



Agronomy Newsletter - August 2018

Harvest is within sight -- John Deere Active Yield kits

Harvest is certainly around the corner. A couple weeks ago, it seemed like we were just waiting to see that first yellow bean leaf. Fast forward to today, and fields are yellowing all over the place. We've certainly had our share of pod- and kernel-filling rains over the last couple of weeks. With a little heat, this crop should start maturing at a fairly rapid pace.

We have been making a push to get the word out on the John Deere Active Yield system. The Active Yield system provides the means for on-the-go yield monitor calibration for those combine models that are properly equipped to work with the hardware (see your salesman or parts department for approved combine configurations). So far, the feedback on the accuracy and the ease-of-use of the Active Yield system has been outstanding! As many of you know, calibrating the John Deere S-series combines can be a little challenging at times, to say the least. This solution seems to have made an enormous difference in the process, allowing growers to focus on harvesting with very little interruption.



If you would like more information on the John Deere Active Yield system, please contact your Tri Green Tractor salesman today!!!

Weed Control in 2019

It's never too early to start thinking about next year's weed control program, particularly in soybeans. I'm not currently sure what the status of dicamba will be for next year in soybeans, but you don't have to drive very far to see that we still have some challenges on the horizon.



Common waterhemp continues to make its presence known, and the effectiveness of glyphosate on weeds like lambsquarters and giant ragweed continues to decrease, particularly on field edges. Again, in my opinion, the key is to be proactive and address the potential for these weeds BEFORE they become a visible problem. That may mean utilizing a solid pre-emergence program in combination with a variety that has resistance to multiple post herbicides. I don't think any herbicide program should be "off the table" at this point, as it will be good to have a few options to work with. And, as per usual, have a backup plan in case mother nature has other ideas!!

Forage & Pasture Management

Each year I get a question or two regarding assessing fall forage stands, when to make a last hay cutting, etc. While most growers generally have their own procedures that work for them, there are a couple things to always keep in mind.



How you manage your pastures or hay fields in the fall can often depend on the weather conditions we have in late summer (going into fall). Have we had plenty of rain? Have we been in a drought, and is the forage under stress because of it? Are we confident that we have a solid enough stand to continue with the current crop for the next growing season?

As a general rule of thumb in our region (on alfalfa in particular), it's always suggested to have your final cutting wrapped up by the first or second week in September. The idea is to allow the crop to generate enough regrowth to be in good, healthy standing, with adequate carbohydrate replenishment, before winter (the same goes with pastures as well).



It's also the ideal time check your fertility levels and to assess the current stand of your forage. Is it time to do some overseeding in pastures? Is there an invasive species that needs to be addressed? Is a field of alfalfa nearing the end of its run? Are we maintaining a good pH and adequate P&K levels in the soil? These are all questions that should be answered in the early fall period.

Things to Watch for**

Cover crop seeding - It's already nearing the end of August. For those cover crops that require early seeding, now's the time to start planning and/or executing that process, particularly for crops that need to be applied aerially

Earworms – Moth flights have been noticeable. We want to keep this good crop intact. Knowing where you have potential feeding could dictate the harvest order of certain fields.

Ear toxins - While I'm not hearing much on this issue at the present time, be on the lookout for any potential problems.