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“Large Enough to Serve, Small Enough to Care”

V5 Corn Fungicide Application

Over the last six years we have been promoting late fungicide applications on corn and beans and have seen very good results. In fact, with today's markets and high grain prices, fungicide application is becoming a standard practice for both corn and bean producers. However, there may be a new player adding a twist to the fungicide story. Last year, two chemical company representatives made a big push for early fungicide application targeting 5 leaf corn. This happens to be the same stage that most growers are doing their Roundup applications. They were encouraging tank mixing the fungicide at reduced rates, making the idea very cost attractive to growers. Handling fungicides application early also eliminates the airplane costs.

Generally speaking, local agronomists were very skeptical of this new fungicide application, but the cost savings provoked curiosity and validated a test plot. The initial test plot showed a significant response to the early application. The two products that we will continue to test and look at are Stratego YLD and Quadris. From what we understand, those two products show more potential at this growing stage than Headline, which is still our preferred product for spraying late.

At this point, the data shows that the most effective time for fungicide application is still late in the season after tasseling with an airplane. This late application also gives us the ability to add an insecticide for corn leaf aphids, spidermites, and corn rootworm beetle control. However this new early application timing does offer another option for growers looking to avoid the airplane expense. For more information, contact your local FEC representative.

**Brent Hofmeyer
Agronomist
Rock Rapids**