Illinois CCA News - October 2018

CCA Conference and Ag Masters

CCA Conference and Ag Masters will be held Dec. 12-13 at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield. Mark the dates on your calendars and watch your email for the online registration and a link to the updated Illinois CCA website soon!

CCA Exam Registration Open

Exam registration for the February 1, 2019 exam date is open now through December 14th. Please forward the link below to anyone you know interesting in becoming CCA certified or follow it if you are considering obtaining one of the specialty certifications (4R Nutrient Management Specialty, Resistance Management Specialist, Sustainability Specialty, and new in 2019 is the Precision Agriculture Specialty). Find Performance Objectives, registration, and other materials on the CCA Exam website.

NEW--Sustainability Exam Registration Incentive!

Earn $10/completed survey towards the exam registration fee up to a total of $60.00. The American Society for Agronomy, the Agricultural Retailers Association, Field to Market: The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture and Environmental Defense Fund have partnered to create educational resources to help CCAs and ag retailers provide sustainability insights, products and services to their farmer-clientele. To improve these resources, we are offering you a $10.00 gift certificate towards the CCA Sustainability Exam registration for each survey that is completed up to six. This gives you a preview and us your feedback to help enhance the educational modules. Your feedback on the value and appropriateness of the content is very important. To learn more about this program, called Sustainability Programming for Ag Retailers and CCAs (SPARC) please visit www.fieldtomarket.org/sparc.

Still need CEUs?

If you still need CEUs, updates are being sent out by the staff in Madison. Watch for them so you know how many credits you need to complete your 2017-2018 cycle.

Register for October 19 Nitrogen Webinar

On Friday, October 19 at 8:30 am Central Time, Dr. Emerson Nafziger will have a one hour webinar focused on nitrogen management for the 2019 season. The title of the webinar is "Managing Nitrogen After Another Great Year" and he will share results of the

2018 nitrogen rate trials performed throughout the state. IFCA's Dan Schaefer, Jason Solberg and John Pike worked with Dr. Nafziger to implement nearly 50 trials in 2018. The results are interesting and in many ways different from last year, so tune in. We will offer 1 CEU in Nutrient Management. The webinar will also be recorded and posted at www.ifca.com if you can't make it but want to listen later. IFCA would like to thank GROWMARK for helping to host the webinar. To register for the October 19 Webinar click here.

Fall Nitrogen Guidelines from IFCA

When stepping outside today, the first reaction is "brrr!" As temperatures have plummeted from 80 degrees last week to highs of 50 degrees this week in much of Illinois, the next thing to think about is the 4Rs of fall fertilizer application--specifically fall ammonia applications.

Each morning, IFCA will post a map of the State Water Survey's WARM site, which has indicators of the maximum daily soil temperature in bare soil at the 4-inch depth. With regard to applying anhydrous ammonia in the fall, we continue to urge patience until soil temperatures fall to 50 degrees and the soil temps are not likely to rebound from those levels in any kind of significant way. Normally the calendar date for this to occur, on average, is around November 1. Last year it was after November 1 before soil temps fell to 50 degrees and this year it is looking to occur much earlier.

We know that our members are keenly aware of the stewardship objectives of the fertilizer industry, so we know over the next week everyone will be looking at what everyone else is doing. IFCA's advice is to use your best professional judgement--we all know what feels right and what doesn't. Take soil temps yourself in the field of application, with the calendar also being a consideration. Our industry has done a TERRIFIC job over the years effectively managing fall N and we know this year will be no different. And when it all starts, BE SAFE. As we have always stressed, please use the soil temperatures as your guide (daily maximum 4 inch temp at 50 degrees) and use a labeled nitrification inhibitor, at the manufacturer's recommended rate, in all fall applied ammonia. We also recommend total N rates follow the MRTN; the Nitrogen Calculator for Illinois is again being updated and soon we will have an Apple app to also link to quickly to the N Rate Calculator - stay tuned!

Go to www.ifca.com and you will see the soil temperature map displayed on our homepage each morning. If you click on the map it will expand for easy reading. If you go to the WARM website to get the same map, you will have to create an account and login each time to access the maps.

For more guidelines on fall nitrogen applications, Chapter 9 of the Illinois Agronomy Handbook provides an excellent explanation of the factors to consider. For a refresher, click here to access the section on timing of fall nitrogen applications.

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