

# Dr. Fred Below, AG CONNECT Expo and the Perfect Crop

Dr. Fred Below gets excited about what he calls "the perfect crop": corn. His enthusiasm for corn, and the power of his presentation, helps you see how producers could ultimately have eye-popping yields of 300 bushels an acre, Below predicts.

"If a scientist had to start from scratch to create a food-producing plant with the most flexibility and the highest responsiveness to management, the results would be corn. It's the highest yielding crop in the world," he says.

Dr. Below, Professor of Plant Physiology at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, will bring his compelling corn production insights to AG CONNECT Expo at the Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, Georgia, January 8-10, 2011 (Preview Day January 7 by special admission). He will be sponsored by Agrotain and will present in the show's Innovations Theater, January 9, 2011, 1 - 2 p.m.

He will be joined in the presentation by Dr. Don Horneck, Associate Professor and Extension Agronomist, Oregon State University. Horneck will discuss his new research on fall and spring nitrogen applications under center pivot irrigation.

Below said he plans to have early data from the 2010 harvest when he shares with attendees the "Seven Wonders of the Corn Yield World" for optimizing crop management and yield at AG CONNECT Expo 2011.

"Science-based agriculture will show the way to feed the earth's

increasing population, and corn will be a keystone to that effort. We need to double food production in 20 years, but we can't do it without biotech," Below said. "And corn is the crop that is most amenable to modern scientific biotech management."



Sponsored by Agrotain, Dr. Fred Below will be presenting at AG CONNECT Expo 2011. Here, Below speaks to producers about how they can increase yields. Photo by ZimmComm & [www.agwired.com](http://www.agwired.com).

Below explained that any gene in the corn plant can be transformed in the lab - corn is that versatile. "Corn has the most efficient photosynthetic system. It can be managed for a more efficient use of light and water. It has proven incredibly flexible for geographic adaptation. It responds so well to management that whole industries have grown up around corn. Thanks to this crop we don't have to plough under more forests," Below said. "Corn produces the most seed and the most useable

dry matter of any crop annually in the world. If you want to feed people and grow energy supply, corn is the critical crop," Below says. Corn is the source of human food products such as sweeteners, corn oil, and types of alcohol, as well as livestock feed and industrial products.


Regarding energy, Below argues that ethanol looks better and better, especially in light of this year's oil spills in the Gulf of Mexico. "You can dump all the ethanol you want in the Gulf and it won't make a bit of difference," to the plants, water or wildlife, Below said. "And let us remember that distillers grains, a byproduct of ethanol production, are an increasingly important animal feed."

Demand for food will continue to rise along with the growing world population, which is expected to climb from seven billion in 2010 to nine billion or more in 2050. The world will expand along with the burgeoning middle class in the high-population countries of India and China. To meet this coming demand, food producers around the world must be able to apply the best scientific research for the most sustainable and high-yield production. In the opinion of Dr. Fred Below, this is where the benefits of "the perfect crop" loom large.



**Rich Jefferson is Senior Director, Public Relations, at AEM**

North America's  
Global Gathering  
Place For  
Agriculture



AG CONNECT  
EXPO  
JANUARY 7-10, 2011  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA, USA

[www.agconnect.com](http://www.agconnect.com)

Collocated with American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Conference

**AGCO Dealer Business Meeting**

Ag Electronics Foundation Meetings

ASABE Ag Equipment Technical Conference

Agricultural Safety & Health Council of America Annual Meeting & Workshop

Farm Foundation Roundtable

FFA Alumni Association Reunion

Educational Seminars by Farm Journal and American Agri-Women