



# GOLD-EAGLE COOPERATIVE

## THE PERSPECTIVE

[www.goldeaglecoop.com](http://www.goldeaglecoop.com)

Construction is progressing well at our Wesley location.



### LOCATIONS

#### Eagle Grove

448-4775  
800-873-1797  
—Feed Mill—  
515-448-5392  
800-722-3966

#### Thor

378-3314  
866-210-9734

#### Goldfield

825-3161  
800-825-3331

#### Renwick

824-3214  
888-824-3214

#### Hardy

824-3221  
866-210-9733

#### Livermore

379-1843  
888-576-1843

#### Corwith

583-2462  
888-581-2462

#### Wesley

679-4272  
866-212-3890

#### Titonka

928-2272  
866-203-9656

## Build It and They Will Come

By Brad Davis  
General Manager



We've been reinvesting quite heavily in Gold-Eagle for the past several years to keep your cooperative strong and build momentum for the future. On Aug. 25, your board of directors explored the many ways we've upgraded Gold-Eagle's facilities.

Our new truck wash in Eagle Grove includes interlocking panels specifically designed for industrial truck washes. Installation of fully automated wash equipment is the next process in construction and next step toward completion.



The board and management tour all of Gold-Eagle's facilities each year. We review the projects we've completed, analyze how they're performing, assess current projects, and look ahead to new opportunities. It was very satisfying to see all the improvements Gold-Eagle has made in the past several years, including:

- **The Wesley greenfield site.** This new complex will be used for corn and includes a computerized, 20,000-bushel-per-hour unloading system. We refer to the Wesley project as "generation five," since it's our fifth greenfield site. We started developing these sites in 2010 with Thor, followed by Renwick, Corwith, Titonka, and Wesley. These sites are truly a case of "build it and they will come." It's unbelievable how much grain these facilities pull in. Nearly 14 million bushels of new grain storage in the last five years are working hard for Gold-Eagle each day. These investments aren't just grain facilities, either. They include agronomy facilities and rolling stock like anhydrous ammonia tanks and toolbars, feed equipment and facilities, and transportation assets all to better serve our members.

*continued on page 2*

# Flying High With Gold-Eagle's UAV

By Bruce Burns, Eagle Vision Precision Farming Services

Gold-Eagle recently purchased an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) to take photos of projects currently going up around the company, plus we're flying over our test plots. Log on to [www.goldeaglecoop.com/precision-ag](http://www.goldeaglecoop.com/precision-ag) to take a look at pictures and videos we've taken with the UAV.

This unit has a 12-megapixel camera and has 4K recording capabilities, so the pictures and videos are amazing. We don't have the NDVI or RGB color imagery capabilities with this unit, but we do offer these advanced services to you by accessing either through our mapping program's service providers (utilizing satellite imagery) or our airplane providers. If you're interested in imagery, contact your local Gold-Eagle salesperson, or contact me at 515-605-5113 (office), 515-851-5043 (cell), or [bburns@goldeaglecoop.com](mailto:bburns@goldeaglecoop.com) to learn more about this UAV.

**Note:** Due to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) restrictions, this is how we are proceeding at the present time. We hope to expand our services with this unit and maybe other units in the future years, but we'll have to see how the FAA rules next spring on the commercial use of UAVs. ◀

## Build It... *continued from page 1*

- **Ethanol production.** Our robust investments in the CORN, LP plant helped us enjoy an extremely successful 2014 in the ethanol business.
- **Upgraded feed mill facilities.** When we visited Gold-Eagle's feed mill in Eagle Grove, we saw 25 tons of feed loaded into eight different compartments in one semi-truck in 40 seconds. The mill's efficiency is also enhanced by two different loadouts. Gold-Eagle staff conceived and designed the concept for this type of system, and there's nothing like it in the industry. Other groups have toured this innovative facility and are modeling their feed loadouts after ours.
- **Truck wash.** We also saw the new truck wash being built adjacent to our feed mill. This unmanned, computerized system is actually

two truck washes in one and will allow us to wash and chemically disinfect a truck every four to five minutes. This state-of-the-art facility will be completed in November.

It's very satisfying to see the results of good decisions positively shaping the future of your cooperative. This year we'll achieve a new record financially. Prudent reinvestments in Gold-Eagle will serve our members well and will continue to help make us financially successful.

While we looked at plenty of brick-and-mortar facilities on the board's tour, we never forget that people are Gold-Eagle's most important assets. We appreciate the dedication of our entire staff, along with your support, and look forward to serving you this fall. ◀



*This aerial shot was taken with Gold-Eagle's new UAV at the west test plot near Renwick. Note how the various hybrids stand out.*

## Take Advantage of Custom Anhydrous

By Stu Pannkuk, Agronomy Sales Manager

It looks like we're going to harvest a large crop this fall. Since this will take more time to harvest, tillage could be delayed. That means the window of opportunity for applying fall ammonia might close quickly.

Gold-Eagle will offer custom NH<sub>3</sub> this fall, with the ability to apply more acres than in the past. The plan is to have four to five large toolbars applying this fall.

We have more demand every year for custom NH<sub>3</sub> services. We'd like to know as soon as possible if you're interested in this convenient service. Then we can adjust our schedule to serve you most efficiently, which will help you get your tillage work done on time.

Contact your Gold-Eagle agronomist for more details. ◀





# Anhydrous Made Easy

By Stu Pannkuk  
Agronomy Sales Manager



When Gold-Eagle's board members toured the cooperative's facilities on August 25, they got a glimpse of how good the crops look and also saw how \$2.5 million+ dollars in agronomy equipment/facilities upgrades will serve you better. These improvements include new  $\text{NH}_3$  toolbars and nurse tanks.

All the toolbars we purchased are fully equipped with auto-reset shanks, 24-inch coulters, 18-inch disc sealers, walking tandems, and Raven precision controllers with N-Serve® injection. We purchased six on-row, 16-shank rigs for 40-foot coverage; five on-row, 20-shank rigs for 50-foot coverage; and five on-row, 24-shank rigs for 60-foot coverage.

## Improving our anhydrous service, by the numbers

Not only did we upgrade the quality of our fleet, but we also increased our anhydrous nursing capacity. We purchased 48 double 1,450-gallon nursing units for our existing fleet.

Let's compare the fall of 2014 versus the upcoming fall:

- In the fall of 2014 we serviced our  $\text{NH}_3$  customers with toolbars with a total of approximately 700 shanks on the ground. This fall we have

the capacity of 830 shanks on the ground. **That's a 16% increase.**

- In the fall of 2014 we had approximately 300,000 gallons of nursing capacity available to feed the toolbars. This fall we'll have approximately 425,000 gallons. **That's an increase of almost 30%.**
- When you analyze the big picture, we had 420 gallons of nursing capacity per shank in the fall of 2014, compared to 507 gallons of nursing capacity per shank this fall. **That's a 17% increase**

There was one more upgrade we made for this fall. We took our best 17/19 shank toolbars that are being replaced with new toolbars and removed the outer wings. This reduced them to a 13 shank for our growers who pull that size. These bars will have the features of walking tandems, allowing outer wing flex to follow the ground, along with 18-disc sealers.

*Our new anhydrous double tanks at Eagle Grove are ready to roll.*



*These new anhydrous toolbars are ready to go to work in your fields.*



## Fertilizer update

Speaking of  $\text{NH}_3$ , summer fill is complete and we've purchased ample supplies for fall. With dry fertilizer, all potash has been received, and we're almost done with phosphate. Elemental sulfur and zinc are also in stock.

By late August, we were around 30% complete with our supplies of 32% UAN and should be done by the end of September.

Thanks for your agronomy business. We look forward to working with you this fall. ◀

## We Beat Our Goal by 5%

What happened to the older/obsolete  $\text{NH}_3$  equipment we replaced? Gold-Eagle Cooperative hired Del Peterson & Associates to sell this older equipment through its online system.

We sold 81 thousand-gallon  $\text{NH}_3$  nurse tanks and retained 8 thousand-gallon tanks for specific needs. We also sold 19 older/obsolete toolbars of various sizes, some of which hadn't been pulled for several years. In addition, we also sold some miscellaneous equipment, including liquid systems off floaters that were only being used for dry fertilizer, unused conveyors, and obsolete liquid and dry tendering equipment.

The good news? Total revenue from the auction exceeded our most optimistic predictions by 5%.

# Understanding the China Syndrome

By Duane Madoerin  
Merchandising Manager



August 24 was “Black Monday” in China. Chinese stocks plunged 8.5% after dropping 11% the previous week. By early September, the Chinese economy slowdown continued.

What’s the big deal with what’s going on with China?

- China is the world’s largest-consuming nation.
- China’s inability to buy impacts nations around the globe. Things get tough when the largest customer in the world can’t buy your products.
- China is a major consumer of meat, grains, metals, and energy products.

In the ag community, we’re well aware of China’s impact on our grain and distillers dried grain (DDG) markets, especially when China quits buying for whatever reason.

## The shock heard round the world

The recent slowdown in the Chinese economy has sent tremors throughout the world—not only in commodities, but also in the global financial and energy sectors.

When the largest customer quits buying your goods, surplus products seek a fire-sale clearing price. This isn’t good for anyone. It creates a domino effect and jeopardizes economies throughout the world, reducing other countries’ buying power, too.

China has been burdened with a 5-billion-bushel+ corn reserve that they’re trying to use domestically. Chinese farmers are having to pay more than \$9 a bushel to buy this corn. This has caused a significant reduction in their sow herd.

During the past 18 months, China has culled almost 100 million hogs and 10 million sows—that’s equal to the herds in Mexico, the United States, and Canada combined. Millions of small Chinese producers are leaving the hog industry after over-expansion in the past few years has squeezed profits. This could impact Chinese feed demand and our exports.

## Price weakness remains

That’s not the only challenge in the grain markets. December 2015 corn futures traded as much as \$0.30 lower on August 12 following the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) surprisingly large yield forecast. The price of that contract rallied about \$0.15 in the following week but then started moving lower again.

Recent price weakness is not coming from the supply side.

# It’s Official—We’re HACCP Certified

Public scrutiny continues to focus on the livestock industry. Since we want to do the best job possible to help care for livestock in our area, we became certified in Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Points (HACCP) in late August.

This certification is a good tool that allows us to not only meet the requirements of the federal Food Safety Modernization Act, but to go above and beyond these standards. Customers are asking for accountability from their manufacturing partners, and the HACCP certification is an important part of this.

There is a significant financial cost for us to be certified, plus it’s a huge commitment to go down this path. We wanted to do it right, however. This level of certification

By Rachel Howdyshell  
Customer Sales and Support



is becoming the norm in the feed industry. Our current HACCP certification will be good for three years and shows we’re prepared for the future.

## Watch for details on VFDs

Veterinary feed directives (VFDs) are the next big thing on the horizon. They will change how you do business. Gold-Eagle will be working hard to help guide you through these changes and explain what they mean to you. Watch for more details.

We appreciate your business and look forward to serving you. ◀



There's a general sentiment that USDA's production forecast will not increase from the September forecast of 13.585 billion bushels. Instead, market commentary seems to suggest the trade is expecting the yield forecast to decline from the September forecast of 167.5 bushels per acre.

Expectations appear to be retreating to the 165- to 168-bushel level reported as the average trade guess prior to the release of the USDA's October forecast. Continuing weakness in corn prices reflects perceived demand weakness.

Concerns about demand may stem from two sources. First is the concern that exports of U.S. corn will fall short of the current USDA projection of 1.85 billion bushels. Second, there are concerns about weak commodity demand in general, resulting from slow economic growth and severe weakness in financial markets. Weakening demand implies that a lower price will be required to entice a given level of consumption.

The size of this year's U.S. crop may not be known until post-harvest, similar to the wet year of 1993.

### Preparing for harvest

Please review the 2015 grain policies on pages 7 and 8 in this newsletter. The drying rate has been reduced to 3 ¾ cents a point.

Thanks for your grain business. I wish you a safe, productive harvest. ◀



# We Can Get You Linked Up

By Bruce Burns

*Eagle Vision Precision Farming Services*

If you have a cloud account like My John Deere, Agco AgCommand, Precision Planting Yieldsense, or Raven Slingshot®, did you know we can upload your data into our system seamlessly? Just give me a call to get linked up.

If you're not on these systems, please bring in your yield data cards during and after you harvest your fields, and we can process the data for you. We'll also work with you on how collecting this data can be a big help in improving your overall farming practices.

To get started with either of these options, contact me at 515-605-5113 (office), 515-851-5043 (cell), or [bburns@goldeaglecoop.com](mailto:bburns@goldeaglecoop.com).

### Analyzing the most useful data you'll ever collect

Yield data is a vital cog in the precision ag sector and will continue to be one of the best layers of information you will ever collect.

Gold-Eagle utilizes some of the best mapping programs in the industry to process and deliver the most accurate data. We "clean" your data, so you don't have those outlier strips going down the road. This also accounts for data that's collected on the ends if your header is down and also if your flow settings aren't where they should be in your combines.

Make sure you take the time to calibrate your yield monitors at least once every year for both soybeans and corn. This helps to ensure your data is as accurate as possible from the start. This makes the "cleaning" process much better and more accurate!

Gold-Eagle also takes the privacy of your field information seriously. We do not share any data with anyone without your permission. We appreciate your business and look forward to working with you this fall. ◀





*This photo of our summer plot tour at our Wesley location was taken with Gold-Eagle's new UAV.*



## Plan Ahead for Success in 2016

It's been a long time since we've had a growing season with nearly ideal conditions like 2015. All of you who stopped by our plot tours this summer seemed pretty optimistic about the yield potential of this year's crop. Thanks to all of you who participated in our plot tours.

I think we have a good chance of high yields this fall, due to excellent plant health and optimum growing conditions. One issue that's troublesome, however, is waterhemp. I know many of you are asking how to deal with this challenge next year.

New technologies are being developed, including the Roundup Ready® Xtend Crop System for soybeans, to provide more consistent, flexible control of tough-to-manage and glyphosate-resistant weeds. Roundup Ready 2 Xtend™ Soybeans will contain the Genuity® Roundup Ready 2 Yield® trait technology stacked with a trait that contains tolerance to dicamba.

There's also a lot of interest in the new Enlist™ Weed Control System, which offers tolerance to a new 2,4-D and glyphosate. The launch of Enlist and the Roundup Ready Xtend Crop System are pending regulatory approvals. However, even if these approvals come this fall or winter, there will likely be limited supplies for a few years. We'll have to take a wait-and-see approach.

*By Chris Petersen  
Seed Sales Manager*



### What's next for seed prices?

Many of you are also asking about seed prices. I don't see any big changes, since most seed prices have stayed flat. It's not too early to start selecting hybrids and varieties for 2016. Ordering early will give you the most choices and best discounts.

There will probably be a lot more Double PROs® for 2016. If you have rotated acres, this can be a good option, especially if you don't have heavy rootworm infestations. Double PRO corn technology is the only double-stacked corn trait with dual modes of action for above-ground insect protection. It gives you a lot of the genetics found in SmartStax® but helps you lower your seed cost.

We appreciate your business, and we're ready to help you plan ahead for 2016. I hope you have a safe, productive harvest. ◀

# GOLD-EAGLE COOPERATIVE 2015 FALL HARVEST POLICIES

## Receiving for market

Gold-Eagle Cooperative will receive and store grain on a first-come, first-served basis. Normal hours of operation during harvest will be 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Actual hours may vary according to harvest pressure, weather, demand, and availability of storage, and these will be posted on a daily basis at each location.

The first grain received will apply to any open sales contracts. All corn and soybeans delivered at harvest may be placed on warehouse receipt as long as storage space is available.

Please notify the scale operator of any applicable splits on ownership, etc. at time of delivery to help avoid errors in recordkeeping and/or settlements.

## Special notice - 15 days grace period

Grain delivered at harvest will be classified into 3 categories: 1) The first grain delivered will be applied to contracts; 2) Grain allowed for sale, without storage charges as long as sold within 15 days of first load delivered; 3) Beyond the 15-day limit, grain will be considered "stored" with the average delivery date to apply to deposit date.

While space is available, grain will be dried and shrunk to meet stored grain requirements and a warehouse receipt will be issued, with appropriate storage charges to apply.

After storage space has been filled, signs will be posted at all locations and grain will only be accepted for sale or price later contract.

## REGULAR STORAGE RATES - WAREHOUSE RECEIPT - NO MINIMUM STORAGE REQUIREMENT

August - March  
1/7 Cent/Bushel/Day

April - July  
1/20 Cent/Bushel/Day

## Regular storage billing

Storage will be billed to customer by Gold-Eagle on the following quarterly schedule:

**December 31**  
**March 31**  
**June 30**  
**September 30**

## Moisture requirements

**Corn Maximum = 25% Soybean Maximum = 15%**  
Corn or soybeans in excess of these maximum requirements subject to rejection.

Position	Corn	Soybeans
Immediate Sale	15%	13%
Price Later Contract	15%	13%
Warehouse Receipt	14%	13%
Grain Bank	14%	N/A

## Special note on grain bank

Any bushels subsequently sold to the market out of grain bank will be assessed regular storage rates. After one year, regular storage rates will be assessed and billed on a quarterly basis. Grain bank can't be transferred to other ownership. Grain bank can only be used in feed rations or as processed grain.

## Moisture averaging

*To be averaged, grain must be delivered during the same time period and placed on same settlement sheet.*

**Corn:** All corn moistures will be averaged. Corn will be shrunk to the moisture requirements shown above, and dried according to the drying requirements shown elsewhere.

**Soybeans:** Gold-Eagle Cooperative will average all soybeans 13.5% moisture and below. Soybeans 13.6% moisture and above will be averaged. Soybeans over 15% moisture are subject to rejection or discount on merit.

## Corn for drying

Gold-Eagle Cooperative will charge 3.75 cents per bushel for each 1% of moisture, or fraction thereof, which is removed.

*(Example: Corn for warehouse receipt, which is delivered at 16% moisture. Corn will be dried to 14% moisture. 2% of moisture removed times 3.75 cents drying charge will result in drying charge of 7.5 cents per bushel.)*

## Shrink

Moisture Shrink = 1.18% Handling Shrink = 0.27%  
Total Shrink = 1.45% per 1% of moisture removed

## Discounts

The discounts for heat and moisture damage, insects, mold, test weight, and others, which are in effect from the grain trade at the time of settlement will be applied.

## Soybean moisture discount

The schedule is 3% shrink discount calculated by the 1/10% of moisture for soybeans between 13.1% and 13.5% moisture. *(Example: 100 bushels of soybeans at 13.5% moisture: Customer will be paid for 98.5 bushels of soybeans with no cash discount.)*

Soybeans that average 13.6% moisture and above will receive a shrink discount of 4% calculated by the 1/10% of moisture.



## Price later contracts - corn and soybeans

(Remember: Price later grain is not eligible for seal.)

### Pricing Policy - Price Later

- Price Later contracts can be priced any time Gold-Eagle Cooperative is open for business and bidding for grain.
- Price later contracts to be priced for cash price only - no forward contracting.
- Contracts will carry an expiration date of Aug. 31, 2016, and must be priced by the close of business that date or it will be automatically priced on Aug. 31, 2016.

### THERE IS NO OPTION TO ROLL OVER

Contracts will be priced at our regular posted bid, less service charge, which applies as described below.

### NOTE - ALL GRAIN CONTRACTS MUST BE SIGNED

All grain contracts, including deferred and price later, **must be signed by the customer in a timely manner**, with a copy of the signed contract to be on file in our office to be considered a valid contract.

Signing contracts is **the responsibility of the customer**. If any contract has not been signed by the customer, it is not valid. Grain involved in un-signed contracts will be placed into storage, with appropriate drying, shrink, and storage rates to apply.

### Service Charge - Price Later

20 cents/bushel to Jan. 4, 2016.

3 cents/month Jan. 5 to Aug. 31, 2016.

20 cents will be billed at issuance.

### Moisture - Price Later

Contracts will be made for dry bushels with normal drying/shrink charges as listed elsewhere to apply.

*Maximum moisture allowable is 15% for corn and 13% for soybeans.*

## Deferred payment contracts

Gold-Eagle will issue deferred payment contracts to those who request them for grain sold before Dec. 31, 2015, to have payment-specified contract date in 2016.

## Grain bank rates

Grain Bank charges are 3 cents/bushel to feed customers of Gold-Eagle Cooperative for one year and is only for producer-delivered corn. Grain bank is not available for soybeans or oats.

### NO IDENTIFICATION TRANSFERS ARE ALLOWED

Any individual/entity that delivers corn to grain bank must be the same individual/entity using grain bank corn in their feed. No exceptions are allowed.

After one year, regular storage will be assessed and billed quarterly. Any grain bank bushels which go out of the elevator in "unprocessed" form will be subject to "regular storage" rates plus an in/out charge of 21 cents per bushel.

The "unprocessed policy" is a Department of Agriculture requirement for Gold-Eagle to maintain its grain license. We will not jeopardize the company's grain license.

## ALL POLICIES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

**Any changes which are made will be posted in each office.**



# Are You Replacing Enough Nutrients?

With the yields we're producing, grid results show we're not replacing nutrients like we should.

Proper fertilization shouldn't be a guessing game. It's important to grid your fields every fourth year so you get an updated set of recommendations as your soil's nutrient levels change. Grid sampling one-fourth of your fields yearly also spreads out your investment in the grids.

## DID YOU KNOW?

A two-year conventional rotation (corn followed by soybeans, or soybeans followed by corn) will remove crop nutrients as follows:

- 116 actual pounds of phosphorus/P2O5 (252 pounds of 18-46-0 to maintain what was used by the crop)
- 135 actual pounds of potassium/K2O (216 pounds of 0-0-62.5 to maintain what was used by the crop)
- 24 pounds of sulfur
- 3 pounds of zinc

Now's the time to line up grid sampling with your Gold-Eagle salesperson, before you get busy with harvest. Pulling the samples after harvest is like taking inventory to know what nutrients you need and where to place them.

The pH issues in this area are the main reason to take a 2.5-acre grid sample. There's a significant return in investment on putting lime on your fields where it's needed.

Phosphorus (P) and potassium (K), along with micronutrients like zinc (Zn) and sulfur (S) are a bonus, and we can make a solid plan for you with the grid results. We use some of the best software available to produce the most accurate recommendations in the industry. We combine this data with our knowledge of your fields to help maximize your return on investment.

## Let's get started

We use an online system to enter your fields for grid sampling and mark each field as "pending." When you harvest a field you want sampled, just let your agronomist know and he will go back online and mark your field as "ready." This keeps idle time to a minimum, as you want to be tilling your fields at an

By Bruce Burns  
Eagle Vision Precision  
Farming Services



optimum time after we apply fertilizer.

Please don't till your fields until we have the grids taken and fertilizer applied. Studies have shown that tillage does skew your sample results. When you disturb the top 6 to 9 inches of the soil profile, this will test differently from undisturbed topsoil. Also, tilled soil is rough and tough on our machines, applicators, and our people doing the soil testing. Thanks for your patience and understanding on this.

## Get the most for your money

When you figure your grid expense into your soil fertility plan, grids are an investment, rather than an add-on. Pinpointing your nutrient needs also helps you get the most for your fertilizer investment.

Contact your Gold-Eagle salesperson today to line up grid sampling this fall. Have a safe harvest. We thank you for your business. ◀

## No Chicken Litter This Fall



When avian influenza hit Iowa this spring and killed millions of chickens, the layer barns where we get our chicken litter were also infected with this highly pathogenic virus.

Due to the various governmental regulations, insurance regulations, and other possible complications that could arise from delivering and spreading this litter, G-E Max Nutrients will not be offering chicken litter this fall.

We will be offering litter again in the fall of 2016. Tons will be limited, however, until the fall of 2017, when the barns are slated to be in full production again. ◀

## Upgrades Slated for Hardy Fertilizer Plant

Gold-Eagle's board of directors has approved plans to upgrade the fertilizer plant at our Hardy location.

These improvements are long overdue. We had to decide how to incorporate this 3,000-ton plant to meet your cooperative's future needs. Once that was established, it only made sense to renovate the building and get it in tip-top shape.

The Hardy fertilizer plant will be getting a new roof, new wall sheeting, and new siding. All doors will be replaced, too. These upgrades will make the Hardy fertilizer plant functional and efficient for many years to come. ◀

# GOLD-EAGLE COOPERATIVE

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## Feed Your 2016 Crop Right

*By Stu Pannkuk, Agronomy Sales Manager*

As commodity prices have dropped, it can be tempting to cut back on some crop inputs. Don't take a chance, however, on shorting your 2016 corn and soybean crops of the nutrients they'll need for optimum performance and yield.

That includes the secondary nutrients like sulfur and zinc. Not only do these nutrients play a key role in plant health, but they also make phosphorus and potassium more available to your crop.

While zinc is considered essential for all plants, corn is especially responsive to it. Corn is also more susceptible to

problems if zinc levels are deficient. Zinc helps regulate a wide range of enzymes in many of the plant's metabolic pathways that influence plant health.

Zinc is usually applied in the form of 36% zinc sulfate at a rate of 10 to 12 pounds per acre. This would yield approximately 4 pounds of actual zinc, a rate that would ensure there would be an adequate amount of zinc available for the plant to achieve its full yield potential.

### **What you need to know about sulfur**

Sulfur is also important for maximum

yield potential. It's required for the synthesis of plant proteins and the synthesis of chlorophyll.

Both soybeans and corn need sulfur. In fact, 180 bushels of corn will take up 30 units of sulfur and have a removal rate of approximately 13 units. Soybeans yielding 59 bushels per acre will take up 19 units of sulfur and have a removal rate of approximately 6 units.

To make sure you're providing enough sulfur, zinc, and other vital nutrients for your 2016 crop, contact your local Gold-Eagle agronomist. As always, we will have competitive pricing and look forward to working with you. ◀

