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Fertilizer Prices *by Clyde Smith Regional IPM Agent*

Concern over fertilizer prices has a lot of folks looking for options in 2009. The easiest way to evaluate fertilizer prices is to compare the nutrient price per pound.

While all macronutrients are important to non-legume crops, we'll use nitrogen for our example.

Common forms of nitrogen fertilizer in our area are (**prices are estimates**):

Material	%N	\$/Ton	lbs N/ Ton	\$/lb N
Ammonium Nitrate	34%	425	680	\$0.63
Ammonium Sulfate	21%	240	420	\$0.57
Urea (uncoated)	46%	375	920	\$0.41
DAP (18-46-0)	18%	400	360	\$1.11
UAN +Sul (28-0-0-5)	28%	340	560	\$0.61

In this example, urea has the lowest cost per pound of nitrogen. There are advantages and disadvantages with all nitrogen sources. Urea is more volatile than ammonium nitrate especially in warmer weather. Liquid solutions of UAN offer application flexibility and may be attractive to some producers.

Of course, nitrogen is not the only element needed for crop production. You can calculate the cost per pound of any nutrient with the following formula:

(Price per ton of fertilizer)/(2000 x material N content as decimal value)

Example 1:

Ammonium sulfate \$240 per ton with 21% N content
 $(\$240/\text{ton}) / (2000 \text{ lbs}/\text{ton} \times 0.21 \text{ N}) = \$0.57 \text{ cents per pound of N}$

Example 2:

Ammonium nitrate at \$425/ton with 34% N content
 $(\$425/\text{ton}) / (2000 \text{ lbs}/\text{ton} \times 0.34 \text{ N}) = \$0.63 \text{ cents per pound of N}$

**Do not miss
the
Cotton
Production
Meeting
On Friday,
February 20th!**

View Agenda on page 3



Clyde A. Smith
Regional IPM Agent

Fertilizer Prices (continued from page 1)

“Of course, nitrogen is not the only element needed for crop production.”

A total fertilizer program highlights the attributes of blended fertilizers and nitrogen sources like diammonium phosphate (DAP) that offer more than one element.

The USDA **Natural Resources Conservation Service** has a handy tool for calculating the cost of nitro-

gen. You input the cost of each source of nitrogen along with the amount of nitrogen needed for each crop. The calculation tool will show the cost of nitrogen for each source and a tally of the total nitrogen cost for your farm. The site can be found at: <http://nfat.sc.egov.usda.gov/>.

Boyd Seminar on HAZMET Safety Goals & Regulations

Interpretation and Enforcement of Hazardous Materials Regulations Relating to the Agricultural Community

Congressman Allen Boyd invites you to join him at a seminar to discuss the transportation of hazardous materials, HAZMET safety goals and regulations, and the impact of transporting materials across state borders.

If you are a **farmer** or have an **agribusiness interest**, you will want to attend.

If you **transport materials** such as diesel fuel, gasoline, pesticides, or ammonium nitrate fertilizer and you transport these materials across state lines, you will want to attend.

If you live in North Florida, Southern Georgia, or Southern Alabama, you will want to attend.

WHO: U.S. Congressman Allen Boyd (D-FL)

Representatives from the Hazardous Materials Safety Administration – U.S. Department of Transportation

Representatives from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Representatives from FL, GA, and AL law enforcement

WHEN: Thursday, February 19, 2009

10:00 am – 12:00 pm EST

WHERE: North Florida Research & Education Center (University of Florida – IFAS)

155 Research Road

Quincy, Florida 32351

(Exit 181 from I-10, turn north on Hwy 267 – Pat Thomas Parkway; turn into the 1st paved driveway on the left at the University of Florida sign)

*This event is free and open to the public. Please RSVP your intent to attend by calling or emailing Ms. Vicky Morris (850-875-7115 or vpmorris@ufl.edu) prior to February 16, 2009

Burn-down Herbicides in Conservation Tillage

Now is the time to plan your burn-down program for cotton. Insect and disease pressure on seedling cotton is reduced if winter weeds and cover crops are dead at planting.

Applying a burn-down herbicide at planting can also allow weeds and/or the cover crop to compete with cotton as it emerges.

Glyphosate can be used anytime before planting but will have difficulty with volunteer peanut, pusley, cutleaf evening primrose, and wild radish.

2,4-D (check label) at 16 oz/acre must be applied at least **30 days** or more **before planting** cotton.

Valor® is an effective burn-down herbicide that of-

fers good residual weed control. This is a good choice if you have palmer amaranth in your cotton fields.

Valor® @ 1 oz/acre requires 14 days and 1 inch of irrigation or rainfall before planting .

Valor® can also be used **14 days** before planting at **2oz. in Strip-Till Cotton** but **must be tilled to a depth of 1-2 inches between application and planting.**

Remember to read and follow all label directions with any pesticide.

Contact your County Extension Office for more information.

Take Samples for Nematodes Now!

Nematode management requires sampling to determine populations. The best time to sample is soon after crop harvest since populations are at their peak.

If you missed fall sampling, sample *now* for the 2009 season. If you wait for warmer weather, many nematodes will die as the weather warms and they have little food. This gives an inaccurate count and nematode populations surge after planting when host plants are readily available.

Nematode sampling kits are available at your County Extension Office.

When sampling remember to:

- Take a random sampling across each field
- The soil should be moist and kept moist (not saturated)
- Sample at least 10” deep
- Keep samples moist and send them in promptly

Contact your County Extension Office for more information.

Cotton Production Agenda

All times CST

7:45 – 8:30 AM	Registration and Welcome
8:30 – 9:00	Cotton Variety Performance
9:00 – 9:30	Weed Problems in Cotton
9:30 – 10:00	Managing Cotton Inputs
10:00 – 10:15	Break
10:15 – 10:45	Cotton Economics and Market Update
10:45 – 11:30	Stink Bugs in Cotton
11:30 – 12:15	Label Updates From Industry
12:15 PM	Lunch (provided)

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February	Event	Location
17	Fed Cattle Show	Jackson County Ag Center (Fairgrounds)
20	Cotton Production Seminar	Jackson County Extension Auditorium
24	Private Applicator Pesticide Training & Exam; CEU's available	Gadsden Co. Extension Office, Quincy
24	Holmes-Washington Pesticide Training; CEU's available	Holmes County Ag Center, Bonifay
28-Mar 17	Backyard Vegetable Gardening Class	Jackson County Extension Office
March	Event	Location
5	Peanut Short Course	Jackson County Extension Auditorium
10	Cut Flower & Foliage Production for Direct Sales	NFREC-Suwannee Valley, Live Oak
19	Certified Pile Burning Training	West FL REC, Milton
April	Event	Location
29-May 1	Beef Cattle Short Course	Gainesville, FL

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