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Construction is on track for the new shop we're building near the north edge of Eagle Grove. We plan to move into this new facility around March 2018.

By Brad Davis General Manager

5 Reasons to be Thankful



Cultivating is something we understand in agriculture. Cultivating an attitude of gratitude in this business is also important to me.

I'm grateful to all of you who stopped by the Gold-Eagle Cooperative's annual meetings on Dec. 5 at the breakfast in Renwick and the noon event in Wesley. It's good to reconnect and share information with you in person.

"We know there's no way Gold-Eagle can be successful without you."

As we're in the midst of the holiday season, I'm also thankful for:

- The Gold-Eagle board's leadership. Their vision, guidance and dedication have helped your cooperative achieve another successful year.
- 2. Gold-Eagle's employees. We're blessed to have a great team who works hard to serve our members and customers year-round.
- 3. Record yields. I'm thankful for three years of back-to-back record yields in our trade territory. I know tough commodity prices have been on all our minds. Had we not had these bushels, the current financial situation would have been even more of a struggle.
- **4. Financial stability.** Not only did Gold-Eagle have a great year, but our balance sheet is

888-581-2462 **Wesley**

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Renwick

824-3214

Hardy

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<u>Livermore</u> 379-1843

Corwith

583-2462

Titonka 928-2272 866-203-9656

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What's the Deal With the Border Effect?

By Chris Petersen Seed Sales Manager



NemaStrike™ Nematode Technology Placed on Hold

After finding some cases of skin irritation, Monsanto has pulled its new NemaStrike™ seed treatment for 2018 off the market. The company is conducting further studies on the product, although it appears that proper use of personal protective equipment is a key factor in the safe use of the product.

It's not clear whether NemaStrike will be back on the market for the 2019 crop year. In the meantime, consider Poncho®/VOTiVO® seed treatment to protect young plants from pests during the critical early development stages. Poncho/VOTiVO uses a biological mode of action with a unique bacteria strain that lives and grows with young roots, creating a living barrier that prevents nematodes from causing damage.

Contact your Gold-Eagle agronomist for more details. ◀

Many local growers enjoyed higherthan-expected yields for both corn and soybeans this year. The yields improved the farther north you went into Gold-Eagle territory, since areas around Renwick, Titonka and Wesley tended to receive more rain this year.

Some farmers had their best corn crop ever (those yields were on rotated acres), while other growers had a 30-bushel to 50-bushel yield penalty on corn-on-corn acres.

Some growers also reported a troubling "border effect" that robbed yields in the outer parts of the field. We got a lot of calls about this. In some cases, growers were seeing a 50-or 60-bushel yield loss, and you had to go quite a ways into the field to get back into expected yields.

lowa State University (ISU) Extension also heard quite a few reports about this "border effect." By early November, ISU Extension agronomy specialists had received numerous reports of corn along the edge of fields yielding drastically less than the remainder of the field. In many cases, the yield loss was most obvious on the southern edge of the field, but it was observed along the west, east and north sides, too.

This left many growers wondering what caused this. Some suggested wind patterns and weather conditions at a critical time in the corn's development, while other people suggested herbicide drift.

Go back to the basics

It's hard to pinpoint exactly what caused the lower yields along the edges of some fields, and it may be a combination of factors, according to ISU Extension agronomists. I agree that it's likely a combination of factors, from the stage of the crop to herbicide drift to the prevailing southwest winds.

This serves as a good reminder to scout fields during the growing season and review the basics of good stewardship for applying crop protection products. All the talk about dicamba drift has shed light on the way drift affects a variety of herbicides. It has been easy to be a little lax on spraying techniques and timing. Instead of blaming volatility, maybe it's a case where the wrong nozzle was used, or spraying was done when winds were blowing towards a sensitive crop. Maybe some AMS was left in the tank, which limited the VaporGrip® technology that controls drift in the dicamba products.

Perhaps it was timing. Even surfactant applied at the wrong time can cause problems. When applying a fungicide with surfactant, for example, the corn has to be at tassel. Spray it too early, and it will ding the corn.

Whatever the reason(s), we had a perfect storm this year for the border effect, and it definitely caught a lot of people's attention. While I don't know that we'll see a repeat of this exactly in future years, this situation has shown us what a challenge we have with drift if we're not following the label exactly.

If you have any questions about crop protection options for the upcoming growing season or need information about other crop-related issues, contact your local Gold-Eagle agronomist. We value your business and look forward to working with you in 2018.



When you're looking for a little optimism in the grain markets, it seems like soybeans have the most potential. If beans rally, the corn market tends to follow.

The good news? The U.S. is still the world's largest producer of soybeans. The not-so-great news? Brazil has claimed the title of the world's largest soybean exporter. Brazil is looking to widen its lead in exports and continues to expand soybean plantings.

The trend toward Brazil's export dominance is expected to continue as the value of the Brazilian real remains low, compared to the U.S. dollar. Fortunately, though, global soybean demand is growing for livestock feed and biodiesel production, which will help support U.S. soybean prices.

On the corn side, the U.S. is still the least expensive origin in the world for corn. Also, keep an eye on the ethanol industry in China, which is looking into building more ethanol plants. In mid-November, the lowa Corn Growers Association hosted high-ranking delegates from China who came to lowa to learn about ethanol and flexfuel vehicles.

China is considering ethanol as a way to help meet smog-control rules and may import more corn in the future. That could lead to other benefits for lowa corn growers. On Oct. 12, the CORN, LP ethanol plant in Goldfield hosted a tour for representatives from eight of China's largest feed mills, including Chinese buyers of DDGS. These Chinese buyers purchase DDGS for use in swine and chicken feed.

By Brady Hess Merchandising Manager



As we all look for some bright spots in the grain markets, remember two things: 1. Demand for grain is strong, especially in the livestock sector, and 2. Gold-Eagle Cooperative is here for you. We appreciate your business and look forward to working with you in 2018.

5 Reasons to be Thankful

strong and is setting us up for continued success. I'm very optimistic about the financial results your cooperative will be reviewing a year from now.

5. You, our member-owners. We know there's no way Gold-Eagle can be successful without you. I've been so concerned about all our member-owners during this persistent downturn in the ag economy. The one

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thing I can assure you is that Gold-Eagle will be here for you. When the pendulum swings back and good times return, we'll be here to help you maximize the opportunities that are coming.

As we look back on 2017, we have a lot to be thankful for. Thank you again for supporting Gold-Eagle. I wish you a Merry Christmas and prosperous 2018.



Grower Rewards

You can now be rewarded in more ways than one for making smart decisions for your farm. Here's a quick overview of grower rewards available for the upcoming

crop year:

- BASF: Earn \$75/gallon for purchasing Priaxor® fungicide or Headline AMP® fungicide—and there's a big change for this coming year. You can purchase anytime between 10-1-17 and 9-30-18. In previous years you had to purchase early in the year to get maximum rewards. Also, pairing up with other BASF products will help you earn more rewards.
- FMC: The past year's growers received rewards from FMC products through the Monsanto cash-back incentives program, but this year FMC will be rewarding you directly through their Freedom Pass program. Gold-Eagle's agronomy sales staff have a complete list, but here's a special mention of the products that represent the most sales for the FMC product lineup. It's likely that Authority® Supreme will qualify for this reward program after it receives its label.
 - » Authority Assist, 8 ounces/acre, \$3/acre
 - » Authority Elite, 38.7 ounces/acre, \$3/acre
 - » Hero® insecticide, 5 ounces/acre, \$.25/acre

Please check with our agronomy sales team to learn about all the rewards available from our manufacturers. Be sure to ask about our competitive spring prices for crop protection products and fertilizer. We look forward to serving you.

Tax Reforms: What's on the Table?

By Brady Hess, Merchandising Manager

There has been a lot of talk about tax reform efforts moving through in Congress. Unfortunately, the new tax bill doesn't look great for farmers.

Here's a summary the Iowa Corn Growers Association released in November as the Senate Finance Committee continued their markup of their bill, while the House passed their version of tax reform with a vote of 227-205.

- Senate increases Section 179 expending and bonus depreciation to \$5 million (currently \$500,000) and expands to new and used assets. House increases to \$1 million.
- Senate increases estate tax exemption to \$11 million (currently \$5.49 million). House increases limit to \$11 million in 2018, but also repeals the tax in 2024.
- House would limit "carry back" of operating losses to offset tax liability to just one year in case of natural disasters (current provision is five years), and Senate would limit to just two years.
- House would restrict business interest deductions for businesses with more than \$25 million in gross receipts; Senate would impose restrictions at the \$15 million level.
- Both bills would limit 1031 like-kind exchanges to real property.
 The 1031 provision currently covers real and personal property.
- Both would repeal the Domestic Production Activities Deduction (known generally as the Section 199 deduction), which is used by many cooperatives for improvements or passed along to farmer members. The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) joined with 180 ag organizations is sending a letter to congressional leaders on this issue. "Farmer-owned cooperatives are not taxed like traditional corporations, so they cannot benefit from lower corporate rates like most other industries," stated the letter. "The support Section 199 provides to rural communities is critical. In fact, farmer cooperatives pass 95 percent of the benefit—nearly \$2 billion nationally—directly back to farmers across rural America. Farmers can then deduct their share of the Section 199 benefit from their farms' tax burden."

There's a lot at stake for agriculture in these proposed tax reforms, so keep an eye on these important issues. ◀





Over the Top: New Measures to Minimize Drift Damage

We've all heard about some of the problems associated with spraying and herbicide drift. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and various states' collective actions regarding these issues have led to regulatory action.

The EPA has reached an agreement with Monsanto, BASF and DuPont on measures to further minimize the potential for drift to damage neighboring crops from the use of dicamba formulations used to control weeds in genetically modified soybeans and cotton. New requirements for the use of dicamba "over the top" (application to growing

plants) will allow you to make informed choices for seed purchases for the 2018 growing season.

Crop protection manufacturers have voluntarily agreed to label changes that impose additional requirements for "over the top" use of these products next year, including:

- Classifying products as "restricted use," permitting only certified applicators with special training, and those under their supervision, to apply them; dicamba-specific training for all certified applicators to reinforce proper use.
- Requiring farmers to maintain

Agronomy Sales Manager

- specific records regarding the use of these products to improve compliance with label restrictions.
- Limiting applications to when maximum wind speeds are below 10 miles per hour (from 15 miles per hour) to reduce potential spray drift.
- Reducing the times during the day when applications can occur.
- Including tank clean-out language to prevent cross contamination.
- Enhancing susceptible crop language and record-keeping with sensitive crop registries to increase awareness of risk, especially to sensitive crops nearby.

New Premix Lets You Farm With Authority

By Stu Pannkuk, Agronomy Sales Manager While I usually talk about new crop protection chemistries that are available for the upcoming growing season, there are no new chemistries in the immediate future. There is a new premix available, however, that can help with cleaner fields and higher yield potential.

FMC will be offering a premix of Authority® (sulfentrazone—class 14) and Zidua® herbicide (pyroxasulfone—class 15) at a 1:1 ratio. (Note that we've included a handy chart in this newsletter issue explaining all the classes of herbicides for your reference.) The premix will have the trade name Authority Supreme. We

expect registration in late 2017 or early 2018.

This premix will offer both grass and broadleaf weed control and promises to offer superior waterhemp control. The most common use rate will be 6 to 8 ounces per acre. (Note: 8 ounces of Authority Supreme equals 4 ounces of Authority and 2.5 ounces of Zidua WG.)

Contact your local Gold-Eagle agronomy sales specialist for any questions related to Authority Supreme or other crop protection products for your 2018 crop.

Finding the Opportunities in Ag

By Rachel Howdyshell Customer Sales and Support



Even though grain is coming out of our ears and is depressing prices, it's encouraging to know the quality is good. In fact, harvest 2017 was one of the best in terms of grain quality.

This is a great opportunity for both grain farmers and livestock producers. We still need to keep an eye on this grain, though, especially since some of it is being stored in piles, on-farm storage and ag bags.

Speaking of opportunities, there will be plenty for pork producers when the new Prestage Foods of Iowa pork processing plant near Eagle Grove comes online. Livestock remains a viable opportunity to get into farming, especially for young farmers. It's also an important part of diversification, which is key in today's ag economy.

Did you know Gold-Eagle Cooperative's feed team can help connect you with sources for pigs? We can be the liaison to bridge the gap between the farm and the integrators. Contact your local Gold-Eagle feed specialist for more details.

We appreciate your business and look forward to serving you in 2018.



Sulfur: Replacing the Missing Link

By Stu Pannkuk, Agronomy Sales Manager

It has been called the fourth major plant nutrient, right behind nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. It's vital to chlorophyll and protein formation. It is also being recognized as a limiting nutrient in crop production.

It's sulfur, and it can be the missing link in the quest for higher yields.

I recently read an article noting the significant improvements in U.S. grain yields, with corn increasing by more than 1.8 bu/A per year, and soybean yields rising approximately 0.5 bu/A per year. While most growers are aware of how these kinds of yield increases remove potassium and phosphorus from the soil, it's eye opening to realize the facts about sulfur removal.

The latest studies show that 220-bushel corn and 60-bushel soybeans have the potential to remove 28.5 pounds of sulfur. We've been recommending 20 pounds of sulfur per acre for a corn/soybean rotation based on previous studies. Our agronomy team will be reassessing your sulfur needs going forward.

Why do plants need sulfur anyway?

Sulfur is an essential plant nutrient that boosts yield potential by:

- Providing direct value for plant nutrition and growth.
- Providing indirect value as a soil amendment, especially for calcareous and saline alkali soils.
- Improving the use efficiency of other essential plant nutrients, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus.

Not sure whether your soils have enough sulfur to help your crop maximize its yield potential? Contact your Gold-Eagle agronomist for details. We appreciate your business and look forward to helping you prepare for a successful 2018 growing season.

YOU'RE INVITED!



IOWA SOYBEAN
Association

FARMER RESEARCH CONFERENCE FEB. 6-7, 2018, DES MOINES

As a member of ACWA, Gold-Eagle Cooperative is proud to invite our farmer members to attend the ISA Farmer Research Conference for FREE!

Just visit www.ISAConferenceSignup.com

and register as an ACWA member and add

this code: GEAGLE. It's that easy!



www.ISAConferenceSignup.com



Don't you love it when you've got positive momentum on your side? For us, that means a productive fall season of variable-rate applications of dry fertilizer and lime, along with the success of the new Eagle Vision Acre, which has been a great addition to our agronomy department.

I've been pleased that many of you have signed up for this powerful program that offers all of our agronomy precision services in a variety of packages. Grid sampling is the common denominator that defines all the Eagle Vision Acre packages. (While grid sampling is offered in all three of our packages, you can eliminate that aspect, if you choose.)

We have a fully customizable Eagle Vision Acre package to fit any operation of any size. When you sign up for Eagle Vision Acre, the Gold-Eagle team will keep track of all your fields that are due for grid sampling. We have all the grid dates in our software and can run a report to share with you about which farms need to be re-sampled every year.

We follow a grid sampling program of every fourth year for fields. We encourage grid sampling right after planting, which gives us several months to make a plan for fall fertilizer applications.

Draw with your finger

Climate FieldView[™] is another powerful feature of our Eagle Vision Acre package. This data collection software has unique features such as field region report, which lets you draw with your finger the areas you want to single out on

Fast Foward to Spring

Thinking about variable-rate planting? Contact Bruce Burns (515-605-5113) or your local Gold-Eagle salesperson to start the process. It's never too early to start planning!

the map you're viewing, whether it's a planting map, spray map or yield map.

By Bruce Burns Eagle Vision Precision Farming Services



Once you have this region drawn out, you

can access advanced yield analysis, which drills down by soil type, plant population, elevation and planting date (if you had more than one date planting on a given field). These custom layers now have the ability to be saved by the user, and you can add any notes you want. These are all saved with a time and date stamp, and are readily accessible.

We've had excellent feedback from our growers who utilized an iPad with Climate FieldView technology for in-cab experience while planting, spraying and harvesting during the 2017 crop season.

Variable-rate planting, fertilizing recommendations and deluxe mapping (advanced features) are other big benefits of the Eagle Vision Acre package. To learn more about the options for your farm and package pricing, contact your local Gold-Eagle salesperson.

We'll process the data for you

We've been busy processing and cleaning yield data for our customers. Just bring in your yield data card or thumb drive to your local Gold-Eagle salesperson, and we'll process your data for you.

It's also time to reflect on the past year, so we're visiting with growers and Gold-Eagle's agronomy staff to see if we need to make changes with any of our programs to serve you better in 2018 and beyond.

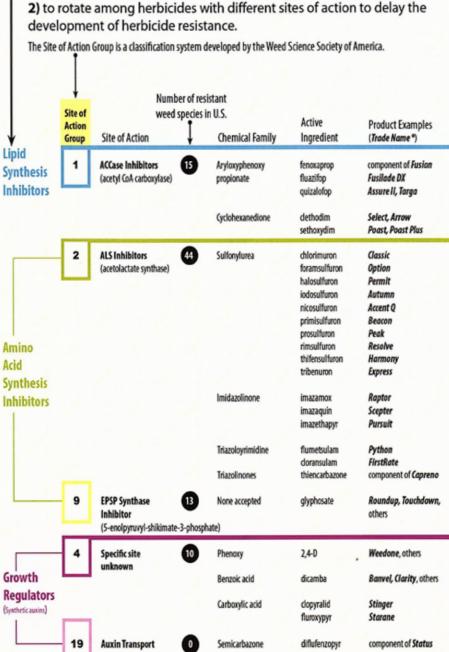
All of us at Gold-Eagle Cooperative would like to thank you for your continued business. If you have any questions about Eagle Vision Acre or other precision ag needs, contact me at 515-605-5113 or at the Renwick Agronomy Center office along Highway 17. I look forward to working with you.

Corn and Soybean Herbicide Chart

Repeated use of herbicides with the same site of action can result in the development of herbicide-resistant weed populations.

By Mode of Action (effect on plant growth)

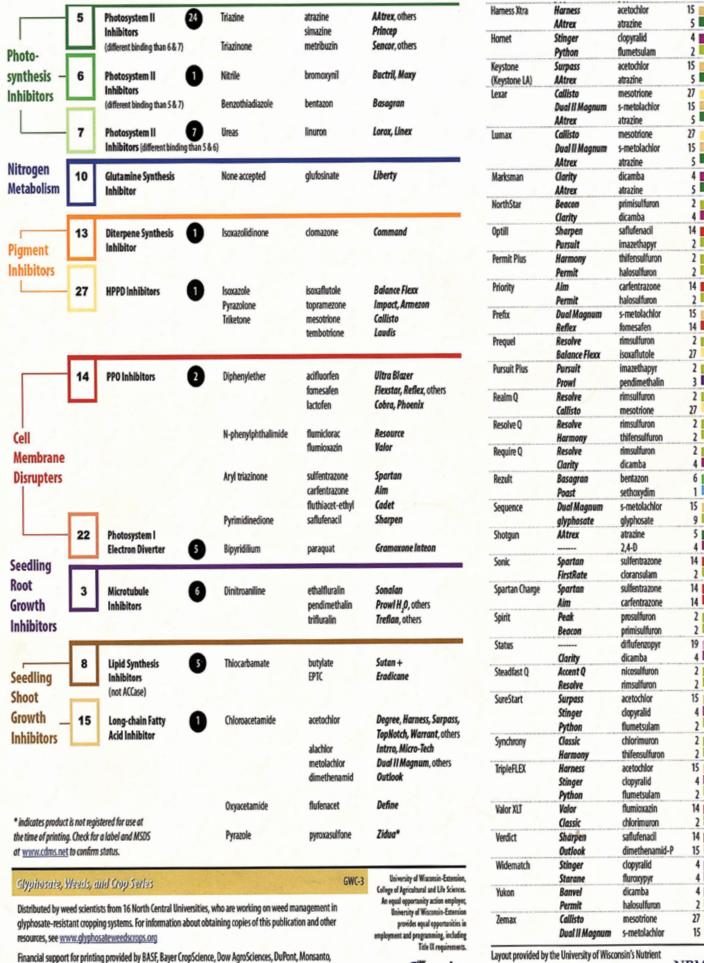
This chart groups herbicides by their modes of action to assist you in selecting herbicides 1) to maintain greater diversity in herbicide use and 2) to rotate among herbicides with different sites of action to delay the development of herbicide resistance.



By Premix

This chart lists premix herbicides alphabetically by their trade names so you can identify the premix's component herbicides and their respective site of action groups. Refer to the **Mode of Action** chart on the left for more information.

ne left for more information.		- Component —	
Premix Trade Name *	Trade Name*	Active Ingredient	Site of Action Group
Anthem*	Zidua*		15
radieni	Cadet	pyroxasulfone fluthiacet-ethyl	14
Autority Assist	Spartan	sulfentrazone	14
Authority First	Pursuit	imazethapyr	2
	Spartan	sulfentrazone	14
	FirstRate	cloransulam	2
Autority MTZ	Spartan	sulfentrazone	14
	Sencor	metribuzin	5
Authority XL	Spartan	sulfentrazone	14
	Classic	chlorimuron	2
Autumn Super	Autumn	iodosulfuron	2
		thiencarbazone	2
Basis Blend	Resolve	rimsulfuron	2
Diago II Mar	Harmony	thifensulfuron	2
Bicep II Magnum	Dual II Magnum	s-metolachlor	15
(Bicep Lite II Mag) Boundary	AAtrex Dual Magnum	atrazine s-metolachlor	15
boulluary	Sencor	s-metolachior metribuzin	5
Breakfree ATZ	Breakfree	acetochlor	15
(Breakfree ATZ Lite)	AAtrex	atrazine	5
Bullet	Micro-Tech	alachlor	15
vanci	AAtrex	atrazine	5
Callisto Xtra Canopy	Callisto	mesotrione	27
	AAtrex	atrazine	5
	Classic	chlorimuron	2
	Sencor	metribuzin	5
Canopy EX Capreno	Classic	chlorimuron	2
	Express	tribenuron	2
		thiencarbazone	2
6-1 177	Laudis	tembotrione	27
Gnch ATZ	Dual II Magnum	s-metolachlor	15
(Cinch ATZ Lite)	AAtrex	atrazine thiencarbazone	5
Corvus	Balance Flexx	tniencarbazone isoxaflutole	27
Degree Xtra	Degree	acetochlor	15
o cyree nou	AAtrex	atrazine	5
Enlite	Classic	chlorimuron	2
	Harmony	thifensulfuron	2
	Valor	flumioxazin	14
Envive	Classic	chlorimuron	2
	Harmony	thifensulfuron	2
	Valor	flumioxazin	14
Expert	Dual II Magnum	s-metolachlor	15
	AAtrex	atrazine	5
	glyphosate	glyphosate	9
Externe	Pursuit	imazethapyr	2
DAIN .	glyphosate	glyphosate	9
Field Master	Harness	acetochlor	15
	AAtrex	atrazine glyphosate	5
	glyphosate Valor	grypnosate flumioxazin	14
	Zidua*	pyroxasulfone	15
Fierce XLT*	Valor	flumioxazin	14
	Zidua*	pyroxasulfone	15
	Classic	chlorimuron	2
Flexstar GT	Flexstar	fomesafen	14
	glyphosate	glyphosate	9
FulTime Fusion	TopNotch	acetochlor	15
	AAtrex	atrazine	5
	Fusilade DX	fluazifop	1
	Puma	fenoxaprop	1
Gangster	Valor	flumioxazin	14
	FirstRate	cloransulam	2
Guardsman Max	Outlook	dimethenamid-P	15
(G-Max Lite)	AAtrex	atrazine	5
Halex GT	Dual Magnum	s-metolachlor	15
	Callisto	mesotrione	27
	glyphosate	glyphosate	9



Layout provided by the University of Wisconsin's Nutrient and Pest Management program (ipcm.wisc.edu).

Extension

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0% Financing Available on 2018 Crop Inputs

Now's the time to take advantage of some good crop input financing deals. Here are some of the special financing terms available on crop protection products. These are general guidelines:

BASF: 0% financing due December 2018 (program period 10-1-17 to 3-31-18)

- \$15,000 minimum initial purchase of at least three different BASF products greater than \$500.
- If \$500 of fungicides are purchased—financing is available for application.

Bayer: 0% financing due December 2018 (program period 9-1-17 to 3-31-18)

• \$10,000 minimum initial purchase of at least two Bayer products greater than \$5,000 each.

FMC: 0% financing due December 2018 (program period: 10-1-17 to 3-31-18)

• \$5,000 minimum initial purchase

Monsanto: prime minus 1% due November 2018 (program period 11-1-17 to 6-30-18)

- \$5,000 minimum initial purchase
- NOTE: Purchase \$2,500 minimum seed purchase by 1-22-18, qualify for 0% financing due November 2018 for crop protection products.

Dow: 0% financing due November 2018 (program period 10-1-17 to 3-31-18)

- 3% financing due November 2018 (program period 4-1-18 to 9-30-18)
- \$7,500 minimum amount financed

