



THE HAY STACK

April 2019

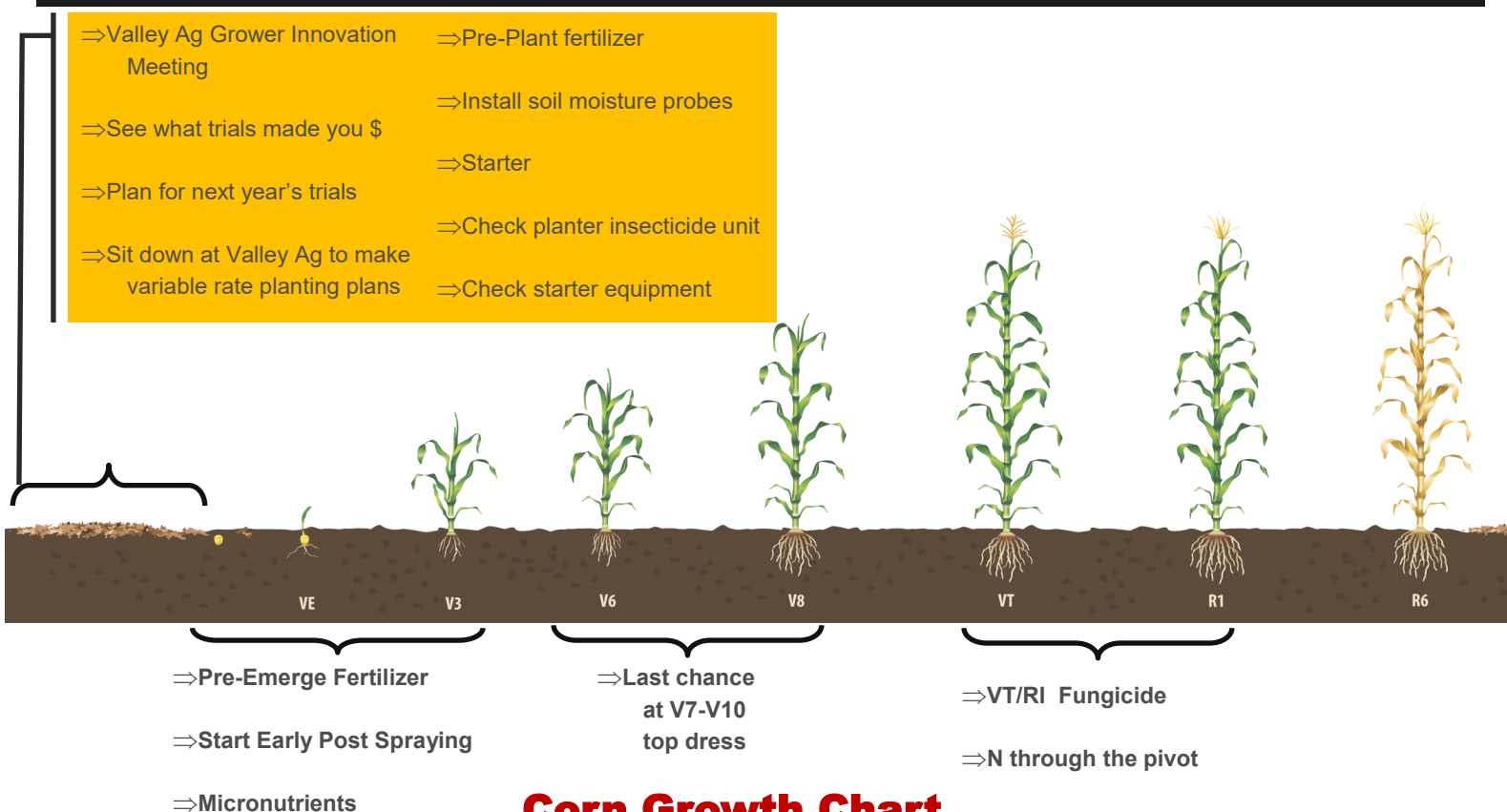
Where's My Fertilizer? By Arlo Lykken

The timing of your phosphorous application, whether fall or spring, should be determined by fertilizer prices and the field conditions. Historically fall prices and field conditions are the most favorable. Phosphorous will stay in the soil for as long as four to six months before plant uptake. This is a long time for P to sit in the soil unused by the plants, which can minimize the fertilizer's effectiveness to supply plants with adequate levels of phosphorous. However, the colder temperatures in the fall and winter keep P reactions from happening, which minimizes P sorption, (that is the attaching to other molecules in the soil). Therefore, making it more available for your crops for the growing season. Remember that MAP or DAP fertilizers also have significant amounts of N, so consider the potential for some loss when you apply Nitrogen in the spring.

Potash will move into the soil better than phosphates and there is less risk of it moving off the soil surface. Making Potash a good candidate for fall application. Phosphorus and Potash are both highly soluble so it takes very little moisture to dissolve them in the soil. Phosphorus is lost only through crop removal or erosion. Potassium losses are much like phosphorus losses, except that K can also be lost to leaching in very sandy soils.

Fall Application of ammonium sulfate adds Nitrogen and Sulfur to meet the nutritional requirement of growing plants. The ammonium sulfate rapidly dissolves into its ammonium and sulfate components. If it remains on the soil surface there could be some losses, but the ammonium sulfate losses to the atmosphere are minimal. Earlier planting into colder soils may reduce the availability of sulfur. Applying in fall can assure your plants will have what they need in the spring. Sulfur is mobile in the soil so multiple applications of AMS is something to keep in mind, especially if you are planning to top dress.

From what I have gathered from my research, in spite of our extreme wet conditions, the phosphorus and potash applied to your fields last fall will still be in place to give your plants the nutrient they need for the growing season.



From Tara's Desk

A few times in the past 7 months I've had customers ask when we'd fill in Greg's agronomy role. I said I'm fussy and it will take time. Well we now have our answer...

I proudly announce that Alan Moehring will be Valley Ag Supply's agronomy manager.

With Greg's death, there was understandably a huge hole missing in our organization.

It took me seven months to come to the conclusion that we already have an excellent team in place and looking for an agronomy manager outside the walls of our office wasn't necessary.

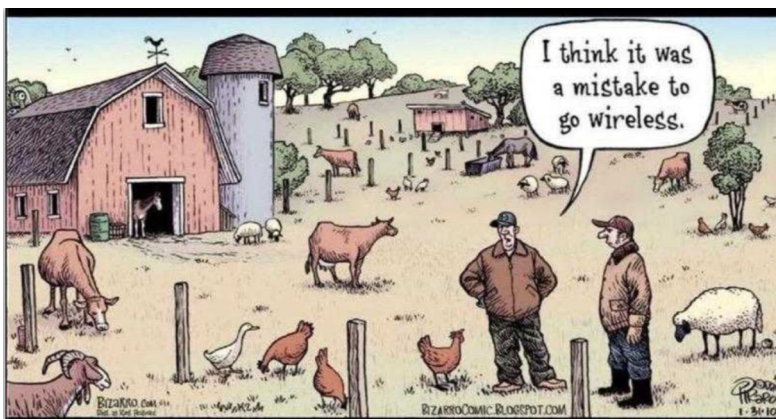
We had already put together a terrific group and I valued our company's culture too much to introduce someone new to the organization. We will still hire someone to ease the work load of our team, but won't rush the process.

I continue to thank our entire team for their hard work and dedication; I also thank you all for working with us patiently in spite of our loss.

There's no better career than agriculture; the collaboration has been nothing short of remarkable and I continue to be humbled by your support.

Our team is poised to be as informed and ready to re-earn your business this season just like in the past. Because we are a two location independent, I remain confident that we'll honor the trust you've placed with us. Valley Ag Supply continues to be innovative in trying products (many times on our dime!), we continue to work with several vendors ensuring that we have the best advice and products available in the industry. We have a high level of give-a-damn for our customers' farm and bottom line; Valley Ag Supply is fiercely loyal to agriculture. We don't have a dairy, citrus or petroleum division to offset our risk. Just like you, we are FIRMLY rooted in agriculture.

Valley Ag Supply won't become complacent in being one of the very few independents left in this part of the state though. I have no intention of going anywhere. That being said you are doing business with a desired retail business. In the past two weeks, I've had two competitors want to talk about "my options" on selling Valley Ag Supply. I'll tell you what my options are: I'm not meeting with them. I know we're a great group who work with sound customers. However, there's no need to go out for supper with the competition to tell them a firm NO. ~Tara Pirak

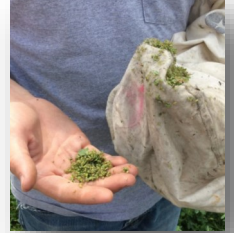


Valley Ag Supply Grower Meeting Wrap-up

On Thursday, March 28, Valley Ag Supply held our annual Grower Meeting. This year, it was at the Vermillion Eagles Club and set up by Cody Olson. With an open bar and a delicious taco bar, Cody got our meeting underway.

The theme this year was to let you growers know Valley Ag Supply wants to make sure we do all we can to raise your best crop. The salespeople on staff gave some insight regarding some of the skills they have and some specific things they watch for when scouting and making plans for your year. Among the topics discussed were issues seen in past seasons and ways that those issues were controlled:

- *Critters-corn borers, aphids, alfalfa bugs
- *Diseases-iron deficiency chlorosis, leaf damage, stalk damage
- *Weeds-buckbrush, cudweed sagewort



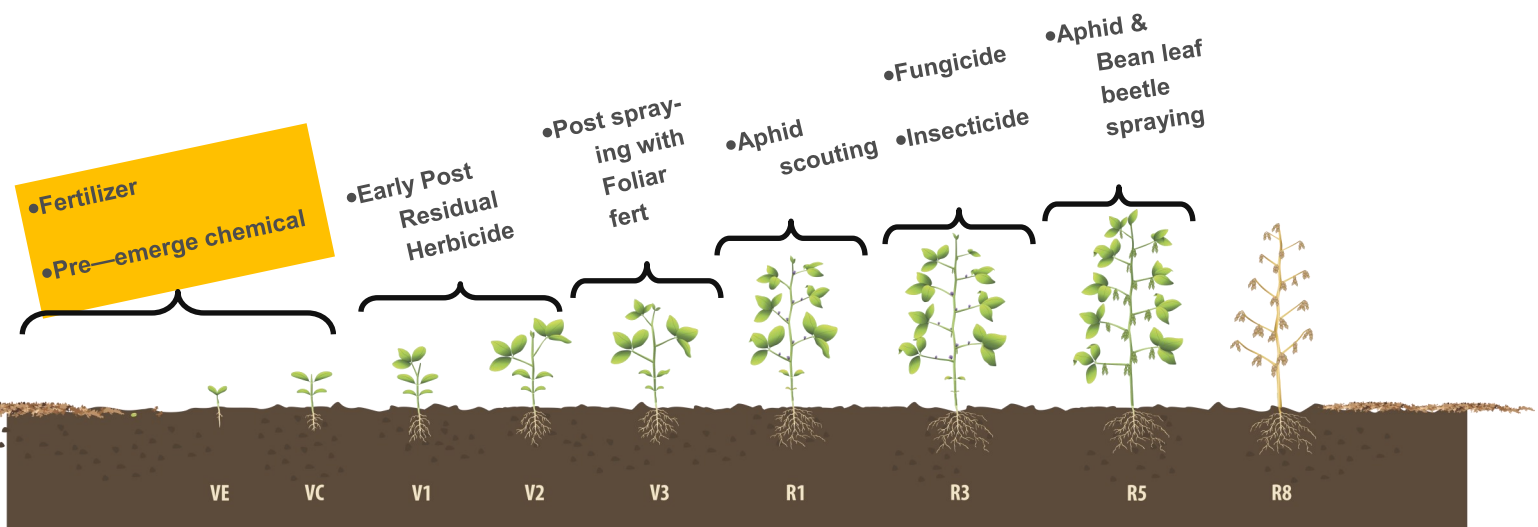
Other topics covered the 2018 Innovation Trial results of Ascend Pro and using the proper fertilizer and chemical programs for your fields. Bob from Madsen Spraying gave a few words and a nice moment of silence was held for Greg, and Tara gave the plan for Valley Ag Supply moving forward. Tara was adamant to stress that she and Valley Ag Supply are going no where! In fact, there is a 1, 5, and 10 year plans going forward that was made just this past month or so. "Our responsibility to prove our worth to you!"

Door prizes were announced and given out by Tara, which is maybe one of her favorite jobs to do. The winners of the night seemed to be Rodney Aune winning a few different door prizes and Mark Fairley won a super fancy grill.

If you'd like to learn more about what was discussed at the meeting, just ask your salesperson! And please make a note to join us for our meeting next year!



Bean Growth Chart



2018 Valley Ag Supply Yield Contest

By Cody Olson

Valley Ag Supply hosted its first annual yield contest for the 2018 season and we had a great bunch of applicants join in on the fun! Even though the weather this past growing season didn't cooperate the best with us, we were still able to manage some respectable yields. Many guys had fields that had gotten flooded out so they were unfortunately unable to participate but we're hoping to see increasingly more growers compete in the years that follow. As some may know, we had growers select a 20 acre section of ground that they wanted to use for the contest prior to planting and then we harvested, weighed, and calculated 1.25 acres worth of corn or 2 acres worth of soybeans to get a final yield. Categories were irrigated and non-irrigated corn and soybeans. Now let's see some results!

Non Irrigated Soybeans

Name	County	Hybrid	Plant Date	Plant Rate	Harvest Date	Moisture	Adjusted Yield
Randy Huot	Clay County, Meckling TWP	Curry 1267	5/25/2018	166,610	10/19/2018	11.5%	78.25
Ron Huot	Clay County, Pleasant Valley TWP	Curry 1281	5/29/2018	166,000	10/30/2018	12.8%	77.33

Non-Irrigated Corn

Name	County	Hybrid	Plant Date	Plant Rate	Harvest Date	Moisture	Adjusted Yield
Ron Huot	Clay County, Meckling TWP	Curry 929-96	4/29/2018	33,600	11/13/2018	16.1%	260.85
Alan Somervold	Union County, Sioux Valley TWP	Croplan 4895	5/10/2018	29,700	11/8/2018	18.7%	247.11
Randy Huot	Clay County, Pleasant Valley TWP	Curry 728-92	5/7/2018	31,230	10/18/2018	19.2%	226.94
Todd Bye	Yankton County, Gayville TWP	Pioneer P01151	5/5/2018	28,000	11/8/2018	16.2%	223.22
Holochs	Clay County, Norway TWP	Pioneer P0589R	4/30/2018	32,000	10/18/2018	16.1%	220.04
Ron Huot	Clay County, Pleasant Valley TWP	Curry 729-96	4/29/2018	34,500	10/4/2018	18.0%	190.04

Irrigated Corn

Our only irrigated corn entry was Todd Bye yielding 230.88 bu/ac

Curry 929-78 Moisture 17% Planting Rate 31,500 sds/acre Planted 5/7 Harvested 10/16

We learned a few things this past year and hope to continue to find out what methods consistently provide results for the growers. One thing to keep in mind throughout this yield contest is that the ultimate goal is YIELD, we want to bust beyond 300 bushel corn and 100 bushel soybeans! We may not be to the point where that can happen on all acres, especially from an economic standpoint, but it is exciting to see over a ten to twenty acre plot what we can push and what we can learn from it. I appreciate all the folks that took the time during their busy harvest season to take out and weigh the plots so we can obtain some data. It was fun to ride in the combines with these gentlemen and get to know them a little better as we took the plot out. If joining the yield competition sounds like something you'd like to do next year please come talk to your Valley Ag agronomist and we'll get things started! The form is simple and it costs nothing to participate!



Dairy Field Trip

By Laura Nystrup

As part of educating people about farming, Valley Ag Supply helped take some people out to a local dairy so that they could see the operations. We visited the Tri-Cross Dairy near Viborg SD. This is a 5,000 head operation. All of the operations are under a roof. It is amazing how an operation can milk 5,000 cows in 24 hours with some being milked twice and some three times. The efficiency with which they operate is incredible. Maybe our government should observe these

types of facilities so that they would know how to operate more efficiently! This dairy has been a great boost to the local economy. They purchase feed from local farmers, have housing in nearby and several employees who shop locally.





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Elk Point, SD 57025

Milestone Anniversaries working with VAS this year are:

Celebrating 5 years:

- *Lucas Gustad
- *Jimmy Sieperda
- *Kaci Larsen
- *Brian Bertrand



*Tyler Doty 6 year FT
anniversary (he started working here in 2009 as a high schooler, left to go to college and returned full time in 2013)

*For having worked with VAS for 5 years, we give a bonus. Valley Ag supply appreciates this dedicated crew (among our other long term employees!)

Contact Us!

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