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NutriSolutions - Tissue Testing

Ask your Viafield Agronomist today

Farmers today invest a lot of money in yield potential with their seed and traits. Do you want to understand what nutrients your crops need to reach maximum yield? Tissue testing provides unique insight and specific recommendations for your crop and production practices to help you reach your highest acre profitability. The NutriSolutions® tissue testing tool identifies crop nutritional needs that otherwise go unknown, which helps you maximize your crop yields and return on investment. Tissue sampling has identified a very large unmet nutritional need during various growth stages of corn and bean life cycles.

2236 Corn samples taken across Iowa:

- 40% were low or deficient Nitrogen
- 10% were low or deficient Phosphorus
- 60% were low or deficient Potassium
- 55% were low or deficient Sulfur
- 75% were low or deficient Boron
- 80% were low or deficient Zinc

523 Soybean samples taken across Iowa:

- 20% were low or deficient Nitrogen
- 5% were low or deficient Phosphorus
- 50% were low or deficient Potassium
- 70% were low or deficient Copper
- 2% were low or deficient Boron
- 55% were low or deficient Zinc

Recommended sampling times:

- Corn — at V4-V6, V9-V11, VT, R1-R3
- Beans — at V3-V5, twice between R1-R4
- Alfalfa — before cutting and after 4-5 inches of new regrowth

The Way it Works

Testing results will enable you to identify how well your field will take up the required nutrients. Our hope is the results come back adequate or excessive. If they are low or deficient, the report will give you and your agronomist some suggestions on what to do to correct the levels.

From the 2010 Answer Plot data, we found that 2/3 of the corn samples that were deficient in zinc responded with a 7.5 bu increase in yield; 1/2 of the samples that were deficient in boron responded with a 5.9 bu increase in yield; and 2/3 of the samples that were deficient in sulfur responded with a 7.2 bu increase in yield.



Energy Markets Update - May 2011

INTL FCStone Energy Group

Basic Commentary

Gasoline basis surged on Friday in those regions east of the Rocky Mountains as the market reflects tighter supplies of RBOB grade product and its blend stocks. A bulk of the cash market gains were seen in NY Harbor as RBOB grade gasoline basis surged some 8 cents. In addition to the tight supplies of this product, we are also seeing a few key waterway shut-ins because of huge amounts of rain in parts of the Midwest and Southeast U.S. This has created a perfect storm of sorts as cash and RBOB futures reflect this exceptional gasoline tightness with strong flat price, cash, and spread values. Diesel values were mixed on Friday as many traders took a back seat to the wild moves seen in gasoline. Until the gasoline situation clears itself up, diesel trading will continue to play second fiddle.

Energy Outlook

As I write this on May 9, energy futures are coming in sharply higher ahead of the opening bell with a bevy of factors helping to motivate the early gains. Weakness in the dollar coupled with early strength in the equities market have helped support the market this morning and helped energies to bounce off the lows seen last week. Flooding along the Mississippi River appears to be one of the most bullish factors — coupled with certain gasoline grades already being bid-up. Approximately 8 refineries, with a combined capacity of 2.5 mbpd or 13% of domestic capacity, could be affected by flooding in the Delta region. There is not much in terms of economic data out today with traders looking at the wholesale trade and Import/Export price reports due out May 10.

U.S. Corn Acreage Could Decline 1.0 Million Acres, Maybe More

A report by FCStone

Saturated soils and extensive flooding in the eastern and southern Corn Belt, coupled with a delayed start to spring planting in the northwestern Corn Belt, could result in a decline in U.S. Corn acreage compared to the March intensions. In the March Prospective Planting Report, the USDA estimated that American farmers would plant 92.178 million acres of corn in 2011, which is 3.98 million more than in 2010. Under the current planting conditions, it is now highly unlikely that all the intended corn acreage will be planted and the corn acreage could decline 1.0 million acres or more depending on the remaining spring weather.

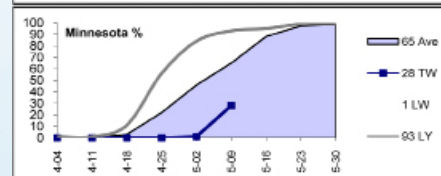
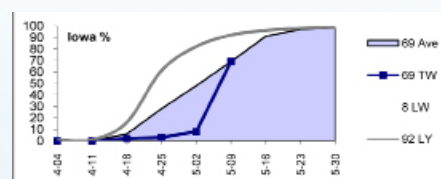
A wild card in this calculation is how many acres of planted corn will be flooded out along the

Mississippi floodplain. The corn being flooded out was planted in April, and it will probably be too late to replant most of it once the water recedes.

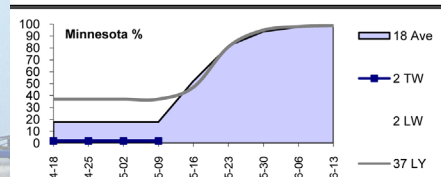
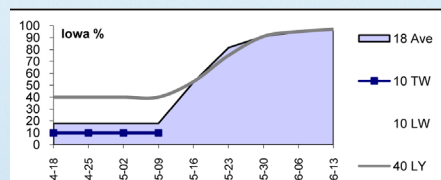
Assuming a 1.0 million acre reduction in corn acreage and 5.7 million acres of corn being used for silage (the three year average), the total harvest acreage for grain would be 85.42 million acres. If we also assume a nationwide corn yield of between 159 to 161 bushels per acre (see next article), the 2011 U.S. corn production would be in a range of 13.58 to 13.75 billion bushels.

Nationwide, 40% of the corn has been planted compared to 80% last year and 59% on average.

Corn Planting Production



Bean Planting Production



Early Yield Estimates – Corn 159-161 bu/ac, Soybeans 42-43 bu/ac

A Report by FCStone

Early Yield Estimates –
Corn 159-161 bu/ac
Soybeans 42-43 bu/ac

Although it's early to be talking about the potential for the 2011 corn and soybean yields in the U.S., the current nationwide corn yield is estimated in the range of 159 to 161 bushels per acre, which

is down 2 bushels per acre from earlier in April. The nationwide soybean yield is estimated in the range of 42 to 43 bushels per acre. These estimates are significantly below the early estimates of last year (165-170 for corn and 44-46 for soybeans) when the crops were planted at a record pace.

It was assumed in early 2010 that the record planting pace would result in above trend line yields, but adverse weather in May and June of 2010 resulted in disappointing yields. We have not yet determined what the maximum or minimum estimates will be.

May is National Beef Month

By Bill Hayes, Feed Business Team Leader

Viafield salutes Iowa's cattlemen who are at work on 30,000 family farms that produce safe, nutritious beef for you and your family. According to the Iowa Beef Industry Council, there were nearly 3.9 million head of cattle in Iowa on January 1, 2011, and nationally Iowa is fourth in the number of cattle and calves on feed, seventh in the number of cattle and calves, and twelfth in the number of beef cows.

The beef industry generates \$5.1 billion annually to Iowa's economy, and is responsible for nearly 13,000 jobs directly related to the cattle industry and over 26,000 jobs indirectly related to the cattle industry. These jobs include feed manufacturers, equipment dealers, truck drivers, food marketers, and grain farmers.

Viafield is proud to supply feed to Iowa cattlemen, helping make today's beef a naturally nutrient-

rich food providing protein, iron, zinc and B-vitamins. We value our partnership with Iowa cattle families and thank them for their contribution to the Iowa economy and way of life – as well as their business. Join us in celebrating May Beef Month by firing up your grill and enjoying a juicy T-bone or all-American hamburger.

If you'd like to learn more about the beef industry in Iowa and the United States, we've set up links from the Beef Feed section at www.viafield.com to the Iowa Beef Industry Council and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's "Explore Beef" web sites. And, cattlemen, contact your Viafield beef nutritionist, Mike Kirby, to learn about the profitable economics of creep feeding this year and the benefits and efficiencies of our Rangeland minerals. You can reach Mike at 563-419-9522 or mkirby@viafield.com.

Customer Service Survey Recap

Thank you to the 168 customers who completed customer satisfaction surveys in April. The information gathered will be used to improve customer service at each of our locations. Specifically, the potholes will be fixed at Maynard and Marble Rock, and we will continue to evaluate our staffing needs at all of our locations. When we conduct the next survey in July, we invite you to let us know if we've fixed the problems. Although we'll be conducting quarterly customer satisfaction surveys, please don't hesitate to let us know how we're doing anytime. The leadership team is available by phone, email or through our web site.





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- Spring Planting Update - Grain
- Customer Service Recap - Viafield
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Look inside for more information

May is Beef Month

We are proud to salute all of our area Beef Producers!
Thank you for keeping Iowa's ag industry strong!



www.viafield.com