Nitrogen stabilization encouraged for maximum yield benefit

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While a solid majority in the survey said vers would benefit by adding a nitrogen ilizer to their urea or UAN liquid fertiliz-nearly all recommended that growers still ntain nitrogen rates and conduct strip tri-for up to two years in order to measure ds before any rates are adjusted.

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The survey, conducted in recent weeks, ed agronomists from Texas to nsylvania about planting intentions and ilization practices among growers in their as. Their responses provide valuable ghts into improving fertilizer efficiency in allenging economy:

- Sixty-seven percent believe growers uld apply nitrogen at the same rates or er rates as they did last season;
- Agronomists were about evenly divided whether to apply the same rates of phosphorous and potash or to lower them. "It's economical to cut back rates with high fertilizer prices," one respondent said;
- Planting time is just around the corner in many parts of the nation, but futures prices and input costs have growers sitting on the fence about their plans for the 2009 season.

Survey respondents predicted an increase in corn and soybean production, and a marked decline in wheat acreage this year. Although, recent U.S. Department of Agriculture reports indicate a slight decline in corn and soybeans, many decisions are yet to be made; and

- Nearly all of the agronomists surveyed (88 percent) agree that reducing nitrogen rates this season could result in lower yields.

"Rather than cutting rates, we recommend that growers stabilize their nitrogen with Agrotain to maximize yields," said John Hassell, research and agronomic development manager for Agrotain International.

Agrotain is a proven nitrogen stabilizer with more than a decade of research behind it.

"In our calculations most growers will make more profit by achieving higher yields by maximizing efficiency, rather than by cutting input costs as nitrogen is a major driver for yields," Hassell said.

"We agree with agronomists that increasing nitrogen efficiency can go a long way toward protecting yield potential. I encourage growers to follow their advice and find out for themselves how the use of a nitrogen stabilizer can provide a positive return."

Half of the surveyed agronomists recommend documenting the return on investment by applying nitrogen at the same rates as last year, adding a nitrogen stabilizer and measuring the yield increase at harvest.

"Growers should determine the likelihood of a loss of nitrogen, the cost of any product they would consider using and determine the possible results before changing what they are doing," one agronomist said.

Regardless of a grower's strategy, the use of a nitrogen stabilizer can prevent two costly outcomes — reduced yields caused by nitrogen losses or increased spending on nitrogen fertilizer to compensate for expected losses.

Volatilization — nitrogen loss into air — is considered the No. 1 source of nitrogen loss, although agronomists also cited losses in the soil and leaching.

"An average of 30 percent of soil-applied nitrogen can be lost to the environment," Hassell said. "In a year when growers are working hard to reduce input costs and maximize yields, they simply can't afford to risk that kind of loss.

"When you pencil out the benefits over the years of a nitrogen stabilizer, the results can be surprising — the significant yield difference in one bad year for nitrogen loss can pay for years of using a nitrogen stabilizer"

The specialist said that is what makes the use of a nitrogen stabilizer such as Agrotain such a sound investment. It can significantly reduce nitrogen losses from urea and UAN liquid fertilizer applications.

Half of the surveyed agronomists said at least 75 percent growers in their area are aware of the benefits of nitrogen stabilizers for control of nitrogen loss.

"From the other agronomists around the state that I have spoken with, Agrotain makes nitrogen last another two or three weeks," one agronomist said. "Growers are aware of it but need to understand more about the return on investment."

The survey, sponsored by Agrotain, included agronomists from the University of Illinois, the University of Kentucky, Mississippi State University, Oklahoma State University, Penn State University, Texas A&M University and the University of Minnesota.

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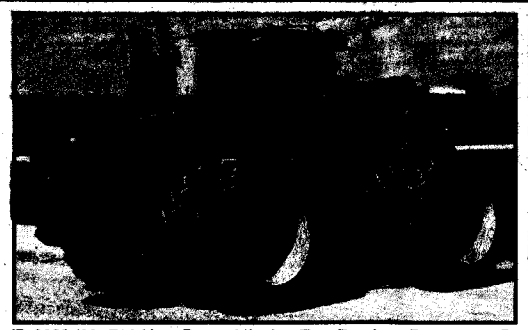
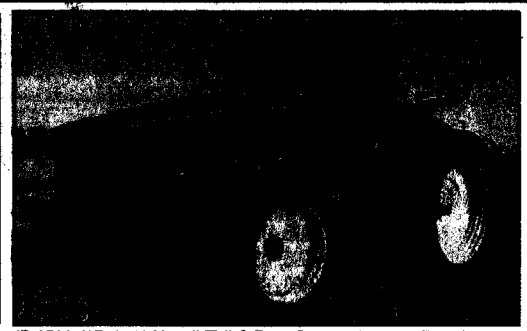
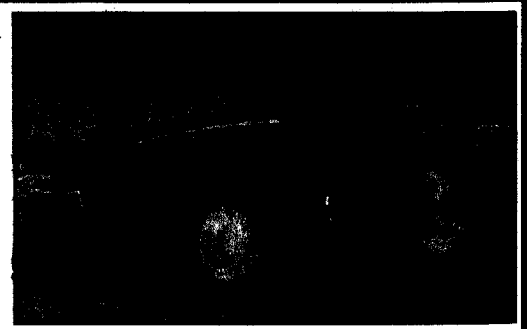


JD 9230 '08, 718 Hrs., Powershift, AutoTrac Ready, 4 Remotes, 3 Pt Hitch, 20.8x42 Duals, Warranty!! $176,900



JD 8530, '07, 1148 Hrs., IVT, ILS Front Suspension, AutoTrac Ready, 4 Remotes, Big Pump, Xenon lights, 480/80R50 Duals, 420/85R34 Front Duals, On-Board Air/Air Brake pkg. $199,900



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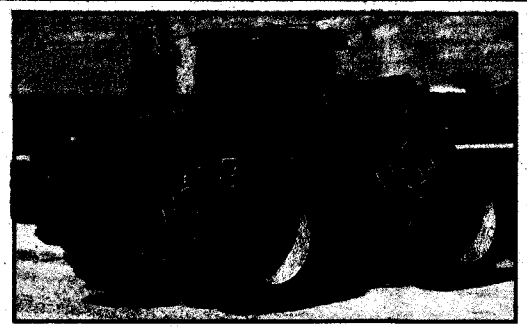

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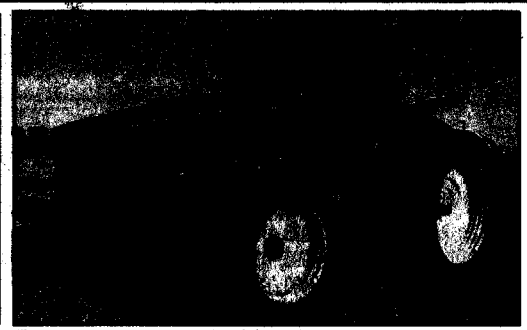

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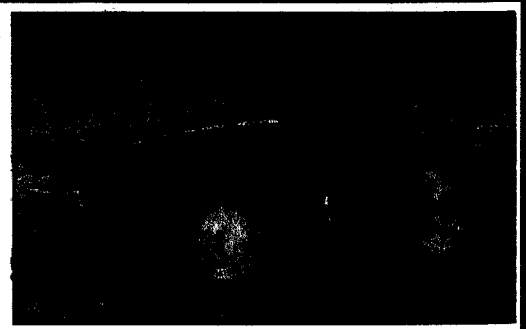

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