

"Accessing Innovation"

Ask Your Agronomist: Ethan Noll

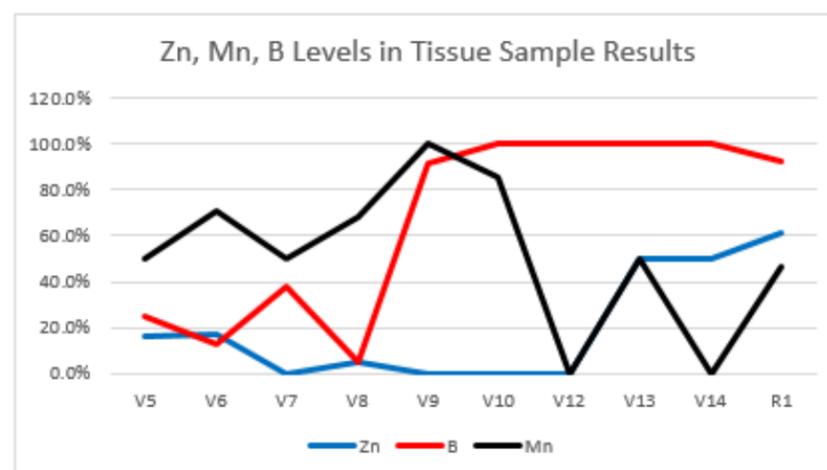
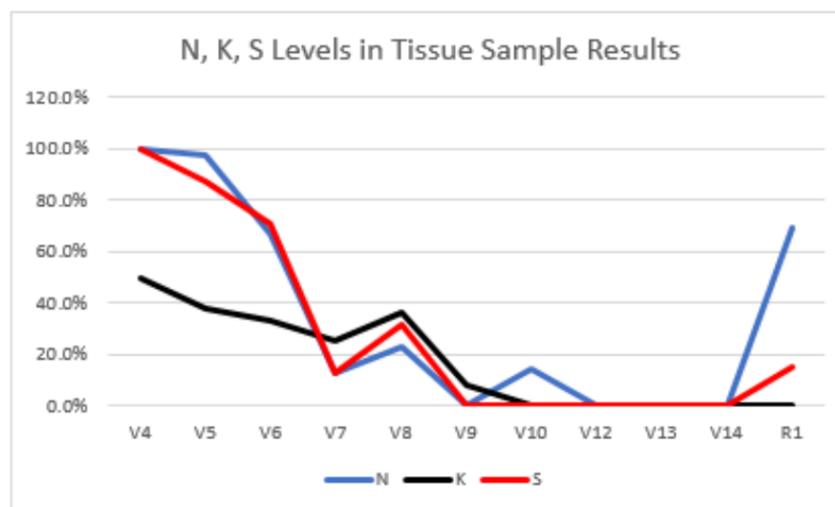
Some of the trends we've been seeing from Winfield's FieldMonitoring Tool: 65-81 was trending up compared to other hybrids of a similar maturity and planting date in the months of May and June. From the agronomists' perspective out in the field, 65-81 has really looked good all year and is one to keep an eye on once again this harvest.

In the last three weeks with the heat and drought stress, the fields that are trending up or down are generally based on region. Areas that are trending up tend to be where there's been rain and the farmers have top dressed or sprayed fungicide on their corn. The areas trending down tend to be areas that haven't caught rain and are located on the tougher soil.

Other trends: Out of the 185 tissue samples that we've taken in corn this year, we can get a pretty good idea of what is happening in the plant throughout the year. As you can see in the graph below, the N, K, and S follow similar trend lines. As the plant hits that grand growth stage at V7 and V8, it can't pull nutrients up fast enough. This is where it's essential to have good fertility up front and to have that N protected and available in the root zone of the corn, whether that's through top dressing or using N Zone with your anhydrous. When comparing tissue samples, the top-dressed fields had higher N levels later in the plant's vegetative stages. When it comes time to fill the ear, the plant starts to pull nutrients from its vegetation. If the plant is short on nutrients, it will start to pull from the stalk possibly causing a weak ear shank or weak stalk. So by having better nutrient levels in the plant, you can expect higher yields, but also better stalk integrity when you harvest. The potassium levels have been low in plants all year long. In the soil, potassium availability is strongly affected by weather. So if it's too dry, it gets tied up in the clay layers. If it's too cold and wet much like this Spring, the plant's roots aren't growing enough to come into contact with the K, so this is where starter can pay off.

Micronutrients, especially zinc and boron, were responsive to deficient in the majority of the corn early in the season. If you have good P, K, and N levels in your soil, correcting micronutrient deficiencies can give you that next level in yield you're looking for. We have a suite of products that give us the ability to do that. The best place to start is by soil sampling this fall, then apply a micro blend with your P and K. You can also apply micros with your liquid pop-up on your planter with our Quick Start fertilizer. In season, we have Max-in ZMB we can add to a herbicide or fungicide pass, or we have Lignosulfonates that we can add to a top dress blend. Something we are looking into for the future is treating seed with a micro blend through our state-of-the-art seed treater.

The rest of the nutrients, calcium, magnesium, iron, and copper, in general, were adequate. Magnesium and iron are naturally high in our soils. If you keep up with lime, your calcium levels should be good as well.



These graphs show the nutrient levels present during different vegetative stages in the corn. This shows the percent of the samples with sufficient levels of the designated nutrient. Low values mean more deficiencies.

Market Update: Lincoln Hillyer

Despite the lower markets today, both corn and soybeans finished positive for the week.

Weather will continue to be the driver going forward. With pollination out of the way for most of the cornbelt, the trade will begin to focus more on the critical pod filling season for soybeans.

Ag Partners continues to invest your dollars in enhancing your farm. Several grain projects are in progress that will be completed in time for fall harvest. At Sabetha, a 488,000-bushel bin has been constructed; adding to the enhancements built last year. Padonia is also seeing changes, with a 636,000-bushel bin with a 15,000 bushel per hour leg is going up south of the office. This will be the biggest bin inside the company. At Hiawatha, a new scale has been installed at our downtown facility. The receiving capacity will be giving us the ability to dump trucks in a fraction of the time experienced last year.

Preparations have started to position for fall harvest. If you have any questions about different contracting options, please don't hesitate to call Lucy, Ed, or myself. Thank you for your continued business. Have a great weekend and stay cool.

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