



NITROGEN MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Objective: To improve farm profitability and minimize environmental impact of nitrogen (N) use by reducing N losses and increasing harvest yield.

Nitrogen Management System: A planned approach to N use that achieves better plant utilization and higher harvest yield with less environmental loss. It promotes a multiple application approach to N Management. It reduces early N application rates while emphasizing post-emerge N nutrition. It is about making incremental N applications that will **M**inimize environmental impact, **O**ptimize harvest yield, and **M**aximize input utilization. It is about focusing on **M.O.M.**

Components of a Nitrogen Management System

- Plan on a N System with two or more N applications
- Fall Applications: Apply no more than 50 to 60% of total N
- Start with land-grant guidelines for N rate
- Use a nitrification inhibitor with fall and early pre-plant N applications
- Include applications with differences in placement of N (knifed and surface broadcast)
- Include a late pre-plant, pre-emerge or post-emerge N application as part of the system
- Utilize **N-WATCH**¹ to inventory and track plant-available N from harvest to knee-high corn
- Search for the optimum N rate for your specific farming practices (N Rate Studies)
- Stay focused on sound scientific principles and strategies

Impact of a Nitrogen Management System

- ✓ Increased investment in N input. Cost of different N sources, application, and use of N enhancements will add to the N input cost.
- ✓ Improved farm profitability and minimized N losses. Split application of N has provided over an average of 15 bushels per acre across 60+ sites over four years (2009-2012).
- ✓ Provides a convincing reason to change the way N is managed through **M**aximizing N utilization, **O**ptimizing harvest yield, while **M**inimizing environmental impact (**M.O.M.**).

*“To sustain higher corn yields will require a change in the way crop inputs are managed. It is not about applying more N to produce more grain, but how the N is utilized. It is not about managing the field, but managing environments within the field. Adoption of an N Management System is one step toward **Maximizing Every Acre.**”*

For more information about a N Management System for your farming operation contact your local Ag retailer or the Illinois Council for Best Management Practices (leslief@ifca.com or 309-827-2774).

¹ N-WATCH is a management tool that provides an estimate of plant-available N over time at one point in a field. Visit with your participating Ag retailer or the CBMP (leslief@ifca.com or 309-827-2774) for more information about N-WATCH.

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