make recommendations to best suit the grower.**

What do you hope is easy by the time you leave VAS? **Talking with farmers about concerns. Also running machines to be a bigger asset to the company.**

What is the hardest thing you've done so far? **Learning how to run the sprayer for the first time.**

Why did you choose agriculture or similar as a major? **I enjoy the outdoors and being challenged daily.**

What do you like to do when you're not at VAS? **Hunting, fishing, boating and 4 wheeling**



From Greg's Desk

I am glad to be here. Spring was a push. Jimmy called it schizophrenic. There is no other group of coworkers that I would want to go into this kind of year with. Thanks for trusting us this spring.

We have been selling seed for over twenty years. We have worked with Dekalb and Asgrow now for 15 years. They have consistently had solid genetics and very solid traits. With all seed there is nature involved. Asgrow and Dekalb have also stood behind their seed.

In the last couple of years, we have also started working with Croplan. They have the most extensive test plot system in the industry. Their Answer Plots are great places to learn more about agronomy. We are excited to have the opportunity to take folks to the Answer Plots and show what is happening. I guarantee you will learn something. Watch for invitations in the haystack, the mail, and through your agronomy person.

We had plenty of moisture this spring, so why do we need to talk about it again? Well, we are in South Dakota, and I bet at some point the pivots will get used. **We are once again offering to place moisture sensors out in your field.** The sensor collects moisture data 24/7. We send our reports to customers two times a week. It is a great tool to help manage the water. Over the years, we have seen that folks have a tendency to over water. Well, you paid for the thing, you might as well use it, right? I understand, but that can cause some problems.

~Way too much water will make lazy roots. If the corn is getting water every couple of days the roots will not grow down. The plant can blow over in the wind. And you will not get to utilize nutrients deep in the soil. Properly managed corn roots will easily pull water from three or four feet down. This enables the plant to get at more nutrients. It is also good for the soil to have living roots down that deep.

~Secondly, irrigation water is not like rain water. Over watering will tighten up the soil over time. Now we can sell you some gypsum to help fix that, but we would rather not have the problem in the first place. An irrigator is a great thing but so is a sledgehammer. But I would not use a sledgehammer to put up a picture. (I know because I have tried dumb stuff like that.) So do not over water.

Lastly, we have seen bean leaf beetles (on the left) in the volunteer beans. You do not need to worry if you



have fully treated beans. If you do not have insecticide on your beans, you most likely do not need to worry much. I have not seen a bean leaf beetle kill a bean plant, 20% chewed looks a lot worse than it actually is. Threshold is around 40% munched up (professional agronomy term). But it can introduce bean pod mottle virus (picture to the right), that would be the biggest reason to kill them early.



son to kill them early.

We are also starting to test corn fields for nitrate and tissue sampling for micronutrients. If you have plenty of nitrogen why add more (We are nice people, but we do not need to sell you something you do not need). On the other hand, if you are short we do not want to short a crop! Lets get the most out of this year.

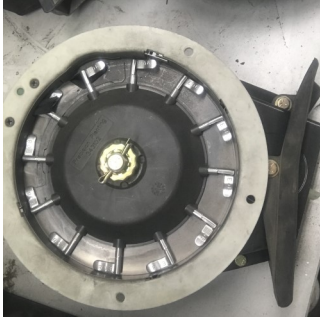
The tissue test will help us see how the plant is doing on nutrients. How is the balance of nutrients doing in the plant?

Lastly, lastly for real this time-Get your paper work in for the mirror ball challenge. It's a yield challenge on irrigated and dryland beans and corn. Talk to me or your agronomist here to sign yourself up! It does not cost anything. 20 acres of corn or soybeans will get you in to the project. You will get a supper next winter to talk about the results and you may get a fancy trophy for the year. Your spouse would be proud to put it in front of the front window. Kind of like a fancy lamp in the movie "A Christmas Story" from when I was a kid. The point is to have some fun and learn something.

• Greg Pirak

Precision Planting with Tyler Doty

On a windy day, have you ever had your planting population spot on going into the wind, but with the wind at your back your population is 4,000 seeds high? There is nothing wrong with your seed meters, but old style seed tubes are counting dust as seed multiples.



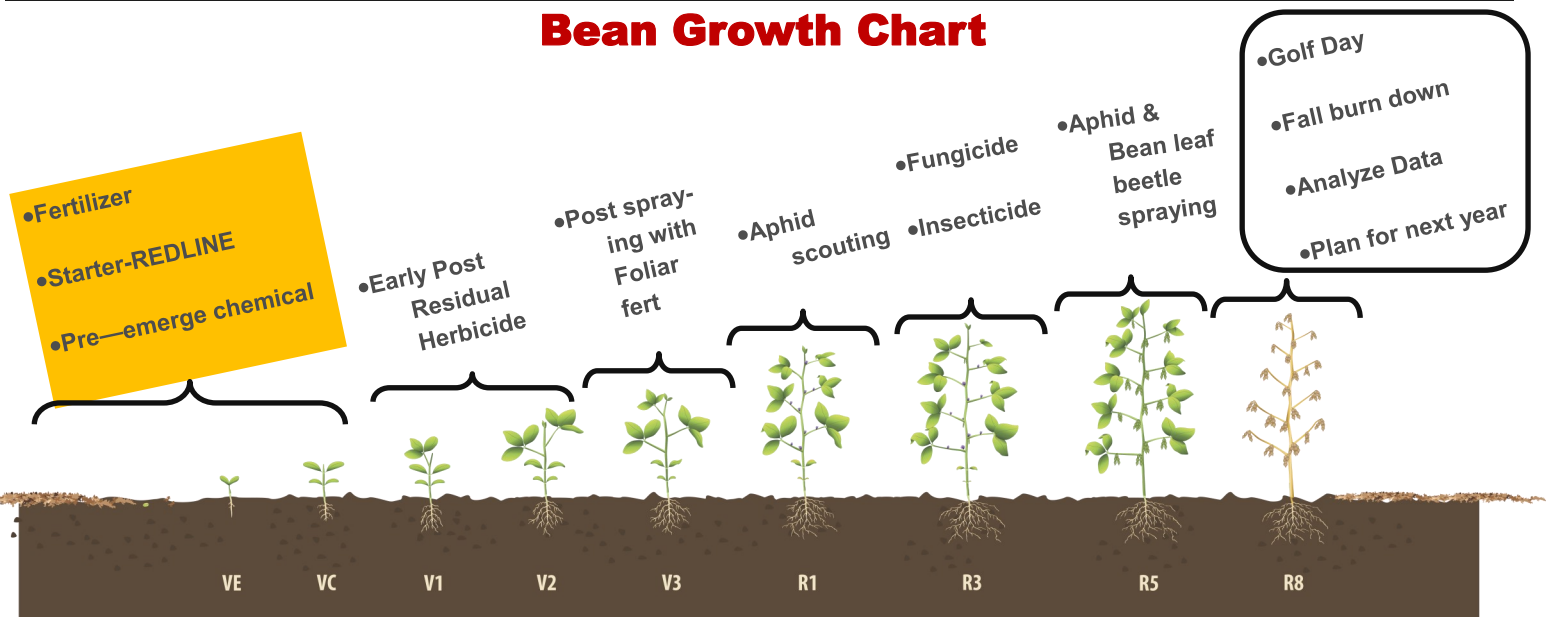
Why is it important to record the right population? We use population to compare to your yield to see if it pays to put the extra seed out. If the recorded data shows that you are putting out an extra 4,000 seeds and not getting any better yield, then we assume it is not a good idea to put out more seed.

The real problem is not getting the right amount of seeds recorded when it was planted.

Here at Valley Ag we can help you do a better job at sensing only the seed coming through the tube and not the dust that swirls around. The answer is the Precision Planting Wave Vision seed tubes. They have high frequency radio waves that measure the density of anything passing through the seed tube taking a three dimensional view. They also are not fooled by dust. Which leads to better data and better decisions. If you have any questions or are looking for a price contact Tyler at Valley Ag Supply in Gayville.



Bean Growth Chart



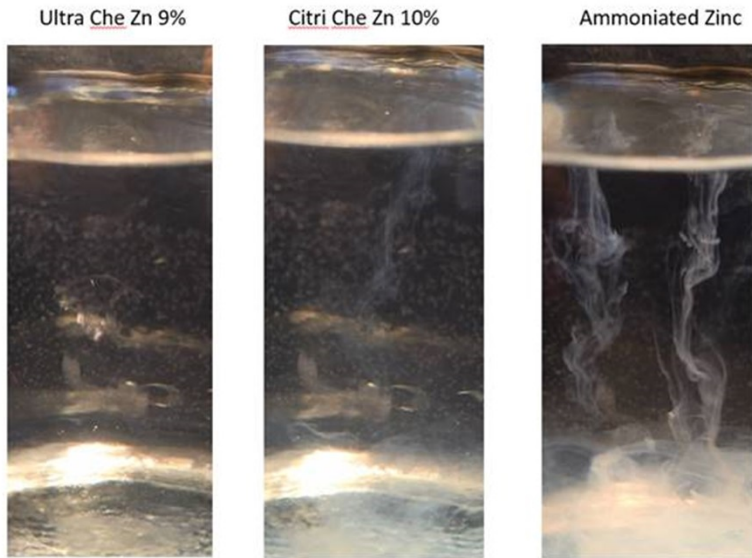
When Everything is Delayed

by Alan Moehring

Phosphorus aids in cell division and early plant growth. Starter fertilizer helps improve root and shoot growth, earlier tassel timing and quicker maturity. Phosphorus moves primarily by diffusion to improve uptake. We need to either increase soil test phosphorus by high amendments or position phosphorus closer to the roots. Phosphorus availability can be reduced as soil pH moves further from 6.8 either up or down.

Zinc is involved in production of chlorophyll, protein, and plant enzymes. It is taken up throughout the plants life with a spike in uptake around V8 -V10. With zinc being needed throughout the season multiple applications help ensure up-take into the plant. Zinc needs to be in a Zn^{++} for it to be taken into the roots, which is why in -furrow products are complexed and chelated. Two positive charges help maintain availability. Making sure to get the right kind of chelate is important so zinc stays available as long as possible.

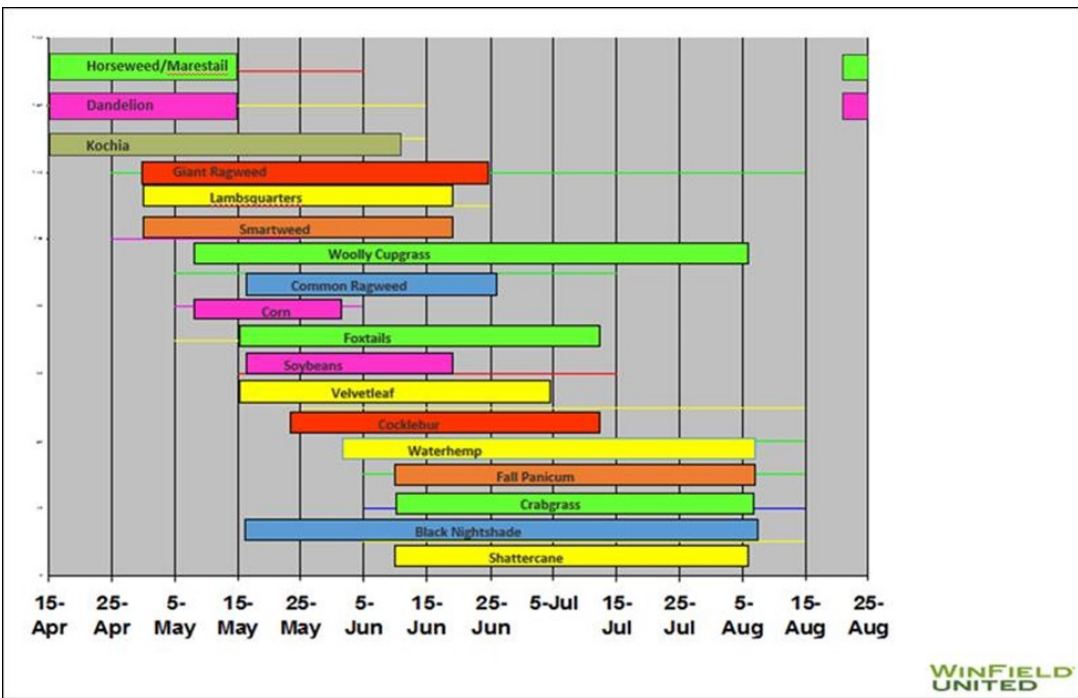
Zinc in a carbonate solution (soil)



We have all heard the phrase “start clean stay clean”, with wet fields it can often be tough to get into the fields before the weeds come up. Knowing when weeds emerge and what chemical and adjuvants to use is critical to be most effective on those tough to control weeds.

When the fields are especially weedy, it is important to use the higher end of the rate range and to make sure we are targeting weeds less than 4”.

Figure 2: Different chelated zincs in a carbonate (high pH) soil. Note that the white cloudy visual is precipitated zinc, which is unavailable to the plant. Clear= good, white/cloudy=bad



Every crop has a critical weed free period, both corn and soybean’s critical weed free period starts early in the plant’s life. If the crop emerges with weeds present, yield loss can be expected. Corn must be weed free for a period of 3-5 weeks after emergence, while soybeans must be weed free for a period of 2-4 weeks after planting at minimum. In soybeans a person can lose .7bu/A for every 1inch of weed growth and in corn 4.8 bu/A for every 1 inch of weed growth.

2019 California Fungicide Trip update:

Planning is off to a great start! We've got lodging and several farm visits already shored up. How would you like to eat supper in a cherry orchard? What about a walk in Yosemite? 700 acres of Trivapro (or Quilt Xcel) fungicide applied this summer on your corn, beans (or wheat!) will allow you and a guest to go on our 2019 fungicide ag trip to California.



Fungicide Yield Benefits...Is it Worth the Cost?

By Arlo Lykken

- What was the previous crop?
- What has the weather been like?
- Does the field have a history of disease?
- Do I need to make a trip across the field with insecticide and/or herbicide?
- Is the timing right for a fungicide application?
- Do I have hybrids or varieties that are susceptible to fungal diseases?

A product's efficacy depends on proper application timing, rate, and application method as determined by the product label and overall level of disease in the field. Timing on corn could be at V5 or tassel. For soybeans R2 through R3

Cool and humid weather conditions at vegetative growth stages and during grain fill can increase common rust and northern corn leaf blight in some fields. Warm and humid weather favors gray leaf spot, Northern Corn Leaf Blight, common rust, and other fungal diseases that can be managed with fungicides. Northern Leaf Blight has become a lot more common in our area the last few years. Anthracnose leaf blight is becoming more of a problem because more farmers are using tillage tools that leave a lot of the corn trash on the surface thus having more contact with spores from the old residue.

Preventive fungicide applications can help corn and soybean in a whole-plant health approach. Beyond just protecting crops against yield-robbing diseases. Better general plant health can have a lot of positive effects on crops. Better nitrogen utilization, increased photosynthesis, improved stress tolerance and better standability are all benefits. University studies also explain that a fungicide application nearly always returns your investment, and there is a chance for substantial gains, along with better harvestability. A fungicide treatment maybe something to consider in your operation.



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A Note from Tara...

Seed Billing:

Like in years past, we will be billing seed out in the month of June. That way, once all seed has been received, returned, or re-planted, I'll have final bag counts and I'll bill accordingly.



Contact Us!

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