HENSALL DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE

food products division

WEBSITE www.hdc.on.ca

NEWSLETTER

Our Vision
Building a consumer focused, farmer-owned agri-business with innovative people committed to excellence in a global marketplace.

Our Mission
To be a progressive, diversified agri-co-operative providing the benefits of ownership.

Our Motto
Proud to be farmer-owned.

03/06

Winter Wheat Fertility Program *by Jim Barclay (CCA-ON)*

Winter wheat is considered a "heavy feeder" with respect to nutrient requirements so a sound fertility program is essential to maximizing profit.

A typical 80 bu/ac wheat crop requires:

	N	P_2O_5	K_2O
Uptake	140-160	50-55	95-150
Removal	85 – 95	40-50	26-28

Nitrogen

Most farmers will top dress 90-110 N on soft red and soft white varieties. Rates of 120-140 N are common for hard red winter wheats. Some growers use split applications.

Nitrogen is required early in the growth phase to promote tillering. Tillering promotes more heads per square foot giving you a yield advantage. If early tillering has initiated, an early application may not be as critical.

Environmental conditions often determine when we can start top dressing our winter wheat. Typically, Nitrogen is spread on frosty ground in early April and onto dry soils in mid to late April.

HDC has GPS light bar technology on our custom application equipment which eliminates overlap and ensures accurate application.

Phosphorus

Wheat has a high demand for Phosphorus. Remember to account for this in your fertility program as removal levels are 40-50 lbs/ac of P_2O_5.

Typical fertility programs apply P in a starter band to ensure the adequate P that is required by early root development. Broadcast applications in the previous year's legume crop or fall plow-down following harvest will help to balance the program.

Effect of P starter vs no starter

Potassium

Potash is vital to build strong stems and assists in building sugars and proteins in the wheat plant. A top dress application of potash (K-Cl) will also help fight off wheat disease. 50-60 lbs/ac of potash at the time of top dressing urea works best.

Remember to consider K levels when you decide whether or not to sell your wheat straw. If you choose to remove the straw, you not only give up an opportunity to build organic matter, you also remove 70 ppm of K20. Depending on soil test levels, you will need to account for this in your fertility program.

Clover Seed

Whether it is double or single cut, clover should be in your 2006 wheat crop plans. Clover is an efficient cover crop that improves overall soil structure.

Double cut (DC) produces approximately 40% more top growth by weight and can reach heights of 24" to 30" by late October. DC clover should be plowed late in the season to maximize the benefits. The resulting green manure and organic matter supplies nitrogen and builds good soil structure. The estimated nitrogen credit for DC clover is approximately 40 lb/ac.

By comparison, single cut (SC) offers a nitrogen credit of 33 to 35 lb/ac and produces significantly more root mass than DC. In a minimal tillage system, SC is the preferred choice because there's less top growth.

Can't decide which is best for your farm? You can have the best of both worlds by using a 50:50 mixture. HDC stocks all three options at our retail outlets.

Contracts Still Available

HDC is still contracting production for the following market classes:

- White beans
- Dark red kidneys
- Black beans
- Cranberry beans
- Otebo beans – very limited
- Azuki beans – very limited

NIGHTSHADE

by Paul Cornwell (CCA-ON)

Eastern Black Nightshade is the most common nightshade species found in Ontario field crops. With its black berries and attractive, tiny white flowers, it is easily identified in the fall. Juice from the berries, leaves and stems can plug up rotors, sieves and screens, but the staining on beans is the most serious problem for the majority of growers.

At the first true leave stage, Eastern Black Nightshade is identified by purple colouring underneath. It does look like pigweed, but just pull up that weed and flip it over – the colour gives it away every time.

With the introduction of Pursuit, the challenges of nightshade were reduced. Today however, with Pursuit and Group 2 resistant nightshade, we are seeing a lot more of the weed we love to hate.

Since 1999, populations of black nightshade across Ontario have been reported as Pursuit resistant. Huron, Middlesex, Elgin and Kent all have confirmed Group 2 resistant populations. Reflex works but gives no residual, which is extremely important. If you suspect resistance, the only option in soybeans and dry beans is a Dual/ Frontier/Axiom program. Their activity on nightshade has been proven, even on the new Group 2 resistant nightshade.

Nightshade seeds remain viable for many years, so you must remain vigilant. Seeds may pass through the digestive tracts of animals and birds unharmed. The sticky juice can stick and spread the seeds on equipment and crop seed as well.

Contact your local field marketer with your questions and concerns.

CREDIT CORNER

by Angela Nirta

It's time to arrange financing for your 2006 crop inputs.

Your bank or ACC Farmers Financial can offer you the least costly way to finance. A few hours spent now with your Bank Manager to review your cash flow for 2006 can mean the difference between profit or loss.

ACC Farmers Financial offers the following programs and generally, you can borrow for prime minus 0.25% or lower. Download the forms or request by mail.

1. **Commodity Loans** provide funds of up to $750,000 for crop inputs. Log onto *http://www.accfarmers financial.ca/commodity.htm* for application forms.

2. **Spring Credit Advance Program (SCAP)** provides interest free financing up to $50,000 to assist in purchasing inputs for planting. 2006 Spring Credit Advance applications will be available for download in March at *http://www.accfarmersfinancial.ca/spring.htm* or call 1-888-278-8807.

3. **Advance Payments** is administered under the federal government's Agricultural Marketing Programs Act (AMPA). The advantages of this program are loans up to $250,000; the first $50,000 is interest-free and the balance is at prime minus 0.25%. Log on to *http://www.accfarmersfinancial.ca/advance.htm*

HDC will also finance your crops until harvest, upon completion and approval of the paperwork. The rate for this year is 8.25%. Contact your local FM Rep or Angela Nirta, FCI, at 519-262-3002 ext. 262.

DCT Seed Treatment in White Beans

DCT is a 3-way seed treatment that provides extra protection against seed and soil borne diseases and seed corn maggots.

Imagine . . . it is mid-July and 15% of your white bean plants wilted and eventually died. HDC phones lines would be burning up with upset customers. Yet that is what we could face if seed is not properly treated.

Seed and seedlings are unable to fight off early infections of insects and disease. Planting into less than desirable conditions or poor crop rotation are stresses that can also increase seedling risk if seed is not properly treated.

HDC knows the importance of increasing your yield and maintaining a quality product, that is why we treat your white bean seed with DCT.

Benefits of DCT are:

- Protection against Anthracnose
- Quick germination and even plant stand
- Reduced risk of seed corn maggot damage
- Cost effective seed treatment protection

Anthracnose is a serious seed borne disease in edible beans. The disease spreads fast if cool wet conditions prevail. DCT provides up to 95% control of infected seeds.

DCT is made up of an insecticide (Diazinon) for control of seed corn maggots, and two fungicides (Captan) to protect against seed rots and (thiophanate methyl) for control of seed borne anthracnose.

Growers should always plant certified seed. This ensures the best quality white bean seed that is disease free.