THE HAY STACK

Late-JUNE 2018

Precision Planting w/Tyler Doty

With planting having ended, how does you corn stand look? Are you happy with how it turned out, or are you looking for ways to improve? If the stand isn't up to your standards, the problem could be poor singulation or a down force issue. If your meters ran great in your cab or on VAS Precision Planting test stand, the problem is not singulation. If they didn't run very well, VAS can run them on the test stand and figure out what's wrong with them, whether it's just a few adjustments on the meter or a complete meter rebuild.

Air Force

Are you still seeing some late emerging or even corn that never came up? Then you are looking at a down force issue. Down Force can be fixed with either air bags or hydraulic down force cylinders.

Delta Force

How many different soil types do you plant across in an 80 acre field? Does the sand need the same amount of down force that the heavy gumbo does? You need a planter that can sense these changes and make the adjustments without having to get out and manually adjust the springs every time you come across a different soil type. Delta Force from Precision Planting is one way to do this. Delta Force takes your existing planter and adds a down force sensor and hydraulic cylinder to each row. This helps make sure that each seed is planted at the optimal down force, ensuring a consistent depth with eliminating excess compaction, row by row.

⇒Valley Ag Grower Innovation Meeting

⇒See what trials made you $

⇒Plan for next year's trials

⇒Sit down at Valley Ag to make variable rate planting plans

⇒Pre-Plant fertilizer

⇒Install soil moisture probes

⇒Starter

⇒Check planter insecticide unit

⇒Check starter equipment

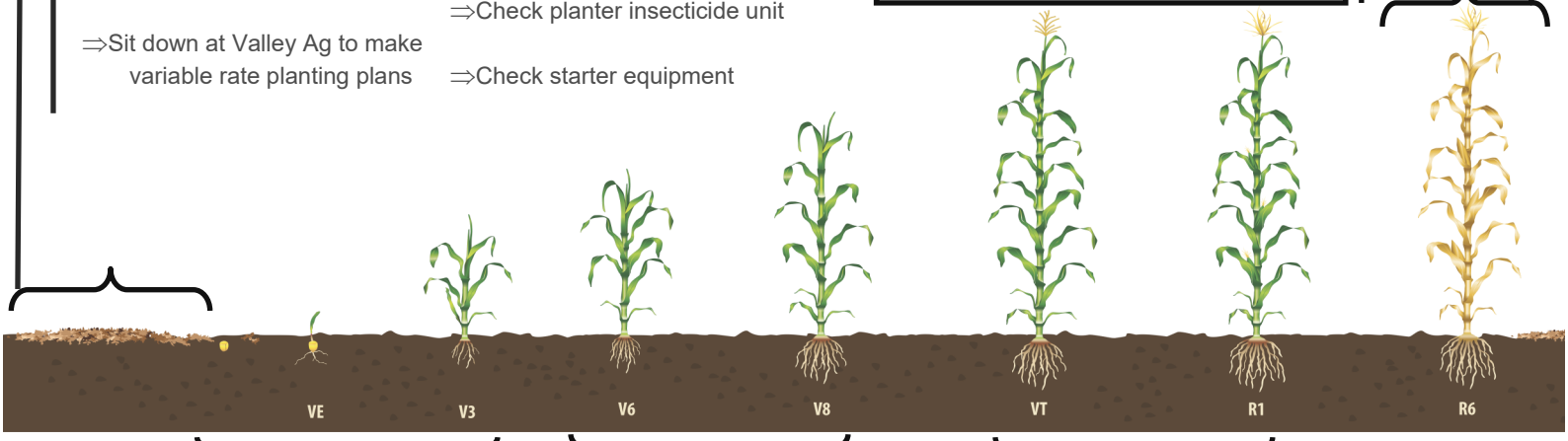
⇒Order grid samples

⇒Spread fall P&K

⇒Bring in Planter units

⇒Bring in yield data to have books made

⇒Dec. Turkey Party



⇒Pre-Emerge Fertilizer

⇒Start Early Post Spraying

⇒Micronutrients

⇒Last chance at V7-V10 top dress

⇒VT/RI Fungicide

⇒N through the pivot

Corn Growth Chart

From Greg's Desk

This season started behind schedule. The good news is that we caught up and surpassed where we were last year with crop development. And the bad news is that we got a lot of rain.

Will soybeans and corn survive being under water? Unfortunately, the answer is similarly to a hail discussion…I will let you know next week. I am not being a smart ass on this one, the agronomy department at Purdue has the same opinion. In general, soybeans can survive under water for 4 to 6 days and corn can survive for 2 to 4 days.

Many factors effect what the plant can tolerate such as:

1. How much of the plant was submerged. The more green material that is out of the water, the more of the plant that is still photosynthesizing.
2. Moving water will have more CO2 present than standing water.
3. Temperatures in the 60's double survivability time while temperature into the 90's cooks the plant quickly.

I wish I had a better answer, but we will see next week what survived. Corn that does survive will most likely produce a yield on par with insurance payments. It generally pays to add some nitrogen because those bushels go into your pocket. The roots on the corn plants will be growing slowly due to the saturated soil. And we may have lost some nitrogen.

Speaking of nitrogen, we have done a lot of nitrate samples this summer. From what I have seen, many fields do need a boost in nitrogen to meet full potential.

In an effort to lighten things up. A Priest, a Rabbi and a Buddhist monk show up at the pearly gates to visit with St. Peter……Oh crap, I might remember the punchline for the next newsletter.

In all seriousness, years like this remind me about what is important. Hugs from family, sharing a joke with friends and working hard when mother nature lets us.

Be sure to whish Tara a happy birthday on July 15!

• *Greg Pirak*

Introducing Scott Bottorff

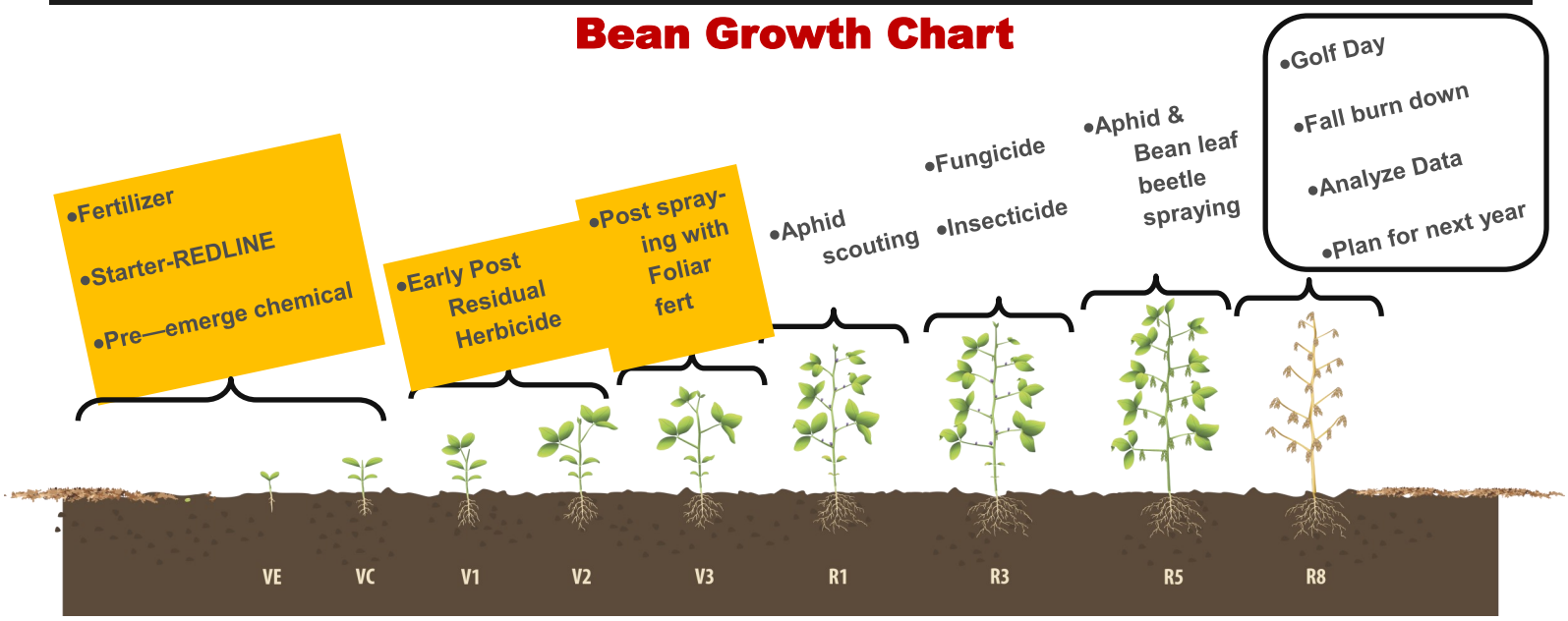
I am Scott Bottorff, one of the newest members of the Valley Ag Supply family. I started to work out of the Spink SD location in November of last year.

I grew up on a farm between Ponca and Newcastle. I am married to Maureen (Morie) and we have two sons Spencer and Chet. I started working it the fertilizer industry 35 years ago first with Boyer Valley Fertilizer in South Sioux City which is now CPS. Then was with Farmers Coop in South Sioux City which is now CVA. I worked out of the same location for 29 years. I have run floaters, sprayers, and have been a salesperson. I was a location manager for 20 yrs. at the South Sioux City location.

I enjoy spending time with the family, traveling, boating, fishing, golf, woodworking, and hunting. We have just recently moved west of Burbank, SD along the Missouri River where we can view the Nebraska Hills to the south.

The first time that I met with Greg, Tara, and Arlo I knew that I would enjoy working for them and with them. It was a big change for me (and my family) to leaving the South Sioux location that I had help build up, but felt that it was time for a change. It just so happened to be the right time to do it and the right company to do it with. I like how Valley Ag Supply (Greg and Tara) take care of their employees and their customers, and how fellow employees made you feel welcome when I came aboard. I am glad to be here. I am looking forward to meeting everyone and working with you.

Bean Growth Chart



Introducing Cody Olson

My name is Cody Olson, I was born in Vermillion and attended Vermillion High School. I grew up on a farm north of town, spending summers baling hay and helping with tillage in the spring and fall. Once I had graduated high school, I attended South Dakota State University to get my four year degree in Ag Systems Technology. During college, I had an internship for a large row crop operation north of Pierre as an assistant farm manager and learned a few different farming practices growing crops in a much more drought prone area of the state. After my four years at SDSU, I took a position as an irrigation service technician out of Brookings, where I worked for a little over two years. This past December, I decided to change directions and get moved back home to Vermillion. Typically I am working out of the Gayville office as a Sales Agronomist and may possibly be seen out scouting your fields throughout the summer. In my spare time I like to go shooting, hunting, four wheeling, and am recently getting into golf (which needs *a lot* of work yet). I am excited to be starting a career here at Valley Ag and hope I can get to know more growers in the area and be of service to them!

A Note from Cody...

It's been a very busy few months getting the spring off to a start and keeping up with our growers' needs. In one week alone we've had a wide array of assignments from corn and bean pre-emerge applications to dry fertilizer floaters and top-dress rigs running adamantly to get acres covered. The soybeans have been looking excellent as they emerge and the corn has been racing upwards as the summer comes into a full swing. Even though planting began later than usual for many areas, the growing degree days are currently nearly 200 units higher than the 30 year average for Yankton County. This being said, the corn should have no problem reaching maturity come harvest time. This last week in June brings an unexpected amount of rainfall with over two inches on Monday and more projected for the next days ahead. The other agronomists and I have been busy scouting fields and taking nitrate/tissue samples for many of our growers. We test the soils for nitrates in house and can have the results back usually within a day or two, while the tissue tests get sent to Midwest Labs in Omaha. Once data is received about what is happening specifically in *your* field, we can make recommendations for adding mid-season micronutrients through foliar applications or adding nitrogen fertilizers to reach your yield goals. Looking ahead we will continue to scout fields this growing season to stay ahead of weeds, insects, and diseases that may threaten to steal yield potential from your crops.

Included are what I am seeing in the fields. Including nutrient deficiencies in a corn plant and waterhemp glyphosate resistance. Make sure you have the right chemical and nutrient program for your fields!

The Importance of Tissue Sampling by Alan Moehring

Tissue sampling can be a great way to see if a plant is using the nutrients in the soil efficiently, whether there is a surplus of a nutrient, or if we are holding plants back in some areas. When we soil sample we see what is in the soil, but that's not always what is available to the plant at that moment. When we tissue test we are able to see what the plant is able to take in and utilize. We can compare this with soil tests to see where some of our tie up issues in the soil happen or if we need to adjust our fertilizing strategy to help increase our yields. In some cases a simple lime application will change the pH, helping nutrients become more available to the plants. Other times when we are noticing deficiencies we can look at the soil and roots and find there may be another issue besides availability. We have had cases in the past where we see compacted or mohawked roots, or roots that have been trimmed back by insects and aren't able to reach the nutrients available to the plant showing deficiency symptoms above ground.

Tissue sampling is a cheap way to help make a decision in season on if we need to add more any more fertilizer such as nitrogen or sulfur at top dress or if we need to put on some foliar nutrients with our post spraying. We have made some late season additions around reproductive stages using pivots and highboys to add critical micronutrients and nitrogen that the plants were lacking. By reading the tissue tests we can help make sure the decisions we made earlier were correct or if we need to change something either immediately or for next year to be the most profitable we can be.

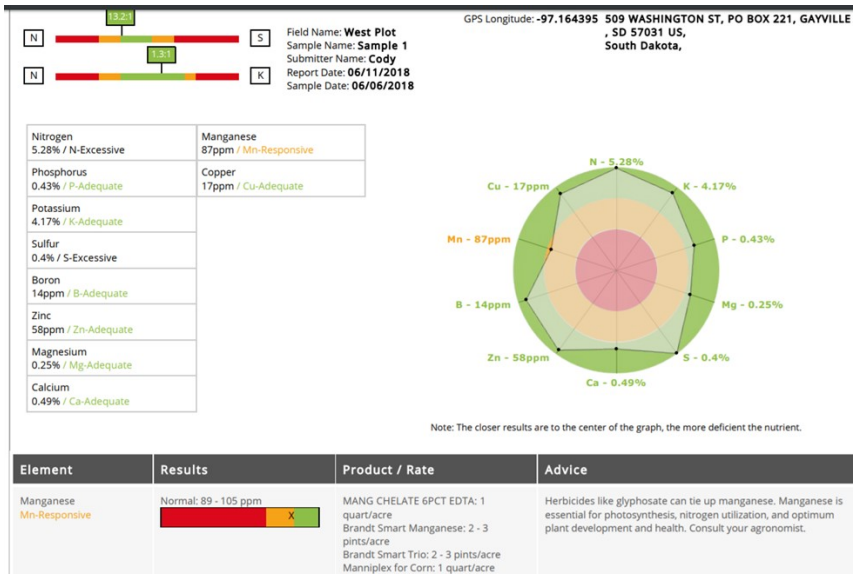


Figure 1 Report from Nutrisolutions

Figure 1 shows a report we got back from the tissue sample sent in from the test plot this year. It shows the amount of nutrients in the plant and lets you know if there is a deficiency, how deficient and what a suggested fix could be. Figure 2 has a very nice illustration of the different types of reaction a corn plant has to nutrient deficiencies. Figure 3 and Figure 4 cover a couple other symptoms a person might see while out in the field.

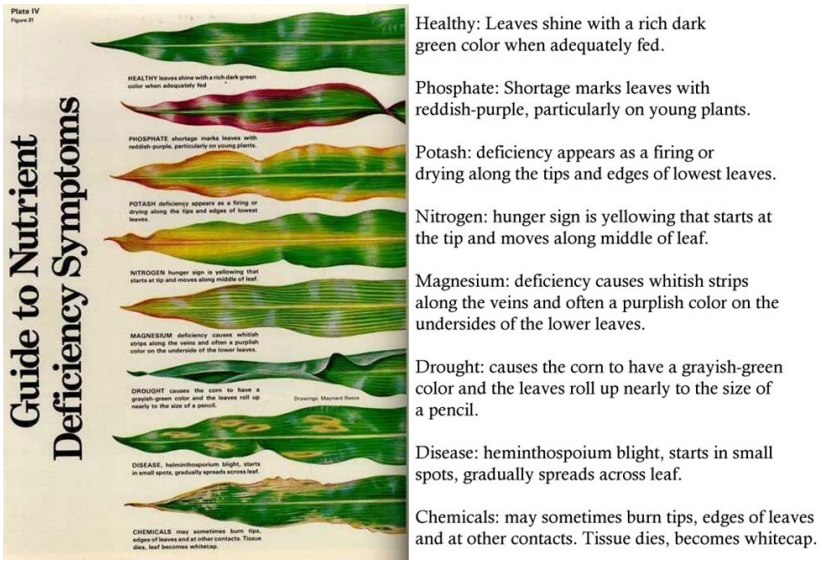


Figure 2 Deficiency Guide: International Plant Nutrition

Figure 3 Sulfur Deficiency: Corn and Soybean Digest

Figure 4 Zinc Deficiency: Corn and Soybean Digest

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Sept. 6 Test Plot

Valley Ag Supply Test Plot Sept 9/6, it'll be in correlation with our Field to Table event. There will be over 600 kids attending again this year!

Contact Us!

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Valley Ag Supply- Spink
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