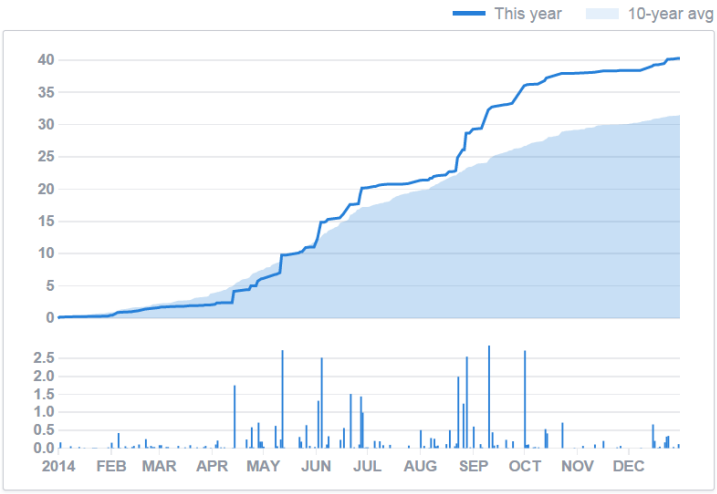
Nebraska On-Farm Research Network

Starter Fertilizer on Rainfed Corn

Study ID: 001155201401
County: Saunders
Soil Type: Aksarben silty clay loam, Yutan silty clay loam
Planting Date: 5/4/2014
Harvest Date: 11/5/2014
Population: 30,500
Row Spacing: 30”
Hybrid: LG2641 VT2 RIB
Reps: 7
Soil Test Values: Not available
Previous Crop: Soybean
Tillage: No-Till
Herbicides: 3 oz/acre Corvus, 1.25 qt/ac Atrazine, 1 qt/ac Roundup PowerMAX
Insecticides/Fungicides: none
Fertilizer: 150# 11-52-0, fall 2013, 130# N/acre of Anhydrous ammonia, fall 2013, 12 gal UAN 32%

Irrigation: Minimum irrigation. Watered twice with pivot.
Note: Hailed on 5/11/14, lost 7%
Rainfall:



Introduction: This study is a continuation of a similar effort conducted during the 2013 growing season. The purpose of this study was to try to answer the question, “Does applying starter fertilizer at planting impact rainfed corn yields”? At planting 5 gal/acre of 10-32-0 plus 1 qt/acre of Zinc were applied as starter in furrow. No soil test results are available for this field.

Results:

	Yield† (bu/acre)	Moisture (%)	Harvest Pop	Net Return ‡
Check	216 A*	14.8 A	26,846 A	$756.00
Starter	215 A	14.5 B	27,591 A	$736.20
P-Value	*0.8755*	*<0.0001*	*0.5729*	--

†Bushels per acre corrected to 15.5% moisture.
*Values with the same letter are not significantly different at a 90% confidence level.
‡Net return based on $3.50/bu and $16.30/acre starter fertilizer.

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Summary: The producer noted a visual difference between the check and starter treated corn early in the growing season with the starter treated corn appearing darker green. The starter fertilizer application did not result in an increase in yield. The check had a higher grain moisture at harvest. There was no difference in stand counts at harvest. Due to the increased cost of application and no increase in yield, the starter fertilizer treatment had lower net returns than the check.

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