



Vol 7 • 1 January 2011



## Flashback to a Bad Memory

By Trevor Stieg *Sales & Marketing Manager • trevorstieg.wce@midconetwork.com*

By Travis Christensen *Agronomy Manager • travis@watertowncoop.com*



In the late 1980s and early 1990s, weed resistance issues hit eastern South Dakota hard. The

extensive use of Pursuit and Accent on a large proportion of acres resulted in herbicide-resistant kochia. It took expensive management to dig out of the hole that had been created. Why the flashback to this memory? Because we do not want to see a new version of this scenario recreated.

Fast forward to today. South Dakota was the fastest state in the nation to adapt to the Roundup Ready® technologies. We rapidly planted more acres to RR crops than any other state. The system was and is nearly ideal for successfully overcoming the crop challenges that are inherent to growing corn and soybeans here.

But we're now at the end of 2010 and there are confirmed glyphosate-resistant weeds here in our area. While marestail may be the only confirmed weed, water hemp and lambsquarter have been showing a growing tolerance. Here at the co-op we've also had personal experience with the growing resistance of downy brome to glyphosate. How about on your fields? Have you noticed a growing incidence of weed escapes?

Glyphosate, in many ways, was one of those once-in-a-lifetime discoveries—maybe almost too huge.

Because since its inception, the research and development of new chemistries has been greatly reduced. There have been some new reformulations, but very few revolutionary new herbicide chemistries have been developed and released. In other words, there's nothing waiting in the pipeline to replace glyphosate.

That means the time is now to include the use of a pre-emergent herbicide to help decrease the risk of weed resistance AND to optimize yields. The use of a residual in conjunction with glyphosate will help ensure that we have the use of what has been a very effective product, for a long time to come. Inside this issue we have some pre-emergent tips and thoughts we hope are helpful. We don't think anyone wants to see a return to the old days of field cultivation as the primary method for weed control in corn and soybeans. But that's where we're headed if we don't take steps now to manage for resistance. ●



**Combat weed resistance with stewardship that includes other herbicides besides solely relying on a glyphosate cropping system. Otherwise, you may be needing to dig this old implement out of your shelterbelt.**

# Fall Wrap and Spring Preview

It was one of the best falls we've had in recent memory. Thanks for all your business and past support. We're anticipating a great spring, too. Everything goes better when it's done with some advanced planning. Now is the best time to get your maps in to us, your soil results gathered, and the development of fertilizer recommendations. If we can have all this information in hand now, we can take the extra time your fields deserve to develop your 2011 farm plan. It's to our benefit to have it in early, but it also benefits you, too, with the extra time we can devote exclusively to your acres.

Seed sales went extremely well these past few months, as we provided customers with an industry-leading line-up of the top hybrids and varieties for this countryside. There are still some acres left to finalize,

and there are always a few fields that still need a few additional bags. Call now to finalize those last orders so we can source the seed you want.

Finally, early sales are obviously the best way to source your seed because of the per-bag value you receive and also the assurance of having the exact products your fields require. However, we also recognize the importance of stocking seed on the floor. We continue to go to great lengths to be your in-season source for those extra bags you require. We have some very good connections that enable us to have extremely good seed choices available right here at the co-op. When you're needing additional seed at planting time, Watertown Co-op is your go-to source. ●

## The Emergence of Pre-Emerge

We know two shots of glyphosate can be the most economical and convenient way of managing weeds. But in the big-picture scenario, it's not the best solution. Instead, we are recommending a system that includes a pre-emerge chemical followed by glyphosate. This management scenario aids in the economics of increasing yield, decreasing weeds, and helping fight weed resistance.

Using a pre-emerge eliminates the negatives associated with weed competition. Actively growing weeds are directly competing with your crop. They are in direct competition for your expensive crop nutrients. They are in direct competition for moisture, which in drier years should be adding bushels to your yields. Finally, they are in direct competition for sunlight. Weeds present at crop canopy are competing for the sunlight needed by your crop.

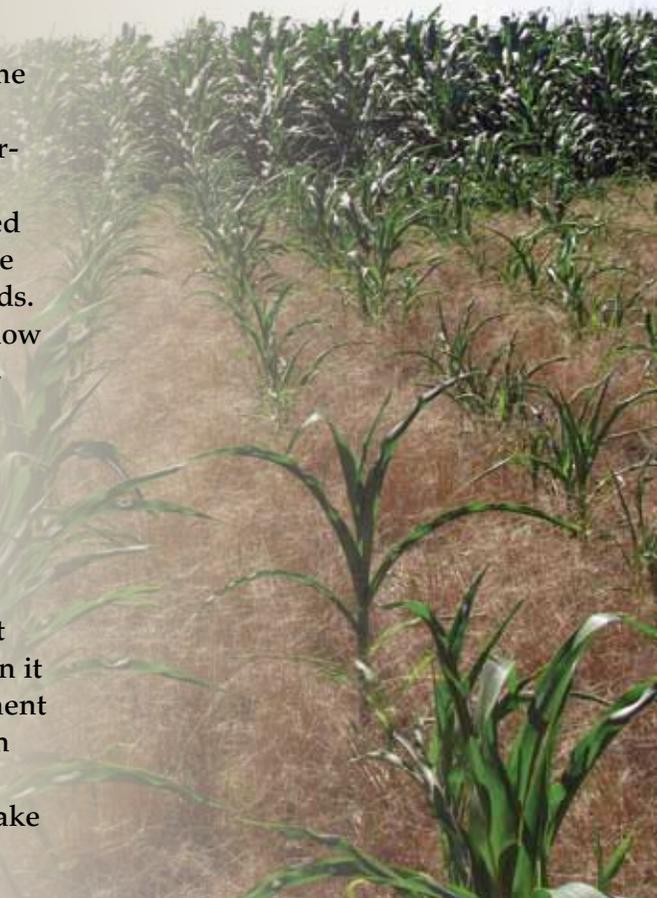
Now we understand that pre-emerge application is not always the easiest management. That's one

of the reasons WC has upgraded its rolling stock. We have four applicators that will be traveling the countryside this spring. They are equipped with massive floater tires that have split tracks. This will minimize impact and be as non-invasive as possible on the fields of your valuable crops. The units are equipped with high-capacity pumps and can add fertilizer if that's your preference.

In short, your co-op has invested in equipment that will aid in the profitability of each of your fields.

So how to hit that right window when it comes to a pre-emerge, especially on soybeans? Many of them have a narrow application window. Our best advice is communication. As soon as your planter leaves the field, we need the phone call telling us you've finished planting that field. Timing is everything when it comes to pre-emerge management on soybeans. Put our number in your cell phone now, and then leave the rest to us after you make the call. ●

**This picture shows the value of pre-emerge. The crop in the foreground did not have a pre-emerge application. The actively growing weeds competed and won the battle for nutrients, water, and sunlight, directly affecting crop growth.**





**RUMENSIN FOR STOCK COWS:  
200 MG PER HEAD PER DAY**

- ✓ Helps with feed efficiency
- ✓ Helps lower cocci counts in cows

## Managing the Feedlot in the Dakota Winter

### With Input From Land O'Lakes® Technical Services

By **Jon Hegge** *Feed Department Manager • [jon.wce@midconetwork.com](mailto:jon.wce@midconetwork.com)*

During the challenges of winter, we want to implement simple management and production strategies that increase cattle comfort, while keeping cost of gain figures from increasing. With help from Watertown Co-op nutrition services, we can achieve both these items.

During cold times, watch feet and legs. Walking on frozen surfaces is difficult, and if it's too much of a struggle, cattle will skip a trip to the feedbunk or drinker. Anything that affects average daily gain... affects your bottom line.

Bedding cattle has profitable results. While it can be labor intensive, if it's done frequently and in small amounts, it can have big results. Colorado State University research shows that properly bedded-down pens result in positive net returns per head.

The biggest wintertime challenge is managing rations. The common practice of increasing the roughage level of the diet for storm rations has pros and cons. The rate of passage and ruminal motility are both increased during cold weather periods. This dilutes the ration's energy level, allowing less time for digestion. However, adding the extra fiber makes bunk management easier and helps maintain cattle on feed. Another option when feeding higher-energy

rations is to drop back one ration step.

From a management standpoint, the best practice is to keep intakes as consistent as possible. Be disciplined not to get ahead of the cattle on intake. They may act hungry but offering more feed than required will cause a crash in intakes and start the roller coaster pattern. If the weather is still bad at feeding, it may be necessary to stir the cattle. Conversely, if the storm has passed and the cattle are aggressively charging the bunk, it may be wise to split the feed delivery to prevent tanking up and digestive upsets.

Then there's water. Decreased water intake results in reduced feed consumption and ADG. Water consumption is typically lower in winter months, but is still the most important nutrient in any weather.

The bottom line is that cattle not protected from the effects of cold stress will not perform as well as those that have protection and proactive feedlot management. Improving cattle comfort by simple enhancements can often be the difference between profit and loss. ●





PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
VISTACOMM

811 Burlington Northern Drive  
Watertown, SD 57201

Office	605-886-3039
	888-882-3039
Agronomy	605-886-8333
Feed	605-886-4406
Grain	605-886-5565
Seed	605-886-0054
Webster Branch	605-345-3366
Henry Branch	605-532-5812



*Mission Statement: To profitably enhance the success of our patrons.*

## Boost Yield Potential With Ascend®

Winfield® Solutions has come out with a root enhancer that can improve yield potential. The use of Ascend on corn and soybeans is our recommendation for increasing profitability. Everywhere we've seen its use, we have witnessed yield bumps. On our own WC side-by-sides, we had a 8.2 bushel increase.

The product jump-starts more uniform emergence and promotes a darker green corn plant, a sign of enhanced plant health. Higher chlorophyll levels mean the plant can better utilize the power of the sun.

In corn hybrids, strong emergence is frequently a factor in selecting corn numbers. But today's advanced genetics has really bred this characteristic into nearly all of today's most popular hybrids. But in Watertown Co-op country, another issue can slow down our corn

development. Our corn may get out of the ground rapidly, but we frequently encounter a cold wet spell during the typical Dakota spring, especially from our earlier planting times. The seedlings will vigorously emerge, but then just sit above the ground, stagnating and not growing.

That's where Ascend can benefit your management. It stimulates root growth and development. We'll see the root systems we used to see on four- to six-inch plants now on two- to three-inch plants, all by using Ascend. So we're stimulating root systems about two to three weeks ahead of normal.

The product is easy to handle, convenient, and best of all, can provide a very high return on your rate of investment. ●

### TIPS FOR UPPING CORN BUSHELS

- Use the right hybrid for each field, not just the automatic trial yield leader
- Use a pre-emerge herbicide
- Use Ascend® with starter
- Use an early in-furrow fungicide

*Note: We are very impressed with results from early in-furrow fungicide applications but also see benefits at the V5 stage. This management sets the stage for plant health, either as a seedling or at V5 when ear girth is being determined. Both can have positive ROI. For 2011, yield data from WC test plot trials will be available on fungicide timing.*

### TIPS FOR UPPING SOYBEAN YIELDS

- Use Roundup Ready 2 Yield®
- Use a pre-emerge herbicide
- Manage your herbicides very timely
- Use Headline or other fungicides

*Note: We have seen a proven increase in yields with the timely use of a fungicide applied during the early July glyphosate application. Practically all customers that have begun using this strategy have then added more acres the following year because of such positive results.*



# SAFETY MATTERS

## TALKING POINTS FOR WATERTOWN COOPERATIVE ELEVATOR ASSOCIATION



## Grain Handling Safety

Agricultural workers are at a serious risk of injury and/or death when installing, climbing into, fumigating, entering, filling, or emptying a silo. Because of the nature of the conditions present, workers may be exposed to hazards such as a lack of oxygen, toxic gases, explosive atmospheres, and grain entrapment.

To reduce your risk of injury, consider the following safety recommendations:

### General Safety Precautions

- Never smoke near a silo or cause sparks from metal friction or electric switches to ignite grain dust. It is extremely explosive—especially if the humidity in the air is low.
- If possible, complete tasks outside of the silo.
- Wear respiratory protection when appropriate.
- Ensure all machine guarding equipment is engaged and in good working order.

### Fumigation Safety

- Ventilate a fumigating silo before entering.
- Open phosphine containers while in open air. Stand upwind as you open containers, and wear protection gear.
- Always fumigate with a co-worker nearby in case of an emergency.
- Mark areas being fumigated with clearly labeled signs.

### Avoiding Grain Suffocation

- Never enter a silo unless it is absolutely necessary. If you must enter, have a co-worker close by in case of an emergency.
- Always turn off the auger and ensure no one is going to empty or fill the silo before entering.
- Stand on a ladder above compacted or bridged grain while dislodging it.

### Structural Safety Concerns

- Adhere to a “bedding-in” procedure when filling a silo by drawing off a rubbish bin full of grain.

## AG STATES GROUP: YOUR AGRICULTURE WORKPLACE SAFETY PARTNER

- Instruct all co-workers to stay away when filling or emptying a silo.
- Conduct regular safety inspections of silos.

### Protection Against Falls

- Use an approved fall restraint system and harness when climbing external silo ladders or when accessing a top hatch.
- Install a wire mesh guard on external openings above the maximum grain level.

### If You Become Trapped by Grain

- Do not panic.
- Shield your face and chest with your arms and clothes to create space to breathe.
- Have the co-worker positioned outside the silo call for help.
- The co-worker should enter the silo only while wearing a breathing apparatus and lifeline.
- Others from outside can then pull you both out safely. ●

***Because of the nature of the conditions present when handling grain, you may be exposed to hazards such as a lack of oxygen, toxic gases, explosive atmospheres, and grain entrapment.***

***To reduce your risk of injury, follow all safety recommendations.***