



Do you know where your Nitrogen is Today?

By Karl Gust - Certified Crop Advisor

Many areas of the state have received more than their share of rain the past couple of weeks. The excess water has created numerous problems, one of which is the increased potential of nitrogen loss. Many fields locally had ponds of water that stood on them, and after a couple of days went down which left the corn stand intact, but the water took some of the nitrogen with it. To compound the problem; Emerson Nafziger with The University of Illinois stated last winter there is basically no nitrogen that was carried over from the 2009 season due to all of the moisture last year brought.

According to A & L Labs, a corn plant uses around 10% of the nitrogen it needs during the first 3 weeks of growth. Then, during the next 5 weeks of growth it takes up 65% of its total seasonal requirement. If nitrogen supply is limited during this period, yield and profits will suffer. The remaining 25% of a corn plant's nitrogen needs are consumed during grain fill. As you can see, most of the nitrogen your corn crop will need is still ahead of us.

Overall, we have a great stand of corn due to the early spring planting and it might make economical sense to add more Nitrogen to some fields to take advantage of your top end yield potential. At Elburn Coop we are set up to Side-Dress 32% Nitrogen to your fields to get them back up to the proper amount this crop needs. Contact your Elburn Coop Sales Person to review which fields and rates make sense for your operation.