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## **Certificate for Fertilizer Application**

Last week I discussed a little about the Certification for Fertilizer Application. This was SB 150 which is now signed into law. As I stated last week, for those who currently hold a Pesticide License this will simply be added to that license once training is completed. For those without a pesticide license a new license/certification will be required.

As I understand it, this will be needed by September of 2017, but the sooner the better. For those with Pesticide License, the training and eventual re-certification, will be needed every 3 years at no additional charge. For those who need a Fertilizer Certification that do not currently hold a pesticide license there will be a \$30 charge, which is the same as the Pesticide License.

I am still learning about this, too. However, I do know there are some people who will not need this. Just like with pesticides, if you have fertilizer applied by a custom applicator you will not need a certification. If you have less than 50 acres you will be exempt. If you do not sell produce from the farm you are exempt. As I understand it, if you produce hay, corn, soybeans, or other produce that you sell you will need this certification. However, if you produce hay, corn, soybeans or other produce and feed it to livestock without selling the hay or other stuff you will not need the certification.

We are looking at this as a great opportunity to teach about the use of nutrients on the farm. Not just the use of the materials, but hopefully the most efficient use of these products and most likely save some fertilizer dollars in your operation. The training will begin in the following months, so continue to watch for dates, times and locations in this weekly column. As with most OSU Extension programs, we will need to have pre-registrations. The number of people needing this training is not known, so we will need to limit the trainings to the space available.

## **Corn Drydown: What to expect?**

In the past few days I have seen corn in several stages and talked to farmers who say they have corn everywhere from the dough stage to ear drop. With that said I thought this information that appears in this week's CORN Newsletter from Peter Thomison, OSU Extension Corn Specialist, was timely.

Corn growers may encounter slower than normal dry down this fall due to relatively cool weather conditions and late crop development. Corn will normally dry approximately 3/4 to 1% per day during favorable drying weather (sunny and breezy) during the early warmer part of the harvest season from mid-September through late September. By early to mid-October, dry-down rates will usually drop to 1/2 to 3/4% per day. By late October to early November, field dry down rates will usually drop to 1/4 to 1/2% per day and by mid-November, probably 0 to 1/4% per day. By late November, drying rates will be negligible.

Estimating dry down rates can also be considered in terms of Growing Degree Days (GDDs). Generally, it takes about 30 GDDs to lower grain moisture each point from 30% down to 25%. Drying from 25 to 20 percent requires about 45 GDDs per point of moisture. In October, we accumulate about 5 to 10 GDDs per day. However, note that the above estimates are based on generalizations, and it is likely that some hybrids may vary from this pattern of drydown. Some seed companies indicate considerably lower GDDs for grain moisture loss, i.e. 15 to 20 GDDs to lower grain moisture each point from 30% down to 25% and 20 to 30 GDDs per point from 25% to 20%. Past Ohio research evaluating corn drydown provides insight on effects of weather conditions on grain drying. During a warm, dry fall, grain moisture loss per day ranged from 0.76 to 0.92%. During a cool, wet fall, grain

moisture loss per day ranged from 0.32 to 0.35%. Grain moisture losses based on GDDs ranged from 24 to 29 GDDs per percentage point of moisture (i.e., a loss of one percentage point of grain moisture per 24 to 29 GDDs) under warm dry fall conditions, whereas under cool wet fall conditions, moisture loss ranged from 20 to 22 GDDs. The number of GDDs associated with grain moisture loss was lower under cool, wet conditions than under warm, dry conditions.

Agronomists generally recommend that harvesting corn for dry grain storage should begin at about 24 to 25% grain moisture. Allowing corn to field dry below 20% risks yield losses from stalk lodging, ear drop, ear rots, insect feeding damage and wildlife damage.

For more on grain drydown, check out the following article by Dr. Bob Nielsen at Purdue  
Nielsen, R.L. 2013. Field Drydown of Mature Corn Grain. Corny News Network, Purdue Univ.  
URL: <http://www.kingcorn.org/news/timeless/GrainDrying.html> [URL accessed Sept 15, 2014].

## **Farm Bill Meetings**

There will be several opportunities to attend a Farm Bill Meeting in the coming months. For the most part these meetings will be after the first of the year in January through March of 2015. However the Dairy portion will need to be taken care of before that. I believe the dairy decisions will need to be made in November. The plan is to have 3 meetings in the 10 counties that make up the Ohio Valley EERA (Extension Educational Research Area). We are looking at one meeting in Jackson. The other two will be in West Union and somewhere in the Hillsboro area. The meeting dates will be in October.

The Jackson date is October 9. The meeting in West Union will be on Thursday, October 16 starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Frisch's in West Union. **YOU NEED TO PRE-REGISTER** by calling the Adams Co. Extension Office at 544-2339. The location for the Hillsboro area meeting will be at the Farm Service Agency starting at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 22. To register for this meeting, please call the Highland Co. Extension Office at 393-1918. Keep in mind these early meetings are just for the Dairy Producers in our area. Regardless of which meeting you plan to attend, please pre-register at least 2 days prior to the date of the meeting.

## **Dates to Remember**

September 22 -27	Brown County Fair
October 9	Dairy Producer Farm Bill Meeting
October 16	Dairy Producer Farm Bill Meeting in West Union at Frisch's at 9:30 a.m. (Breakfast is on your own. Try to come early enough to be finished eating by 9:30.)
October 22	Dairy Producer Farm Bill Meeting in Hillsboro at FSA Office begins at 1:00 p.m.

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