



Greetings to All:

My March newsletter is running a little behind but will fix that tonight. First, the majority of the ordered seed is in my warehouse and some has been delivered between snowstorms. Call if you are ready to start taking seed and I will begin scheduling loads for pickup or delivery as the situation warrants.

Second, I trust you have been watching your stored grain condition, as spoilage surprises at \$6.00 per bushel are no fun and can ruin a year in a hurry. The time to start running fans will be here before you know it. Having snow scooped away from fans is a good plan anytime.

Also, the buzzwords this year are Tissue Sampling and Micro Nutrients. Both are sound practices but tend to be more of a fine-tuning process than crop salvation. Don't get me wrong, without micros we can see major affects on yields, but if the rest of our program has got a hole in it, the micros won't fix that either. The bottom line is to know your fertility on your macros (NP&K) and correct that in order to anticipated yield, and then fine-tune your micros. (If you only put on enough potash for 150 bu corn, micros are not going to give you 200 bu). Testing fertility every year is the best route, but do it at least every other year on half of the fields, and calculate needs based on the reduction of nutrient from the previous year's crop and yield. If you have gotten out of the livestock business in the past 3 to 5 years and see a yield reduction, this could be a reflection of decreased micros and macros that were in the manure. Manure value on NPK alone on hogs calculates to around \$5.00 per pig space and \$40.00 per head of cattle. The micro dollar number is above that yet.

We at BLT have had access to tissue sampling for the past two years and also micro booster and foliar products for 4 years. If interested please call and we can visit about those applications.

Planters should have been repaired and or at least inspected prior to storage last year, so a work to-do list could be implemented over the winter and early spring. Fixing a piece of equipment on a sunny day in April and May could be a little frustrating and cost you more money than just the repairs.

Again this snow will be gone shortly and the new season of expectations will be here.

Farm Safe,

Bernie

