

R&M Farms / Walters Ag, LLC



Fields of Green



Rain, Snow, Ice, Wind, and More Rain

It seems that ever since we finished harvest last fall we have been in a pattern where it rains, rains again, then snows, and rains again. It has been a never ending cycle that has been frustrating to say the least. Last fall we had only two days in the month of November that were suitable for field work which put us way behind on tillage and fertilizer work. We had thought that this spring we would get a chance to get into the fields by the 1st of April to make up for lost time but that hasn't happened either as we have been wet again the whole month of March. With all of the moisture we have received all wetland basins are currently over capacity and backing up into some of our fields. This has made us uncertain if we will be able to plant all acres of our fields this spring due to standing water.

It's not only us, a lot of farmers in the area are itching to get into the fields and make up for lost time when the ground allows. It looks like we will be rushed to get our fertilizer applied, get everything sprayed and plant in a very tight window this spring. Normally we would be able to start planting corn April 10th-15th but I doubt this year the fields will be dry to even start by then and the ground temperatures are still colder than average. I hope that warmer and dryer weather is in our future so that the crops can be put in in a timely manner this spring and that wet spots can dry up in time to be planted.

The mud has also made calving season for us thus far a challenge as we have had to move mud to dry out lots and buy lots of additional hay to keep cow and calves fed and dry.

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Fertilizer Application Changes

Nebraska Ag Facts:

Nebraska ranks 1st in the nation in the following categories:

- Red Meat Production
- Cattle on Feed
- Beef Exports
- Popcorn Production
- Great Northern Bean Production

3rd in Corn Production

5th in Soybean Production

Community Involvement

Wade and Spencer have been busy this winter with the Shickley SAL by chairing, planning and organizing a fundraiser for the 50 Flags Veterans' Memorial in Shickley. It will be held on June 22nd in Shickley. If you are in the area come join us for a BBQ rib contest & meal, and evening entertainment by country music act The Emmett Bower Band.

Prices 4-11-19

Corn:

Shickley Grain

Harvest Delivery \$3.40

FlintHills Harvest Del \$3.50

Soybeans:

Shickley Grain

Harvest Delivery \$8.21

Cargill Harvest Del \$8.43

With the changes in weather this spring that has also allowed us to really dive into a change we had been planning to make to some of our fertilizer application. This year on our corn we will be applying liquid fertilizer on the majority of our acres and plan to start applying as soon as the ground will let us.

With this change we hope to not only be able to utilize fertilizer more efficiently by applying less nitrogen per acre, but also be able to apply it in a more timely manner when the crop needs it. There has been a push by government agencies to apply less fertilizer early and apply more when the crop needs it in season. By doing this they hope to lessen nitrates that leach from the soil and reach groundwater or surface water supplies.

The downfall is that liquid fertilizer is slightly more expensive than anhydrous ammonia but hopefully by applying less we can have relatively the same cost. Also, from a job safety standpoint, by moving to a liquid fertilizer, urea ammonium nitrate (UAN), application this will be much safer to handle and deal with in the field by operators. There is no longer a respiratory hazard and the risk of being burned by the product is significantly less.



Update: 4-16-19 The ground has dried a lot the last couple of weeks since I originally wrote the majority of the newsletter. We have been able to get our fertilizer applied and most of our spring tillage done. We hope to start planting corn in the next few days.

For higher quality photos see the newsletter on our website at www.waltersagllc.com/newsletters.html



This photo shows a field of ours where a 20+ acre area is still sitting underwater.