Count Down - When Shooting for the Moon in Corn Profits

Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service

1-1-1961

http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/agext/256

For current publications, please contact the Education Store: https://mdc.itap.purdue.edu/
This document is provided for historical reference purposes only and should not be considered to be a practical reference or to contain information reflective of current understanding. For additional information, please contact the Department of Agricultural Communication at Purdue University, College of Agriculture: http://www.ag.purdue.edu/agcomm
This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.
"COUNOT DOWN"
When Shooting for the Moon in Corn Profits
(Check List for Use of Fertilizer)

PRELIMINARY NOTES: The fertilizer that you plan to use is the best chemical plant food the world has ever had. When used under conditions that give it a chance to work, fertilizer will always make you a good profit from top yields.

Many farmers use fertilizer and obtain only state average yields (60 bushels per acre or less). Does this mean that the fertilizer they used was not good? Not necessarily. It probably means that there were a lot of other factors operating in their corn fields that put the brakes on the good fertilizer that they used. It takes more than just fuel to make a good rocket. Likewise, it takes more than fertilizer alone to make a good corn crop. In each case, both are necessary, but a lot of other things are too. When something besides fertility is holding corn yields down, additional fertilizer merely adds to their costs and further reduces profits.

When you "shoot for the moon in corn profits," it is well to see if all the other necessary parts to make a good corn crop are present and working. The following check list will help you gauge how effective your fertilizer can work in your annual shot for a high corn yield.

Factors Affecting Corn Yields

20--Drainage: Are the drains effective in a wet year? _____.
19--Topsoil: Is the pH level low? _____, medium? _____, high? _____.
18--Is the topsoil shallow? _____, medium? _____, deep? _____, Is it tight and heavy? _____, If so, is this caused by poor drainage? _____, lack of humus? _____, or all three? _____.
16--Are there hardpans or plow soles in the field? _____.
15--Has the soil been tested within the past 3 years for pH (lime), P + K? _____.
14--Do you plow when the field is too wet? _____.
13--Do you plow deep enough? _____ and do you prepare a good seed bed? _____.
12--Do you follow a rotation that does not hurt the land? _____.
11--Do you use a split boot type of planter? _____, If so, is it in good repair and adjusted properly? _____.
10—Better yet, do you use side banding attachments on the old planter? ______. 
Or best, do you have a modern planter with the side banding mechanism built in? ______.

9—Is your planter speed that for which the planter was designed? ______.

8—Are you using varieties suited to your soil and locality? ______.

7—Do you plant the maximum population that the moisture supply and fertility level will support? ______.

6—In cultivating, do you cover up young plants or tear out roots? ______.

5—Do you control weeds well, either by cultivation or spraying? ______.

4—Where the soil is drouthy, do you irrigate? ______. Do you build up water holding capacity of soil by plowing down green manures, crop residues, barn yard manure, etc? ______.

3—Do you combat diseases and insects by doing one or more of the following: spraying? ______, using better rotations, ______, maintaining suitable levels of lime, P and K in the soil? ______, using treated seed? ______.

2—Do you harvest and store the crop efficiently? ______.

1—Do you habitually get field operations done (weather permitting) on time? ______.

If answers indicate chances are favorable for a “Successful Shot,” everything is now set for maximum results and profits from good fuel.

0—"Blast off" with a "Full Charge" of Needed Fertilizer.

NOTE: When one or more of the factors listed are holding yields down, the net profits from the use of larger amounts of fertilizer tend to become less. You should fertilize only up to the yields that these factors will permit. As you eliminate these factors, you can use higher rates of fertilizer profitably. Soil tests from time to time will help you check your fertility position and progress. However, if you know the field is tied down with a lot of conditions or practices which, in themselves, will depress yields, you are costing yourself money when you apply large amounts of costly fertilizer simply as a cure-all. Fertilizing done in the right association with all the factors listed is one of the most profitable cropping practices. Done in the wrong association, part of it can be an item of dead expense.

In the correction of any of these conditions requires a greater amount of technical knowledge than you may have, the County Agent, the Purdue Agronomy Extension Specialist, the S.C.S. Technician and others are anxious to consult with you and help you, if you will ask them. They are good folks to work with in solving some of your special production problems. Many of the high profit farmers in the county have reached their present yield levels by following some of the suggestions made by these men. Incidentally, there is no charge for their services.

Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics
State of Indiana, Purdue University
and the United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating
L. E. Hoffman, Director, Lafayette, Indiana
Issued in furtherance of the Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914