

Five Forgotten Factors of Fertility

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February 13th, 2020
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WHO IS MOSAIC?

Who We Are: World's largest single source supplier of finished phosphates and potash.

Mission: Help the world grow the food it needs.

Premium Products:

MicroEssentials[®]


MicroEssentials S10: 12-40-0-10S
MicroEssentials SZ: 12-40-0-10S-1Zn

Both products: Sulfur is a 50:50 blend of sulfate and elemental sulfur

Aspire[®]


Same Analysis: 0-0-58-0.5B
New Formulation of B:
50:50 blend of fast and slow release

KMag[®]


Analysis: 0-0-21.5-10.5 Mg-21 S

Mosaic[®]


4R NUTRIENT STEWARDSHIP: WHAT ARE THEY?



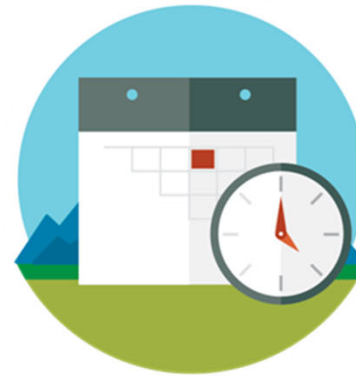
RIGHT SOURCE

Matches fertilizer type to crop needs.



RIGHT RATE

Matches amount of fertilizer to crop needs.



RIGHT TIME

Makes nutrients available when crops need them.



RIGHT PLACE

Keeps nutrients where crops can use them.

Today: Review the WHY from an agronomic perspective.



FIVE FORGOTTEN FACTORS OF FERTILITY

Objective:

Describes five influential soil fertility and plant nutrition factors that growers/consultants/retailers have either forgotten or not yet learned.

Not Covered:

Soil fertility challenges related to pH, extraction method and interpretation, fertilizer application, and countless others are challenges based on regional soil type and production differences, and therefore, will not be reviewed.



FIVE FORGOTTEN FACTORS OF FERTILITY

Sulfur

Ensure adequate sulfur availability to all crops



RELATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SULFUR FOR CURRENT PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

Source of S

Relative Amount

Organic Matter

.

Atmospheric Deposition

.

Plant Remobilization

.

Fertilizer

.

Information expressed here is not based on actual data, and only represents the thoughts of Ross Bender.



ORGANIC MATTER (OM) MINERALIZATION

Each 1% OM Contains...

- 100 lbs/ac of organic S (unavailable)
- 2.0-2.5 lbs/ac inorganic S (available)

Key factors influencing availability

- Moisture
- Temperature

Conditions for deficiency?

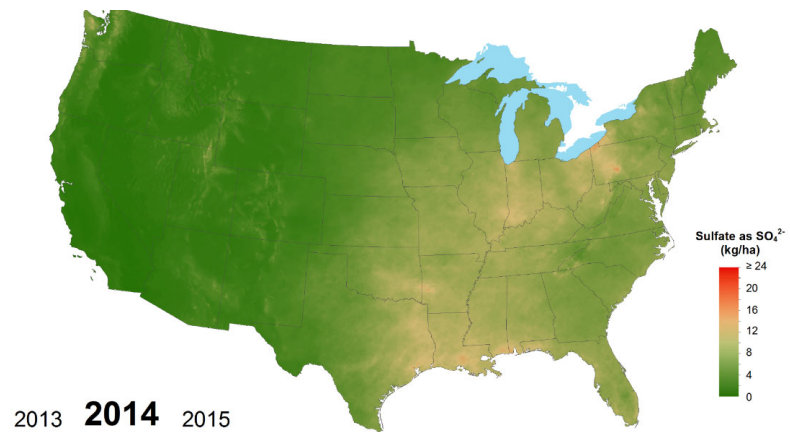
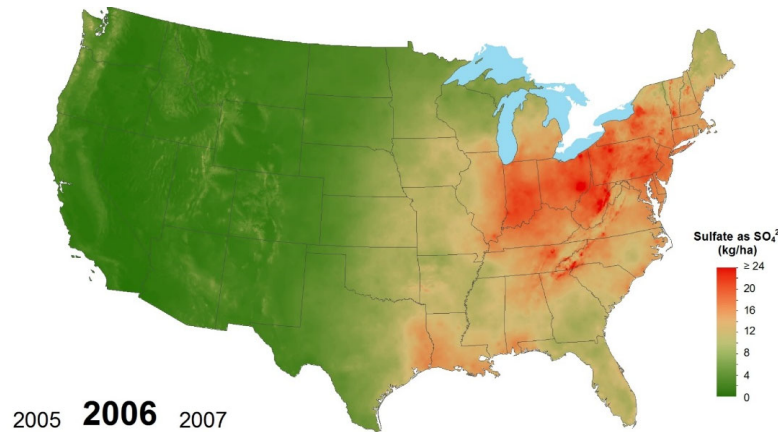
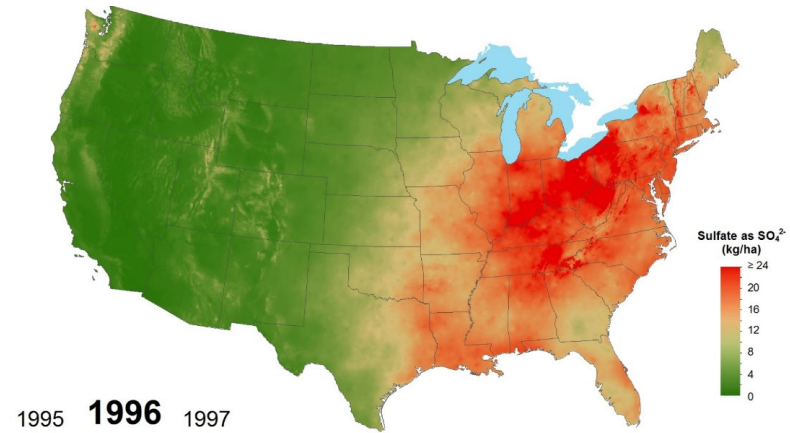
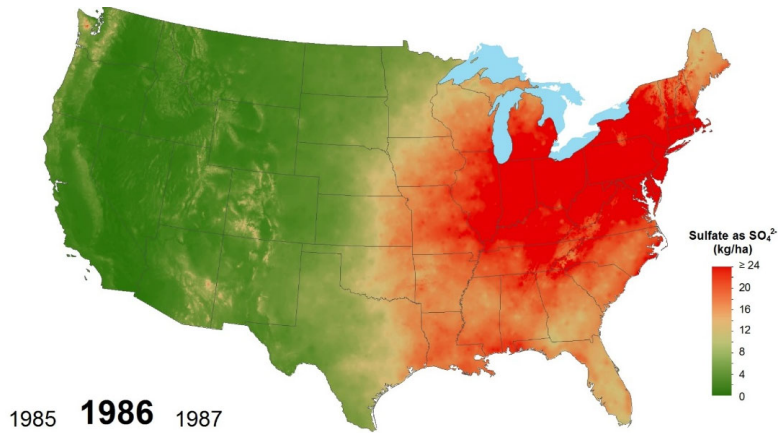
- Vegetative: cool/wet
- Reproductive: hot/dry

Recommendations for Sulfur on Corn (Purdue University)

- **Low CEC soils: 25 lbs S/Ac annually**
- **Medium – High CEC Soils: 15 lbs S/Ac annually**
- **When using elemental sulfur only, combine with sulfate source**
- **More info: <https://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/corn/news/timeless/SulfurDeficiency.pdf>**



REDUCED ATMOSPHERIC DEPOSITION OF S



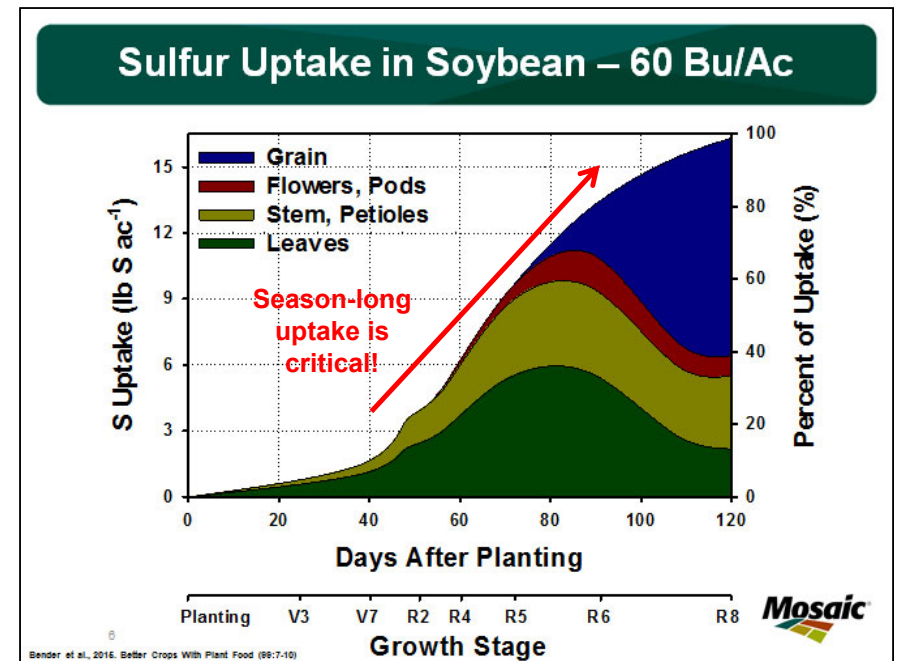
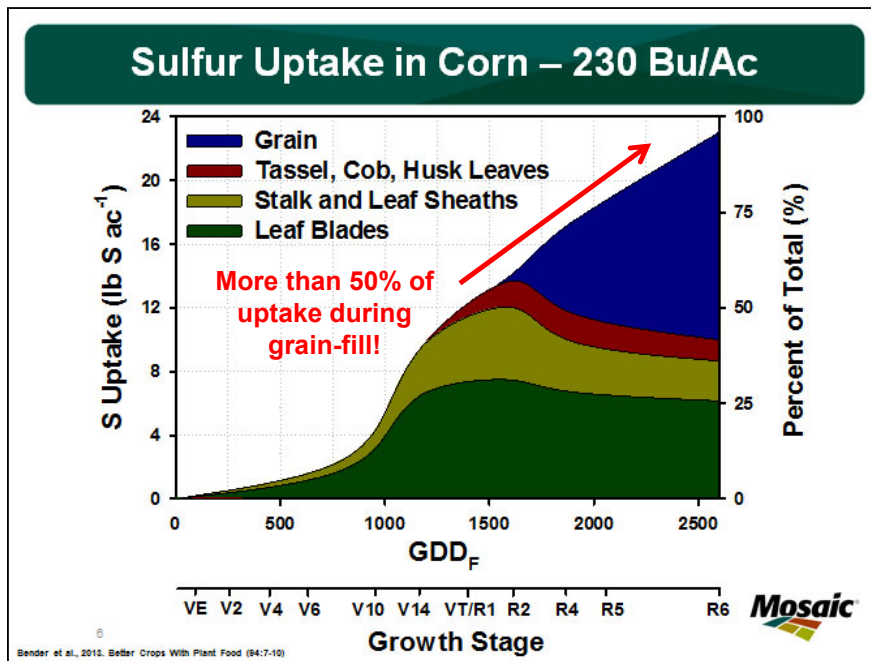
Data courtesy of National Atmospheric Deposition Program/National Trends Network (<http://nadp.isws.illinois.edu>)

Data represents annual content of sulfate deposition in precipitation (kg/ha).



SULFUR IS LARGELY PLANT IMMOBILE

Maximum grain productivity requires season-long S availability, especially for corn and soybean:



Note the limited plant mobility of S in corn to supply intra-seasonal periods of plant stress.

RELATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SULFUR FOR CURRENT PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

Source of S

Relative Amount

Organic Matter

Atmospheric Deposition

Plant Remobilization

Fertilizer

Information expressed here is not based on actual data, and only represents the thoughts of Ross Bender.



MASS BALANCE OF SULFUR

	Corn (230 bu/Ac)	Soybean (60 bu/Ac)
Need:	———— lbs S/Ac ————	
Uptake	23	17
Removal	13	10
Supply:		
Atmospheric Deposition	6	6
Organic Matter (2% * 2.5 lbs S/Ac)	5	5
Previous ES or Manure Application	?	?
Deficit:	12	6
Suggested application rate (based on 60% recovery efficiency)	20 lbs	10 lbs

Hypothetical scenario only

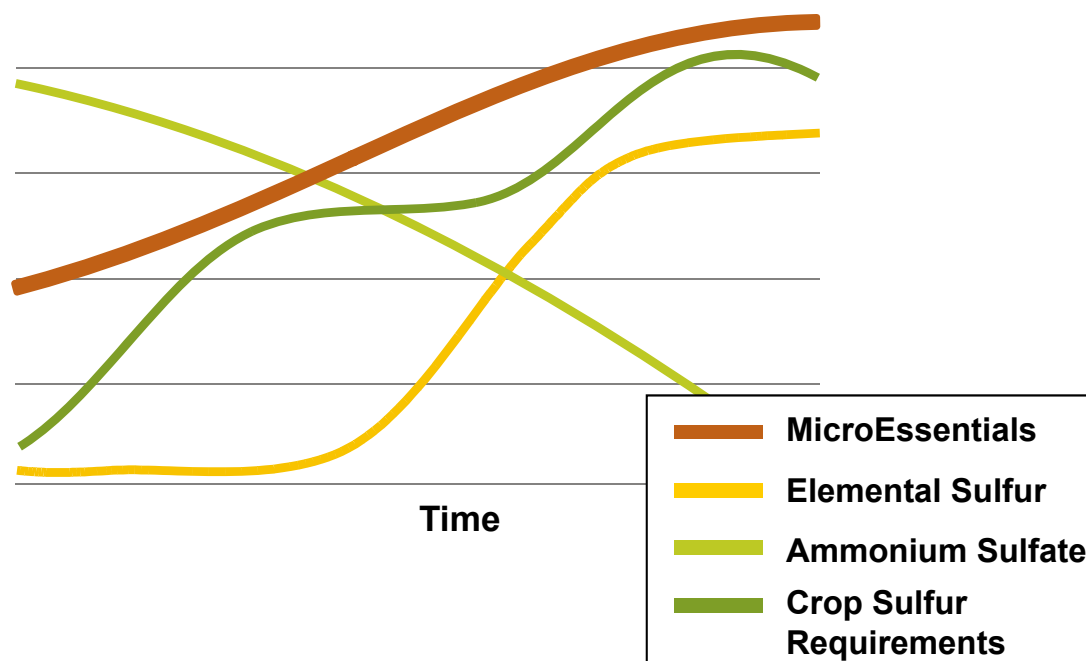
**Higher yields and lower amounts of S from acidic rainfall
continue to encourage S fertilization on corn and soybean!**

DUAL SOURCES FOR MAXIMUM AVAILABILITY

MicroEssentials has both fast (Sulfate) and slow-release (Elemental S) sulfur sources for season-long S availability.

MicroEssentials S10 Analysis:

Total Nitrogen	12%
Total P ₂ O ₅	40%
Total Sulfur	10%
<i>Sulfate Sulfur</i>	<i>(5%)</i>
<i>Elemental Sulfur</i>	<i>(5%)</i>



SULFUR ON CORN

TRIAL OBJECTIVE

Evaluate corn yield response to various sulfur fertilizer sources including elemental sulfur (0-0-0-90S), ammonium sulfate (21-0-0-24S), and MicroEssentials S10 (12-40-0-10S).

TRIAL DETAILS

YEAR: 2018

LOCATIONS: 6 sites (IN, KS, MS, NE, SC)

DATA SOURCE: Small-plot (RCBD, 4 reps) trials conducted by independent, third-party researchers.

CROP MANAGEMENT: All trials conformed to local cropping practices

FERTILITY MANAGEMENT:

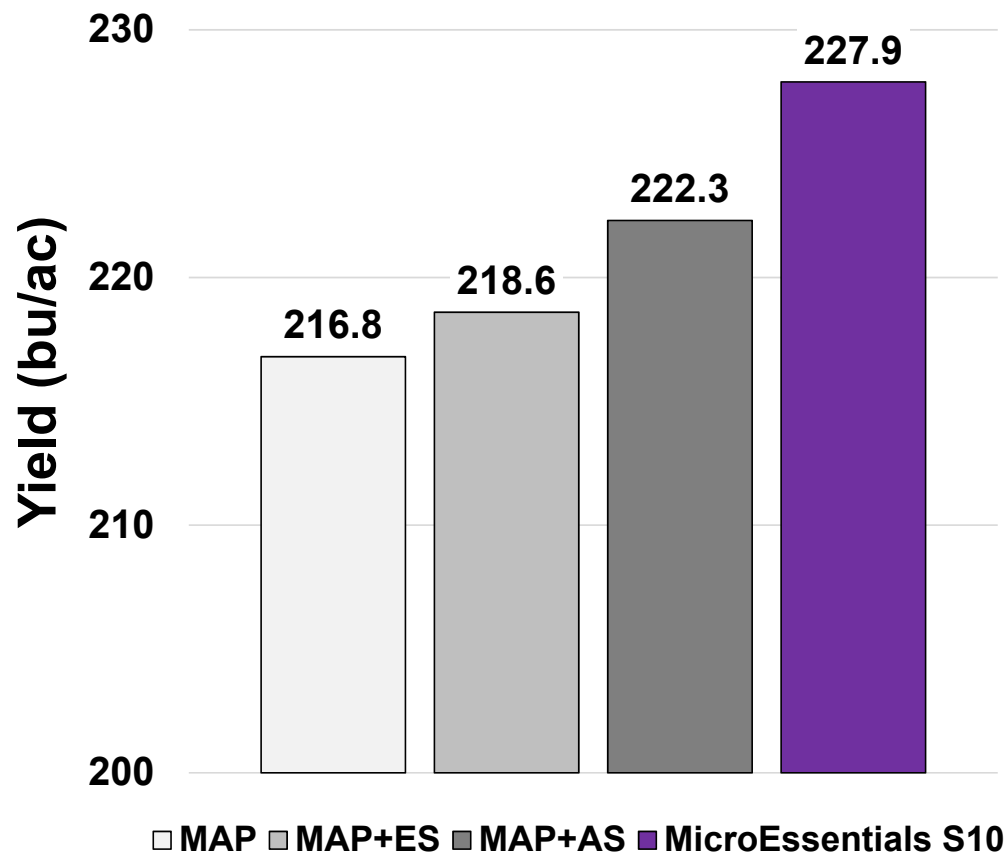
N Rate: Applied according to local recommendations and balanced across all treatments

P Rate: 80 lbs P₂O₅/ac either as MAP (11-52-0) or MicroEssentials S10 (12-40-0-10S)

K Rate: 60 lbs K₂O/ac as MOP applied to the whole trial

S Rate: 20 lbs S/ac as ES, AS, or MicroEssentials S10

App Method: All fertility was applied preplant broadcast



Trial Average (n=6)

CornSUL18



SULFUR ON SOYBEAN

TRIAL OBJECTIVE

Evaluate MicroEssentials S10 (12-40-0-10S) fertilizer vs. MAP (11-52-0) vs. MAP + AS (21-0-0-24S) with a base application of MOP (0-0-60).

TRIAL DETAILS

CROP: Soybean

YEAR: 2016

LOCATION: 8 trials (IL, IN, MI, IA, OH, ON, MO)

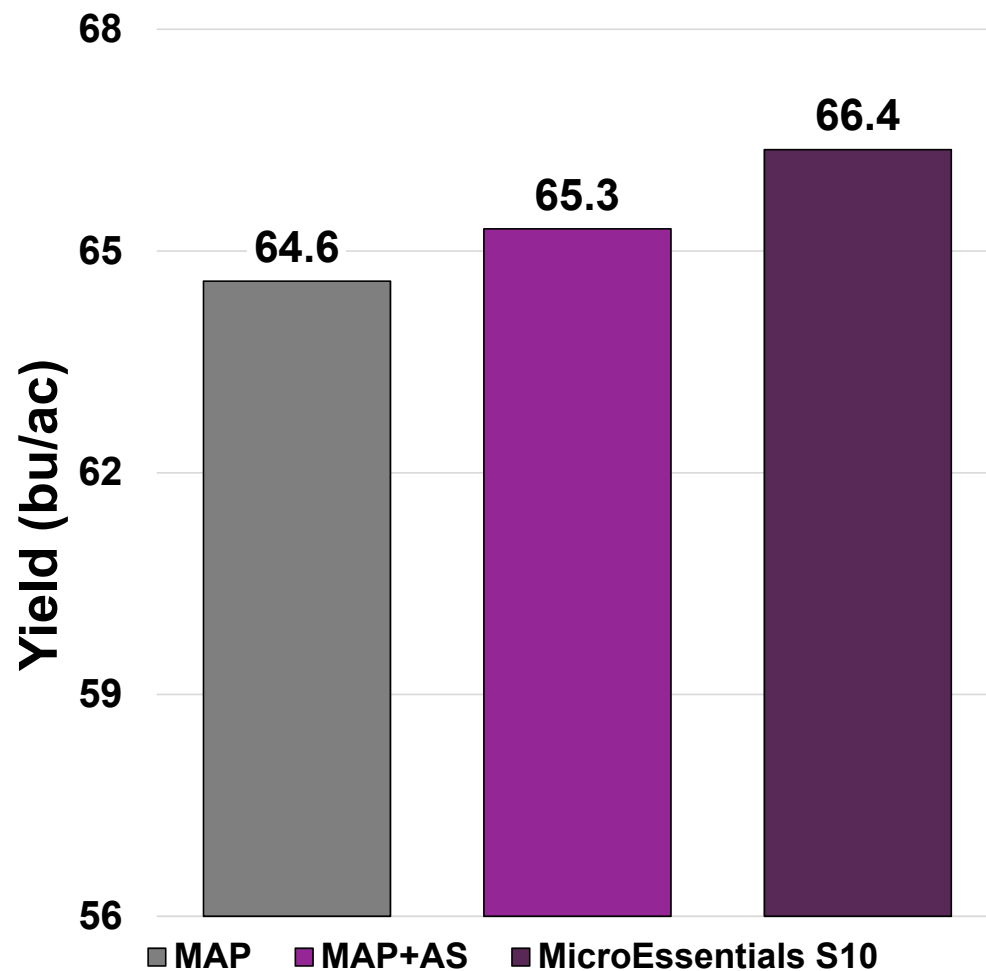
DATA SOURCE: Small-plot (RCBD) trials conducted by university and third-party contract researchers.

P RATE: 40 lbs P₂O₅/ac

K RATE: 60 lbs K₂O/ac

S RATE: 10 lbs S/ac

CROPPING CONDITIONS: All trials conformed to local cropping practices.



(SoybFRP16)



FIVE FORGOTTEN FACTORS OF FERTILITY

Sulfur

Ensure adequate sulfur availability to all crops

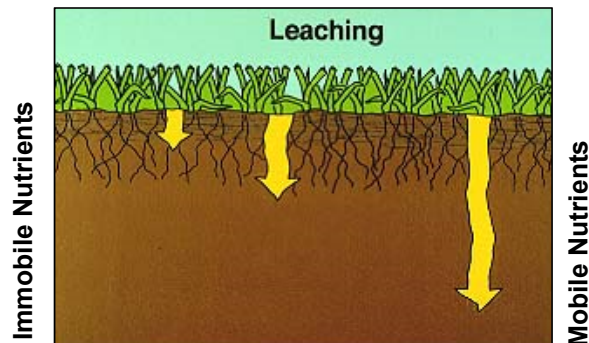
Mobility

Design fertility practices that account for plant and soil nutrient mobility

WHAT IS NUTRIENT MOBILITY?

Soil Mobility

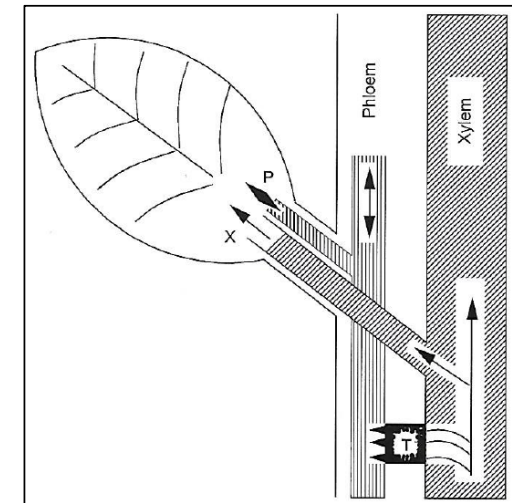
- The relative capacity for soil constituents to retain nutrients.
- Mobile (potentially lost via leaching):
 - NO_3^- , SO_4^{2-} , H_2BO_3^-
- Intermediate or low mobility:
 - NH_4^+ , H_2PO_4^- or HPO_4^{2-} , K^+ , Ca^{2+} , Mg^{2+} , Mn^{2+} , Fe^{2+} , Cu^{2+} , Zn^{2+}



Source: personal.psu.edu

Plant Mobility

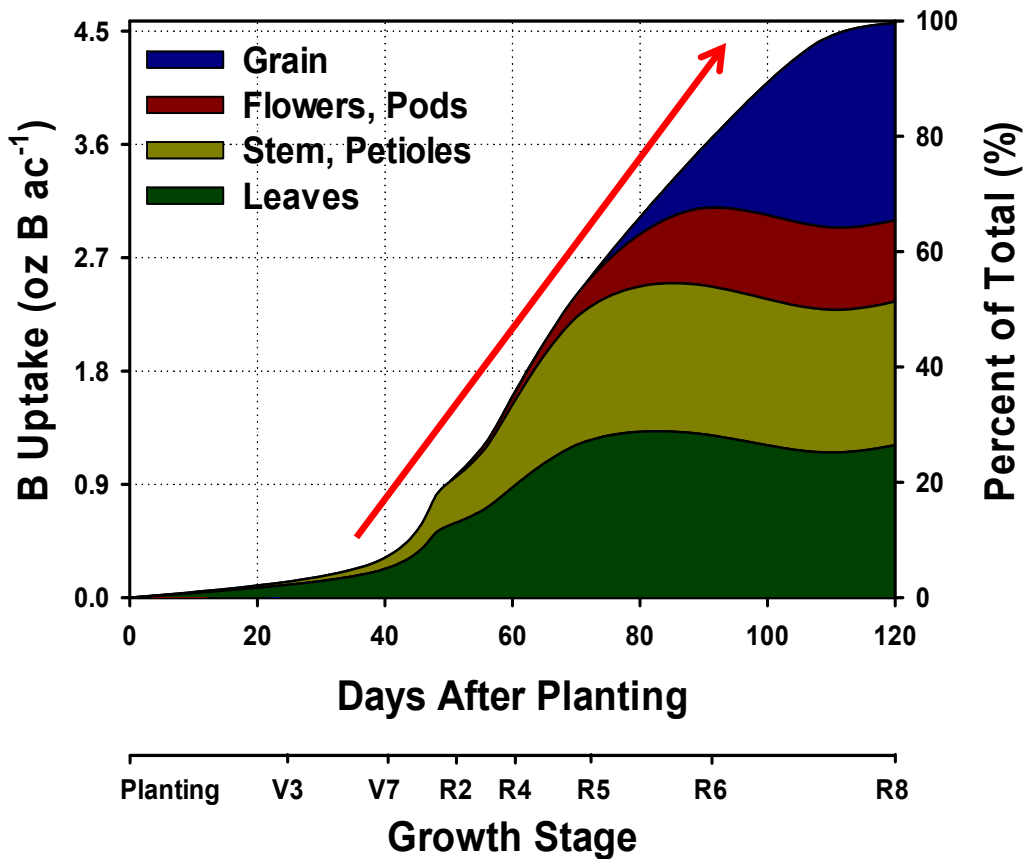
- The relative capacity for plants to reuse nutrients by transporting them from plant tissue to another.
- Species dependent
- High mobility:
 - N, P, K, Mg, S
- Intermediate or low mobility:
 - Ca, Zn, Mn, Fe, B, Cu, Mo



Source: Marschner, 2012. Pg. 62.



BORON NUTRIENT UPTAKE IN SOYBEAN



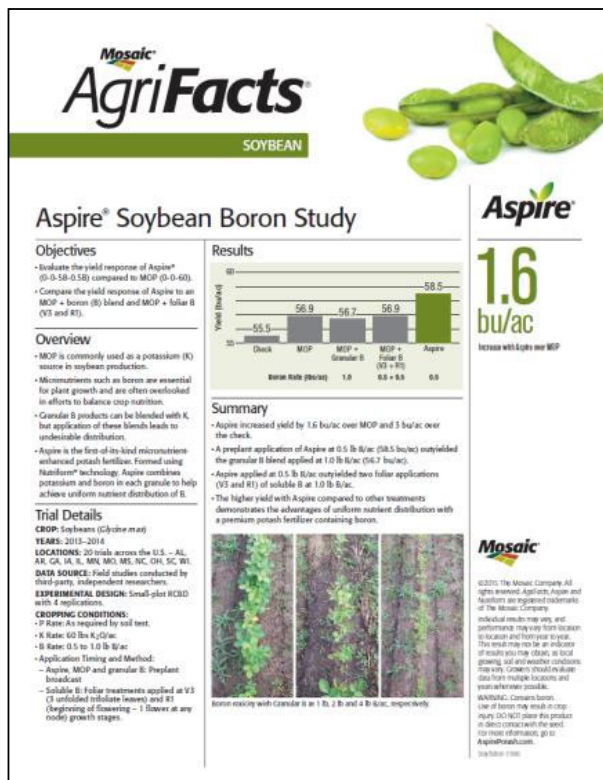
Key Points:

- Season-long uptake of B
- Important during flowering, early seed development
- Does not remobilize from leaves, must come from root uptake



Source: Bender et al., 2015. Better Crops With Plant Food (99:7-10)

BORON ON SOYBEAN – WHEN WILL IT WORK?



Trial Details

CROP: Soybeans (*Glycine max*)

YEARS: 2013–2014

LOCATIONS: 20 trials across the U.S. – AL, AR, GA, IA, IL, MN, MO, MS, NC, OH, SC, WI.

DATA SOURCE: Field studies conducted by third-party, independent researchers.

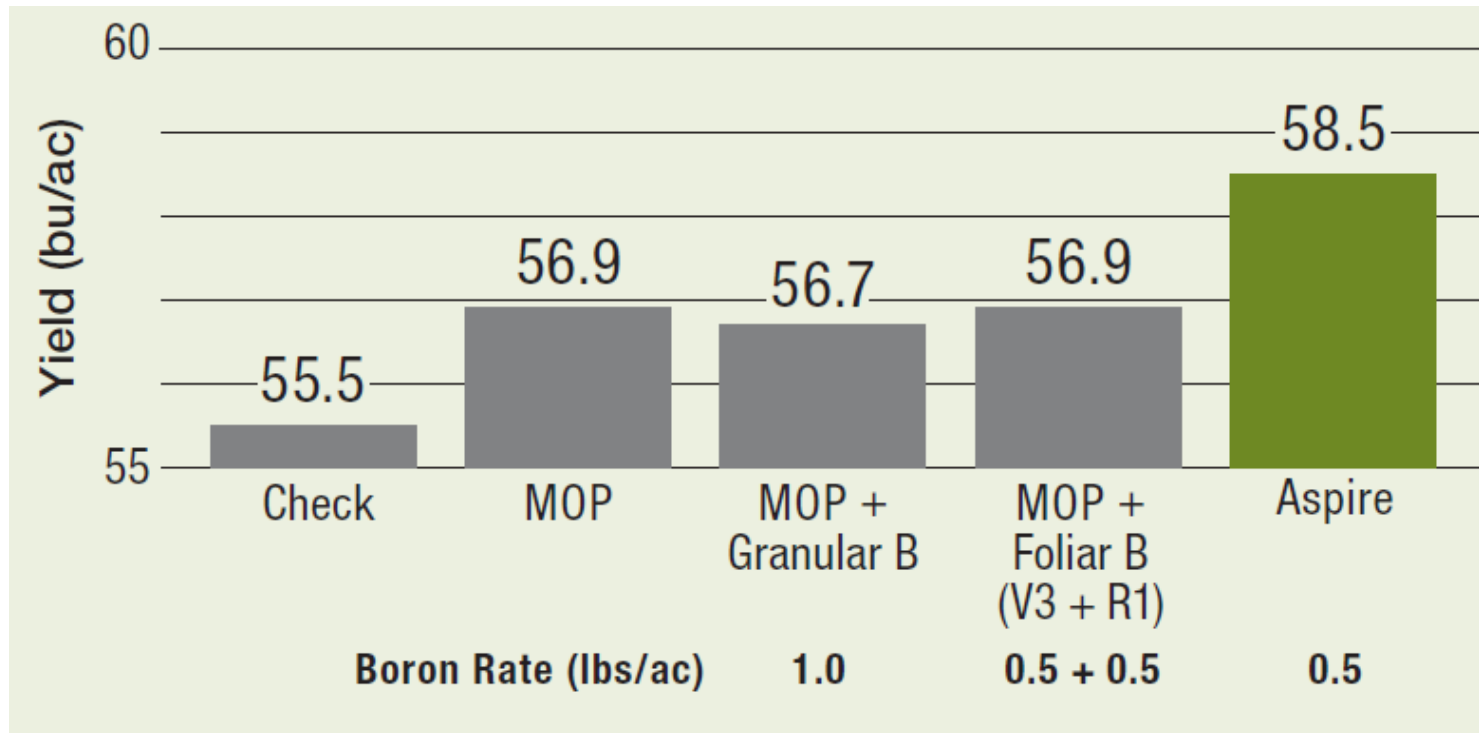
EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN: Small-plot RCBD with 4 replications.

CROPPING CONDITIONS:

- P Rate: As required by soil test.
- K Rate: 60 lbs K₂O/ac
- B Rate: 0.5 to 1.0 lb B/ac
- Application Timing and Method:
 - Aspire, MOP and granular B: Preplant broadcast
 - Soluble B: Foliar treatments applied at V3 (3 unfolded trifoliolate leaves) and R1 (beginning of flowering – 1 flower at any node) growth stages.



BORON ON SOYBEAN – WHEN WILL IT WORK?



Aspire[®]

1.6
bu/ac

Increase with Aspire over MOP

Source: Data from 20 trials across two years by university and independent, third party researchers.

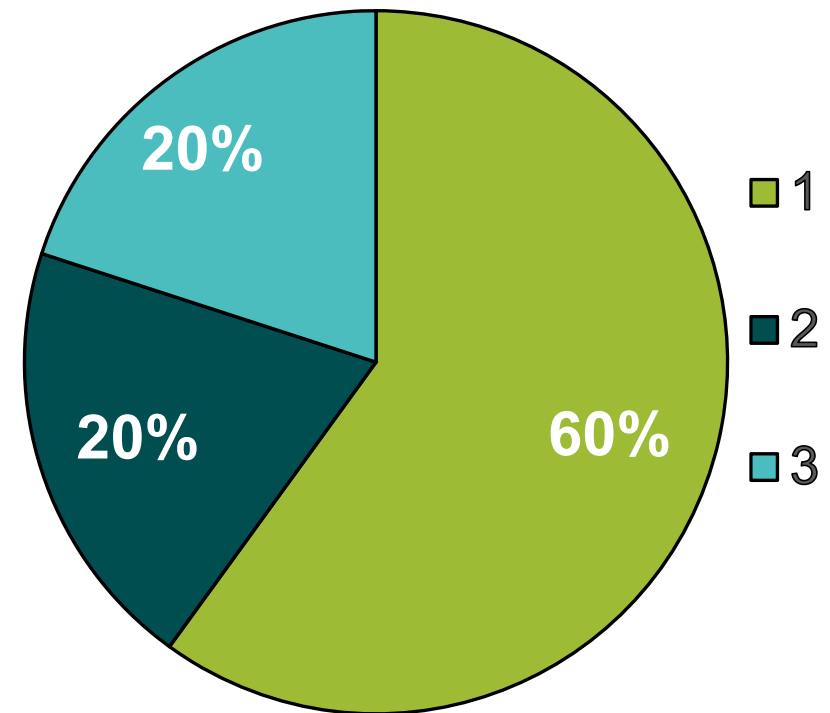


3 D'S OF MICRONUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

Delivery Method

1. Distribution
2. Duration of Availability
3. Daily Use

Ross' Subjective View of Contribution to Maximum Micronutrient Response



ASPIRE ON SUGARCANE AT LSU

Table 1. Cane yield and sugar content of Plant and Ratoon crops averaged across two sites.

Years: 2013-2014; 2016-2017

Rates: 120 lbs K₂O/ac

Treatment	Plant Crop		Ratoon Crop	
	2 Sites	Average	2 Sites	Average
	Cane Yield (tons/ac)	Sugar Yield (tons/ac)	Cane Yield (tons/ac)	Sugar Yield (tons/ac)
Control	46.8	5.2	44.1	5.1
MOP	46.1	5.5	46.4	5.2
Aspire	49.2	5.7	49.8	5.8
Aspire over MOP (tons/ac)	3.1	0.2	3.4	0.6
Aspire over MOP (%)	6.7	4.0	7.3	11.5

WHAT DRIVES YIELD RESPONSE TO MICROS?

- **Impact of sound fertility is maximized with variety selection, comprehensive weed/pest control, drainage, pH management**
- **Micronutrients won't fix a macronutrient problem**
- **Most commonly deficient micronutrients: Zn, B**
- **Higher yields accelerate nutrient demand**

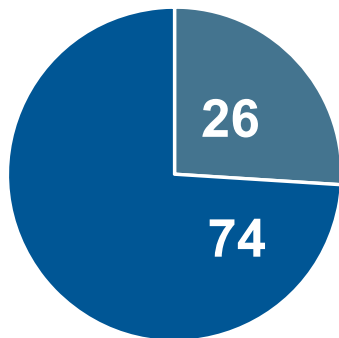
FIVE FORGOTTEN FACTORS OF FERTILITY

Sulfur	Ensure adequate sulfur availability to all crops
Mobility	Design fertility practices that account for plant and soil nutrient mobility
Accumulation	Meet the changing patterns of nutrient accumulation in new varieties

BIOMASS PRODUCTION AND YIELD POTENTIAL DRIVE NUTRIENT UPTAKE: SOYBEAN

Data below illustrates relative biomass partitioning between grain and non-grain tissues.

Borst (1931):
21 bu, 2.1 ton



■ Grain ■ Non-Grain

* Borst and Tatcher, 1931. Bull. 494. Ohio Agric. Exp. Stn.

** Hammond et al. 1951. Res. Bull. 384. Iowa Agric. Exp. Stn.

*** Hanway and Weber. 1971. Agron. J. 63:227-230; 63:406-408.

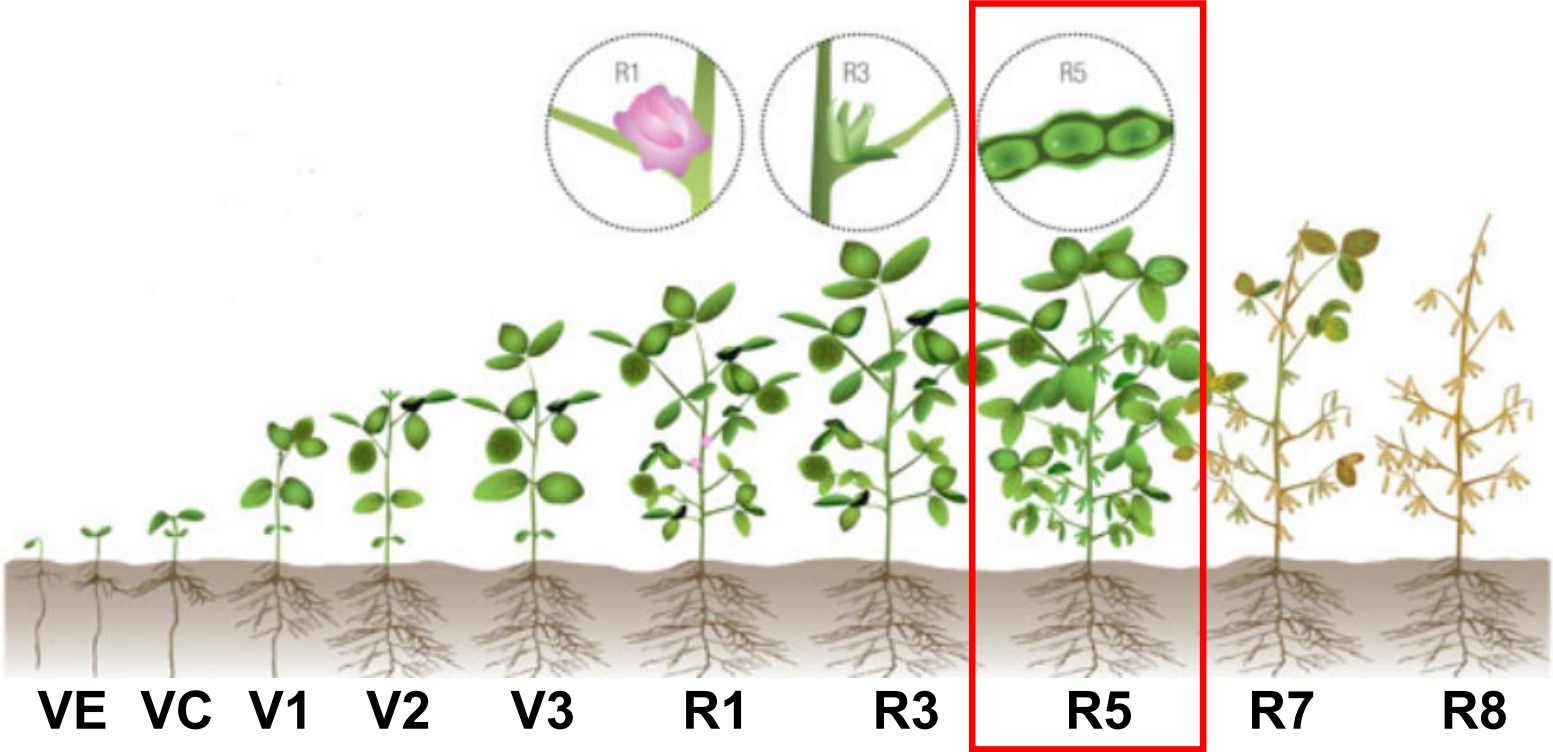
**** Bender et al. 2015. Agron. J. 107:563-573.

Not only do today's varieties produce bigger yields (with more biomass), but they put more of it into the seed, rapidly increasing their nutrient demand.



SOYBEAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Seed filling (R5) is one of the last steps in plant development



Source: prairiecalifornian.com

PLANTS NEED NUTRIENTS AVAILABLE FOR LONGER: SOYBEAN

Parameter	Hammond (1951)**	Hanway (1971)***	Bender (2015)****
	Percent of Uptake During Seed Fill (%)		
Biomass	34	42	51
N			
P ₂ O ₅			
K ₂ O			

Today's varieties produce more biomass and yield, which increases their nutrient requirement. Extending nutrient availability during grain or seed fill is critical!

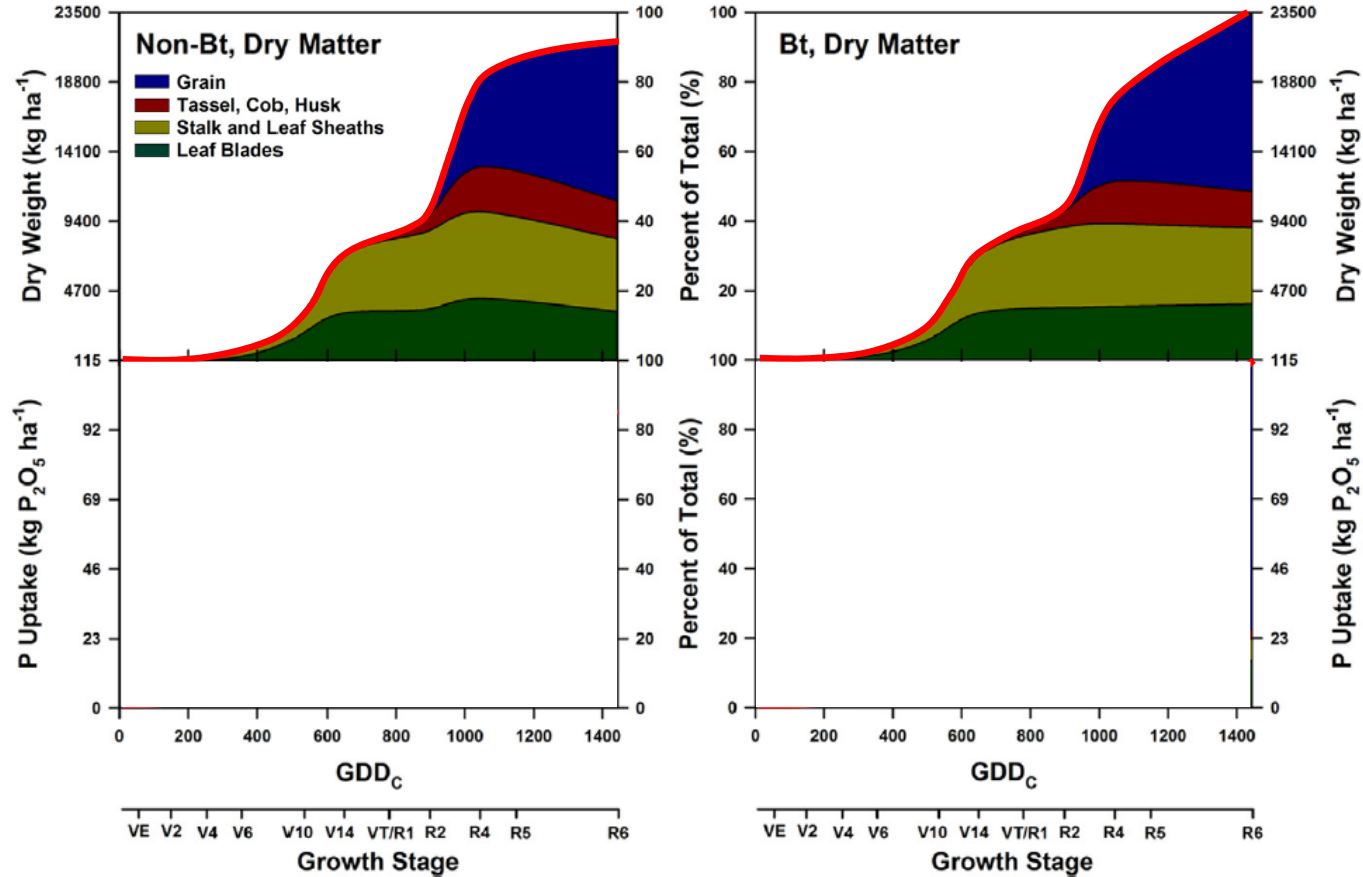
** Hammond et al. 1951. Res. Bull. 384. Iowa Agric. Exp. Stn.

*** Hanway and Weber. 1971. Agron. J. 63:227-230; 63:406-408.

**** Bender et al. 2015. Agron. J. 107:563-573.



TRAITED INSECT PROTECTION ON CORN



Any factor that increases yield also increases late season biomass production and nutrient demand.



EXTENDING P AVAILABILITY ON CORN

- **Objective:** Understand the impact of season-long P availability on corn yield.
- **Site-Year:** Champaign, IL (2012)
- **Hybrids evaluated:** Two
- **P Source:** 10-34-0
- **P Rate:** 60 lbs P₂O₅ (Vegetative), 60 lbs P₂O₅ (Reproductive), 120 lbs P₂O₅ (season-long)
- **Application Method:** Injected into surface drip irrigation system
- Water and N balanced between treatments

Timing of P Application	Yield (bu/ac)	Kernel Rows (n)	Row Length (n)
None	190.5	13.6	26.5
Vegetative (V10 – V14)	+8.0	+0.1	+0.6
Reproductive (R1-R4)	+11.0	+0.0	+2.1
Season-Long	+23.5	+0.2	+3.1

Bender, Haegele, and Below, 2012. Unpublished.

Nutrients with a high grain demand require season-long availability for corn (P, S, Zn) and soybean (N, P, S, Cu) yield.

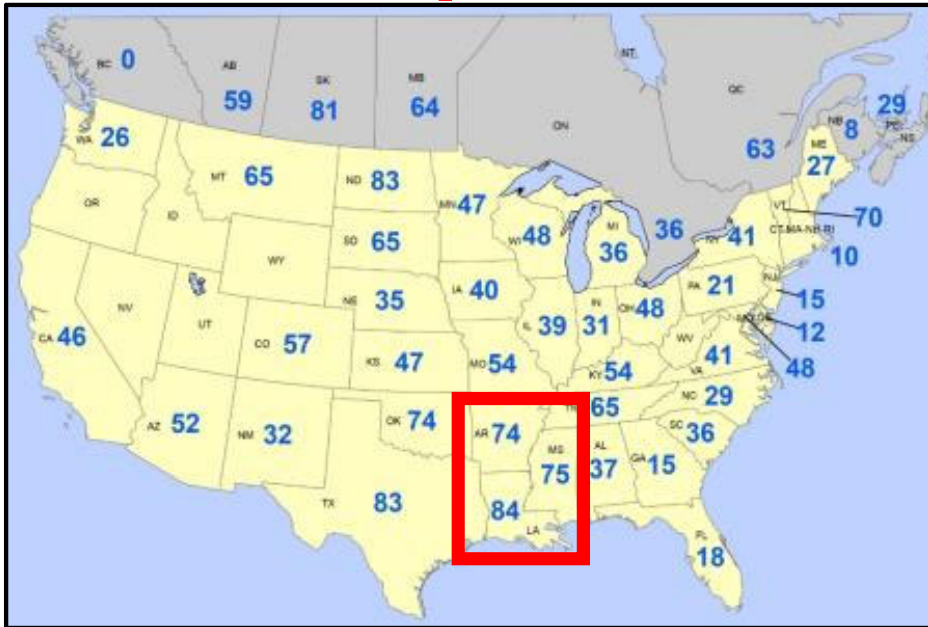


FIVE FORGOTTEN FACTORS OF FERTILITY

Sulfur	Ensure adequate sulfur availability to all crops
Mobility	Design fertility practices that account for plant and soil nutrient mobility
Accumulation	Meet the changing patterns of nutrient accumulation in new varieties
Reduction	Use the “4 R’s” to avoid further reduction of soil test nutrient levels

PERCENT OF SOILS TESTING BELOW STATE CRITICAL LEVELS

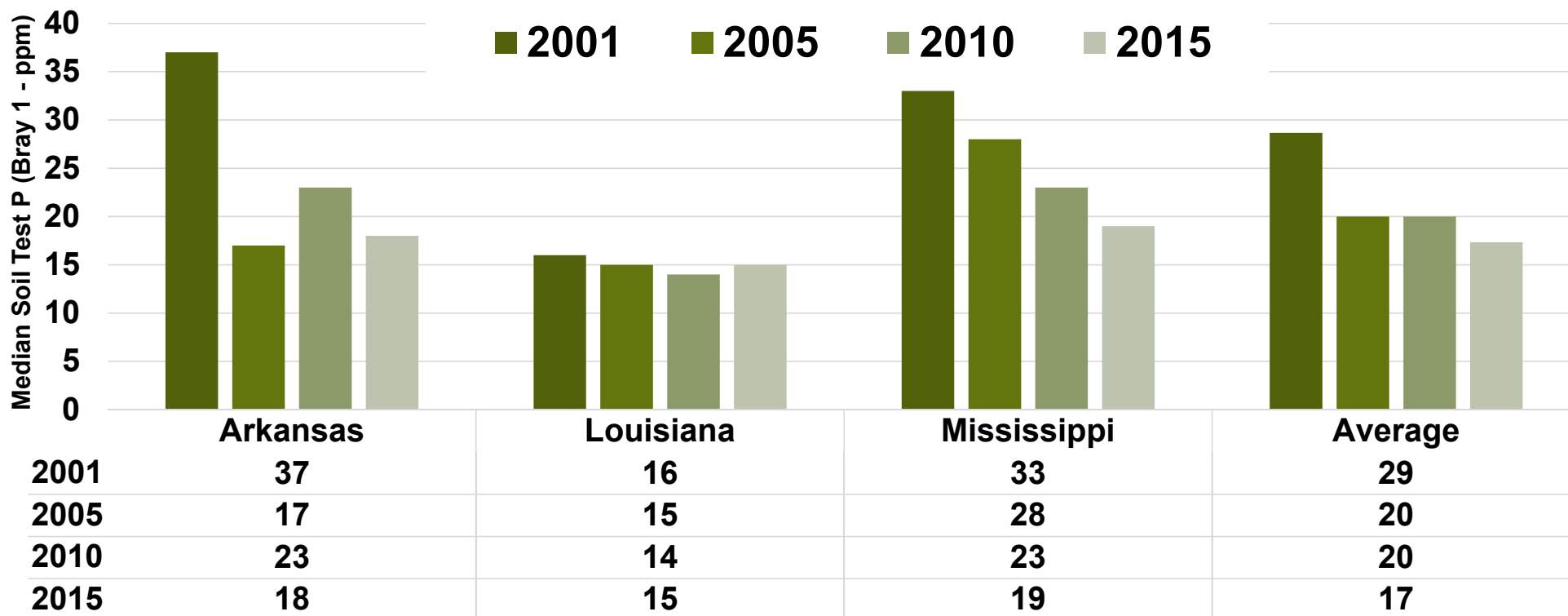
Phosphorus



Potassium



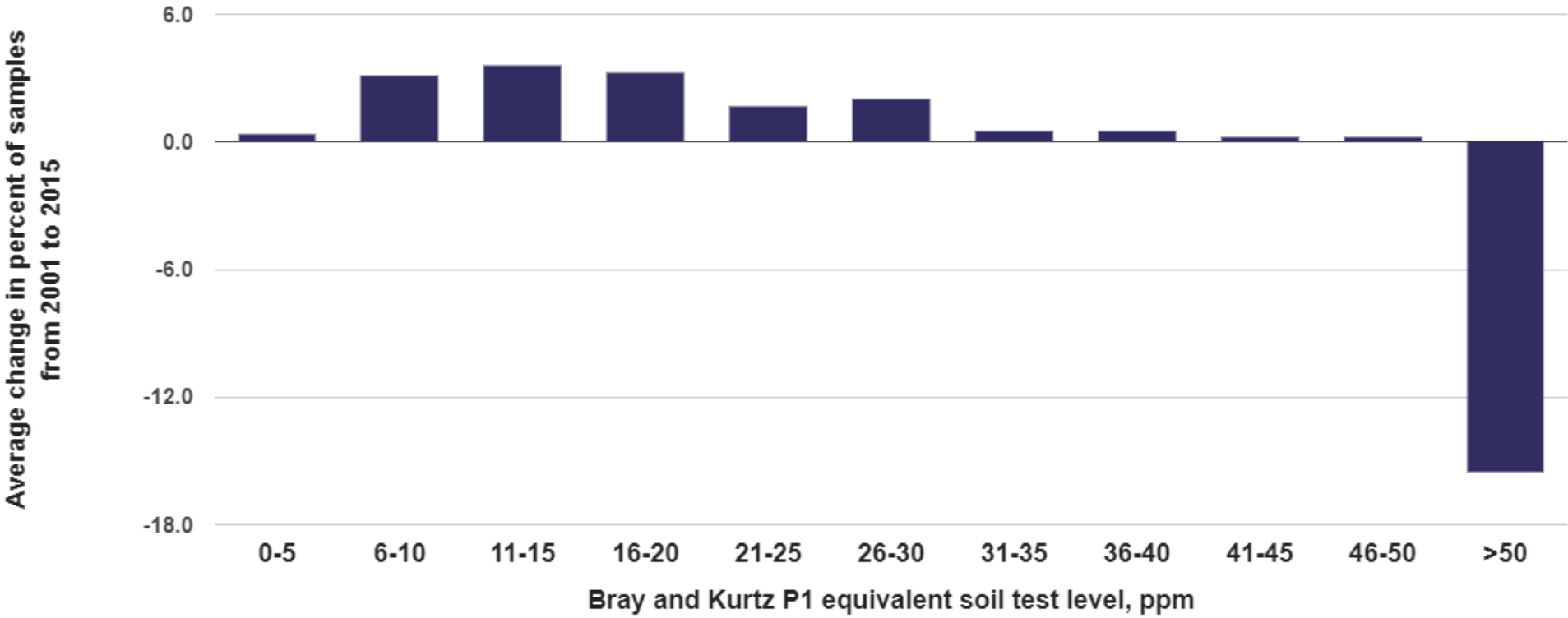
SOIL TEST P DECLINE SINCE 2001



Significant reduction in soil test P



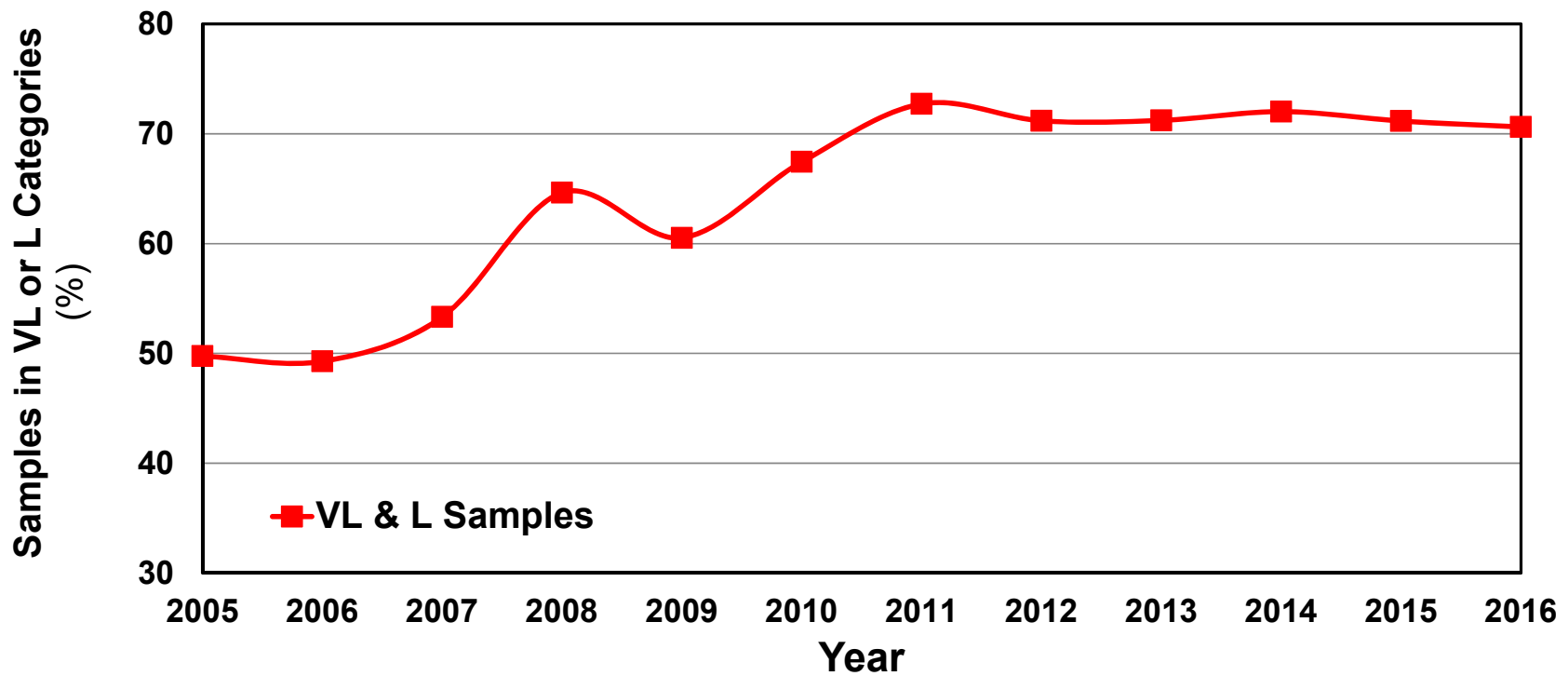
CHANGE IN SOIL TEST P FROM 2001 TO 2015:



Source: IPNI, 2015. Data above represents North America.

B DEFICIENT SOIL SAMPLES: MIDWEST

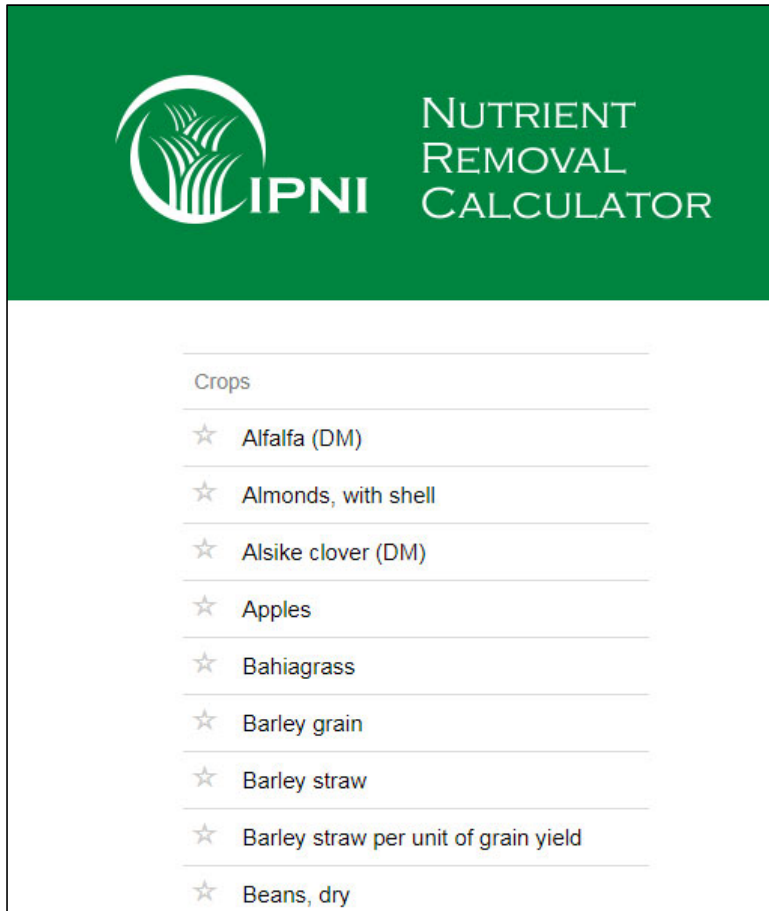
States Included: IL, IN, MI, OH, WI



- Data from A & L Soil Test Summaries: <http://algreatlakes.com/pages/soil-test-summaries>.
- “Samples in VL or L Categories” includes results from Very Low (<0.4) and Low (0.4-0.5) categories.
- Critical Level defined as 0.5 ppm B.



HOW TO CALCULATE NUTRIENT REMOVAL?



Search:

“IPNI Nutrient Removal”

<https://www.ipni.net>

**PLEASE
FERTILIZE
RESPONSIBLY**



FIVE FORGOTTEN FACTORS OF FERTILITY

Sulfur	Ensure adequate sulfur availability to all crops
Mobility	Design fertility practices that account for plant and soil nutrient mobility
Accumulation	Meet the changing patterns of nutrient accumulation in new varieties
Reduction	Use the “4 R’s” to avoid further reduction of soil test nutrient levels
Team	Team/system’s approach is needed to maximize the value of fertility

LONG-TERM RESPONSES IN CORN AND SOYBEAN OMISSION PLOTS

Standard Practice vs High Technology System 2013-15

Fertility	None, or fall P or K based on soil test Balanced Crop Nutrition 30 N, 100 P ₂ O ₅ , 25 S, 2.5 Zn banded and 75 K ₂ O and 0.6 B broadcast at planting
Nitrogen	160-180 lbs pre-plant as UAN or urea Extra N (60-80 lbs) sidedress with a urease inhibitor for 240 lbs of total N
Population	32,000 plants/acre vs 44,000 plants/acre
Fungicide	No Fungicide Headline-Amp or Quilt-Xcel @ R1
Row Space	30 inch row spacing 20 inch row spacing



- **What we know today:** Maximum yield and profit for corn and soybean is a system's approach. There are additive and synergistic effects on yield when balanced crop nutrition is present.
- **Study Question:** From a long-term perspective, what have the Omission Plot studies shown?

Courtesy of Dr. Fred Below and CPL Team (U of I).



LONG-TERM RESPONSE OF VARIOUS MANAGEMENT FACTORS ON CORN YIELD

Factor	Standard	
	Yield (Δ)	Win Rate
	bu Ac ⁻¹	Ratio
None or All	187	.
MicroEssentials SZ (100 lbs P ₂ O ₅)	(+8)	3/8
MicroEssentials SZ + Aspire	(+11)	2/3
Sidedress Nitrogen	(+7)	4/8
Population: 44 or 32k	(-7)	3/8
Foliar Protection @ VT/R1	(+6)	3/8
Row Spacing: 20" or 30"	(+8)	2/4

29 Trials over 8 yrs: 2 trials in 2009 & 2010, 11 trials in 2011, 2 trials in 2012, 3 trials in 2013, 2014, 2015 & 2016





LONG-TERM RESPONSE OF VARIOUS MANAGEMENT FACTORS ON SOYBEAN YIELD

Factor	Standard	
	Yield (Δ) bu Ac ⁻¹	Win Rate Ratio
None or All	63.4	.
MicroEssentials SZ (75 lbs P ₂ O ₅)	(+3.4)	4/4
Foliar Protection @ R3	(+2.0)	3/5
Seed Treatment	(+0.7)	0/5
Row Spacing: 20" or 30"	(+3.4)	4/5

28 Trials over 5 yrs: 6 trials in 2012, 8 trials in 2013, 3 trials 2014, 7 trials in 2015 & 4 trials in 2016.



DR. SLATON (U OF ARKANSAS): RESEARCH ON BALANCED CROP NUTRITION

Corn
Soybean
Sorghum

Balanced Crop Nutrition in a Cropping System

Objective

- Quantify the effect of a comprehensive fertility program including MicroEssentials SZ™ (13-40-0-105-12g) + Aspire® (1-0-58-15g) compared to a conventional fertility program of MAP (11-52-0) + MCP (0-0-60) or MAP Only in a four-year cropping system.

Overview

- Balanced crop nutrition is key to maximum crop production.
- MicroEssentials SZ supplies N, P, S, and Zn in every granule thanks to our patented Fusion® technology. Features include uniform nutrient distribution, increased nutrient uptake, and two forms of sulfur for season-long availability.
- Using NutriForm® technology, Aspire supplies K + B in each granule and provides two forms of B for season-long nutrient availability.
- Using only two fertilizer sources, growers can partially or completely manage six crop nutrients.

Trial Details

CROPS: Soybean (Cedarvale), Sorghum (Corydon 8000), Corn (Duro max9)

YEARS: 2015-2018

LOCATION: Pine Tree Research Station in Colt, AR

DATA SOURCE: Dr. Nathan Slaton, University of Arkansas

EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN: Split plot RCBD with 4 replications

TREATMENTS:

- MAP (11-52-0)
- MAP + MCP (0-0-60)
- MicroEssentials SZ (13-40-0-105-12g) + Aspire (1-0-58-15g)
- MAP + MicroEssentials SZ (13-40-0-105-12g) + Aspire (1-0-58-15g)

P-Rate: 30, 60, 90, and 120 lbs P₂O₅/ac as MAP or MicroEssentials SZ. Because P rate was typically not a significant effect, responses were averaged across all P rates.

K-Rate: 90 lbs K₂O/ac as MCP or Aspire (2015-2017) or 120 lbs K₂O/ac as MCP only or 50/50 MCP/Aspire blend (2018).

Application Details: Preplant broadcast and incorporated

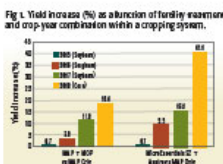
Results

Table 1. Effect of fertility treatment and crop-year combination on yield response within a cropping system.

Treatment	Soybean (2015)	Soybean (2016)	Soybean (2017)	Corn (2018)
MAP Only	60.4	97.0	63.3	163.1
MAP + MCP	60.8	100.7	70.8	193.1
MicroEssentials SZ + Aspire	60.8	106.6	73.5	230.2

LSD (2015) = 0.001; year: 2016 (ns), 2016 (0.1), 2017 (0.1), 2018 (0.1)

Fig. 1. Yield increase (%) as a function of fertility treatment and crop-year combination within a cropping system.



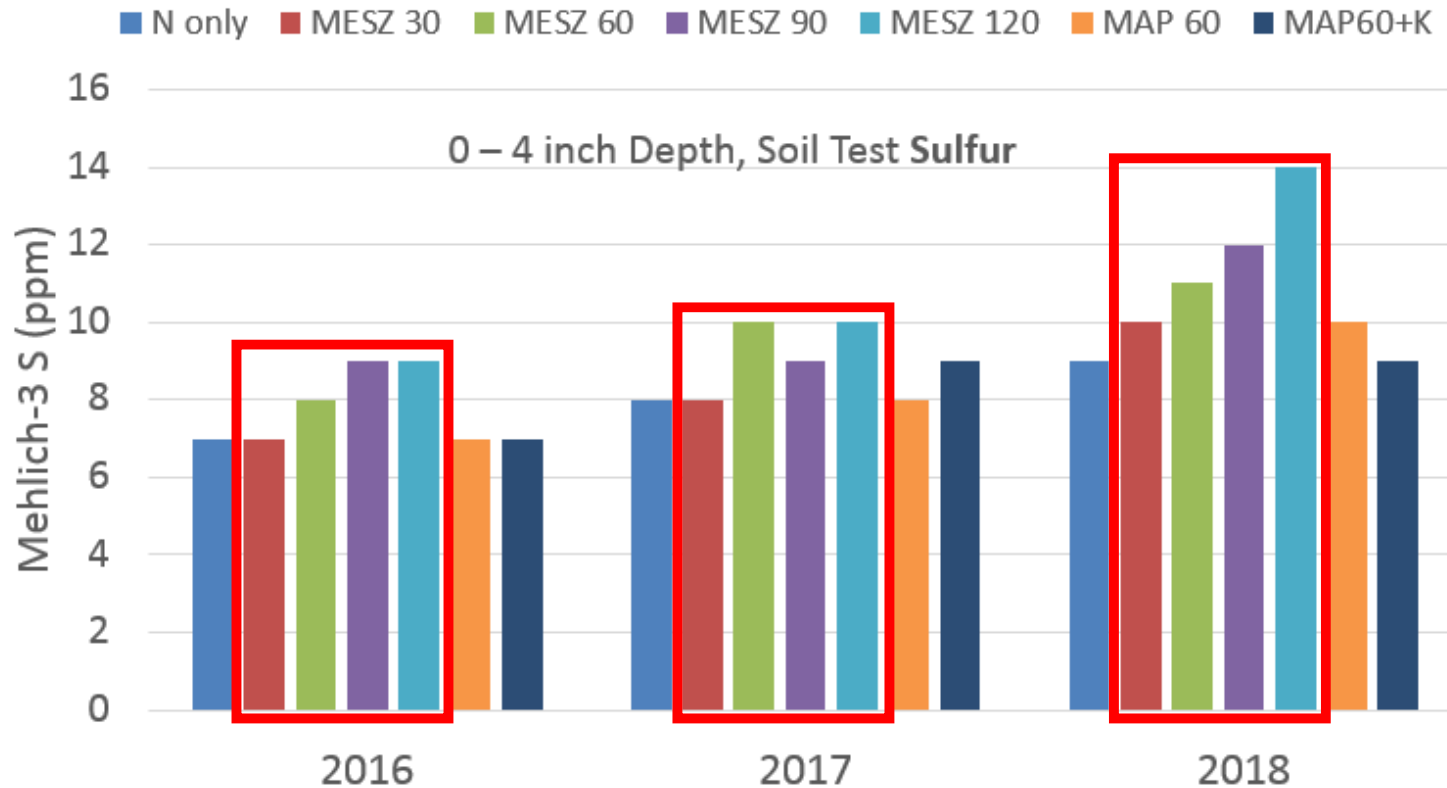
©2019 The Mosaic Company. All rights reserved. AgriFacts, MicroEssentials, SZ, Aspire and NutriForm are registered trademarks of The Mosaic Company. Individual results may vary, and performance may vary from location to location and from year to year. This result may not be an indicator of results you may obtain in local growing conditions and under other conditions may vary. Growers should evaluate data from multiple locations and years whenever possible. For more information, go to MicroEssentials.com or Aspire.com

Treatment	Soybean (2015)	Sorghum (2016)	Soybean (2017)	Corn (2018)
Yield (bu/ac)				
MAP Only	60.4	97.0	63.3	163.1
MAP + MCP	60.8	100.7	70.8	193.1
MicroEssentials SZ + Aspire	60.8	106.6	73.5	230.2

- Improved yield across a comprehensive cropping system
- Synergies realized with repeated balanced crop nutrition usage



DR. SLATON (U OF ARKANSAS): SOIL TEST S



Calloway silt loam, Pine Tree Station
Experiment started in 2013, K treatments started in 2015

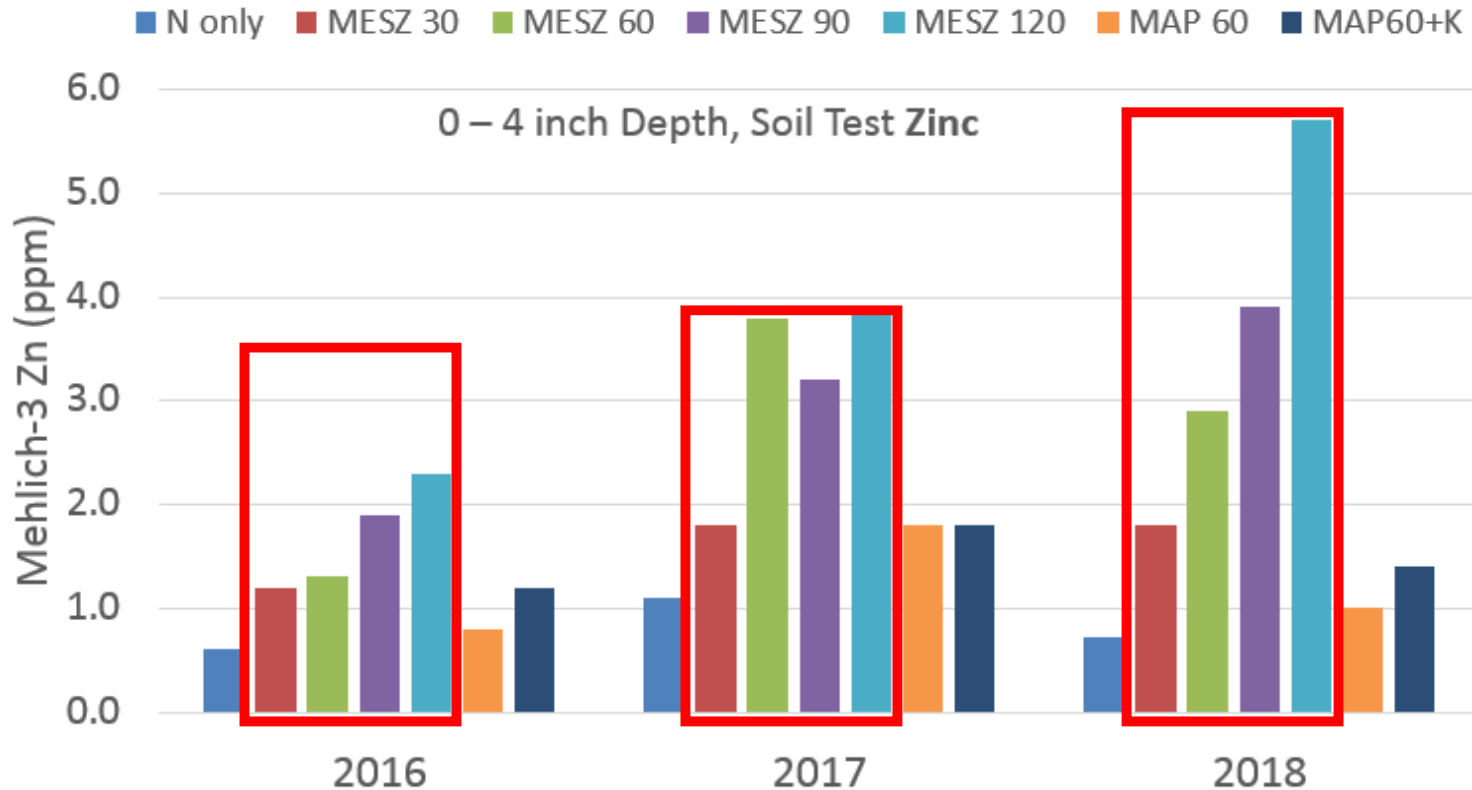
U of A DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System



Courtesy of Dr. Nathan Slaton



DR. SLATON (U OF ARKANSAS): SOIL TEST ZN



Calloway silt loam, Pine Tree Station

Experiment started in 2013, K treatments started in 2015

Courtesy of Dr. Nathan Slaton



FIVE FORGOTTEN FACTORS OF FERTILITY

Sulfur	Ensure adequate sulfur availability to all crops
Mobility	Design fertility practices based on nutrient mobility in plant
Accumulation	Meet the changing patterns of nutrient accumulation in new varieties
Reduction	Use the “4 R’s” to avoid further reduction of soil test nutrient levels
Team	Team/system’s approach is needed to maximize the value of fertility

CONCLUSIONS

- **Sulfur is important for all crops, even soybean. Any sulfur will help, but maximum value will be achieved from agronomic practices or sources which ensure season-long availability.**
- **Mobility of nutrients in the soil and plant are different concepts and therefore, influence response to fertilizer. It's critical that we understand the opportunities and limitations of different application methods.**
- **Biomass production and yield level are the driving factors behind nutrient accumulation. Higher yield levels are not only increasing the demand for nutrients, but necessitate a longer duration of availability.**

CONCLUSIONS

- **Reductions in soil test values are inevitable with higher yields and inadequate replacement. Strive to understand and achieve soil test levels near the 'Critical Value' in your operation.**
- **The key to maximum yield and profit is knowing a systems approach is needed. Any practices which improve your yield potential, increase the need for better fertility management.**
- **If you haven't done so already, try out some...
Aspire, MicroEssentials, K-Mag!**



SINCERE THANK YOU!

For more information, please visit...

Twitter: @RossRBender

K-Mag: www.KMag.com

Aspire: www.AspireBoron.com

MicroEssentials: www.MicroEssentials.com

University of Illinois: cropphysiology.cropsci.illinois.edu



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