



...IN YOUR FIELD

www.visionaryagronomics.com

IN YOUR FIELD is a bi-weekly newsletter reporting field observations and nutrient tracking, whether in the soil or in the tile, through the eyes of Dr. Howard Brown. Join Dr. Brown as he focuses on M.O.M - Improving environmental quality and farm profitability at the same time.

IT'S TIME TO SUBSCRIBE! **IN YOUR FIELDS Newsletter** is scheduled to start on April 2, 2024. Subscribe now to avoid missing the first Issue of the growing season. Visit www.visionaryagronomics.com, and click on "Newsletter" to sign up. You will receive the first issue before an invoice is generated in case you decide the newsletter does not fit your needs. If you want to continue subscribing, pay the invoice.

VISIONARY AGRONOMICS IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE a \$10/acre consulting/scouting package for a limited number of producers in 2024. The package is designed to accommodate up to an 80-acre field and includes the following:

- Two scouting visits
- One consulting session
- One NuTRAC Site (3 sampling dates)
- IN YOUR FIELD Newsletter subscription
- In-season cell phone access
- Note: Additional mileage charge beyond a 10-mile radius around Mahomet, IL.

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Visit www.visionaryagronomics.com for a complete list of services offered in 2024.

BLOWING SOIL (FIGURE 1) SHOULD BE ANTICIPATED as we move into a period of multiple freeze-thaw cycles with a little moisture mixed in. Significant tillage after the fall harvest has left many fields vulnerable to Spring soil movement. There is little that can be done at this time if windy conditions promote suspension soil erosion. Roughing the soil surface with tillage may help, but it won't stop it.

TEST CROP RESPONSE TO SULFUR AND BORON. Control input costs by strip testing in a field. Apply 20 pounds/acre of sulfur in a sulfate form, such as ammonium sulfate (dry), calcium sulfate (dry), or ammonium thiosulfate (liquid). Do not use 92% sulfur (elemental). It must be mineralized before plants have any access. Consider 1 quart per acre of 10% boron with preplant chemistries. **ALWAYS CHECK COMPATIBILITY** with a jar test before mixing a load.



Figure 1. Reduced roadway visibility and soil accumulation in ditch because of soil suspension erosion.



Figure 2. Soil cover by stand of cereal rye seeded the latter part of October 2023.

PREPARATION FOR THE 2025 crop year can include plans to minimize or eliminate field suspension erosion (blowing soil) starting in the fall of 2024 with a cover crop. There are more positives about planting another crop after harvest (Figure 2) than many producers consider. Now is the time to take a serious look at discovering the positives by identifying a 40-acre field in 2024 that can be used to test a green-after-green approach to farming. Want to visit about the positives and the best approach to discover how it works? Schedule a time to visit at www.visionaryagronomics.com. The first consultation is complimentary.

THE MOST COMMON QUESTION THIS SPRING will be: “Is my N still there?” Bank and stock investments are periodically tracked in case changes are needed to maximize return on investment, so why not track the greatest input cost for corn production, nitrogen? For over ten years, I have been tracking Plant-Available N (PAN) from harvest until tassel-time. Nu-TRAC, a new approach to nutrient management, provides timely reports of nutrient concentrations in the upper soil profile and within the plant tissue. It utilizes soil and tissue tests to determine nutrient status preplant, V5 (early growth), and VT (tasseling). Want to give it a try. Visit www.visionaryagronomics.com, click “Consulting,” and fill out the “Contact Me” form.

THE TIME IS NOW TO START ON-FARM TESTING. Consider creating a place to learn and test new strategies and products, utilizing your farming practices and choice of inputs over time. A Discovery Field will help identify new products and technologies that will help improve long-term farm profitability. Experiment with generating your own nutrient removal factors to create your own fertilizer recommendation. Sit down with your local ag retailer and discuss what questions or cropping systems you would like to learn more about. The concept works. To date, many producers are now including sulfur and boron in their nutrient management strategy because of what was learned over the past four years from in-field testing.

IT IS TIME TO CONSIDER A NEW APPROACH to production agriculture in East-Central Illinois. A system that goes beyond a 7-inch plow layer and recommendations based upon 1970s yield expectations. “What got us to where we are at, will not take us to where we need to go” is a profound quote that summarizes where we are at with input decisions of the 2020s. It is time to focus on crop removal of nutrients at harvest. It is time to track plant-available N over time to determine whether applications resulted in too much, not enough, or just the right amount was applied. It is time to fertilize each crop and focus on more than N, P, and K. It is time to take a NuTRAC (new track). Request time for a visit at www.visionaryagronomics.com by clicking “Consulting” and filling out the “Contact Me.” There is no better time than now to “learn, unlearn, and relearn.”

I hope you subscribe!

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“I do not want to protect the environment from production agriculture. I want to create a version of production agriculture where the environment does not need protecting.”