



## "Accessing Innovation"

### VRT in Soybeans

There has been a lot of interest in applying some of the agronomics of variable rate corn to soybeans. Typically this works in reverse of corn prescriptions. As yield potential increases, planting population decreases and vice versa. This is due to germination, in areas with higher yield potential we usually see a higher germination rate. When we plant more seeds in the lower yield areas, we can help overcome germination issues and have more plants, so they won't have to branch out in the toughest parts of the farm.

Variable rate isn't necessarily a way to save on soybean seed. However, it is a way to try to maximize your investment in that seed. To go from planting 140,000 seeds to 180,000 seeds at \$70 a bag breakeven is only 2.1 bushels at \$9.50. To get the full benefit of variable rate soybeans you need to have some things in check first. A quality seed treatment, a robust herbicide program with weed control, and timely planting are all necessary to optimize the yield potential.

		Bushels Needed to Pay For 20,000 More Seeds			
		Sold Price			
		\$ 8.50	\$ 9.00	\$ 9.50	\$ 10.00
Cost/bag	\$ 35	0.59	0.56	0.53	0.50
	\$ 40	0.67	0.63	0.60	0.57
	\$ 45	0.76	0.71	0.68	0.64
	\$ 50	0.84	0.79	0.75	0.71
	\$ 55	0.92	0.87	0.83	0.79
	\$ 60	1.01	0.95	0.90	0.86
	\$ 65	1.09	1.03	0.98	0.93
	\$ 70	1.18	1.11	1.05	1.00
	\$ 75	1.26	1.19	1.13	1.07

### Grain Market Update: Lincoln Hillyer

Grains have shown strength this week for a number of reasons. The biggest stories are a plummeting dollar, dryness in Argentina, and funds caught short looking to cover positions.

It will be interesting to see what unfolds with the recent news. Will we see follow through or are these events causing knee-jerk reactions for markets thirsty for something to grab ahold of? Either way, the recent rally has given producers a chance to get some bushels sold. Activity the last week on cash sales has been large and can be seen with the truck lines currently being experienced at the local terminals and processors.

Nearby basis values have suffered with the recent cash movement. While some end users just a couple weeks ago scrambled to procure bushels with depressed markets and unwelcoming weather, the tide sure did turn and supplies are now filling the pipelines.

We have also seen an uptick in customers locking in new crop prices. Both old and new crops, it does not hurt to have target orders in to price bushels when you may not be in position to make a phone call. Give us a call and we can discuss the different ways target orders can be entered.

## Planning for 2018 Planting

Variable rate seed scripting provides another opportunity to see a return on investment for our growers. Climate FieldView offers solutions for managing the varying conditions throughout your field, creating seeding rates tailored to those conditions. It also provides a yield analysis of last years yield results to help work through what worked best and what could be improved upon. While using variable rate seeding can seem to be a daunting task, working with your agronomist to utilize these tools will help you see better results in your fields.

Variable rate seeding can help you:

- Maximize yields to create seeding rates that match variability
- Make management decisions by comparing data from seeding maps to yield results

As you lay out your game plan for next season and beyond, keep Ag Partners in mind!

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