Using Tissue and Soil Tests Together Helps Make Better Decisions

John Lee Soil Scientist AGVISE – Northwood, ND

Winter Wheat – Tissue Demo Northwood, ND

- Prevent Plant field from 2011
- Winter wheat seeded late
- Start fertilizer only at seeding

October 31, 2011 Soil N - 15 lb/a 0-24"

Winter Wheat Tissue Example 2012 Good and Bad Tissue Samples, Good and Bad Soil Samples

Green Wheat

N applied April 26 240 lb Urea with Agrotain (108 actual N) No rain 14 day **Yellow Wheat** No- N applied

Winter Wheat Tissue and Soil Example 2012 Good and Bad <u>Tissue Samples</u>

Tissue and soil samples May10, 2012

Green Wheat

Tillering Stage - Whole above ground plant sample Tissue Total N - 3.4% (3.8- 5.5% is sufficient)

Yellow Wheat

Tillering Stage - Whole above ground Plant sample Tissue Total N - 2.2% (3.8- 5.5% is sufficient)

Winter Wheat Tissue and Soil Example 2012 Good and Bad Soil Samples

Tissue and soil samples May10, 2012

Green Wheat

Soil Nitrate Ammonium N Total Soil N 9 lb/a 20 lb/a 29 lb/a (0-6")

Yellow Wheat

Soil Nitrate Ammonium N Total Soil N 1 lb/a 7 lb/a 8 lb/a (0-6")

Winter Wheat Tissue and Soil Example 2012 Good and Bad Tissue Samples, Good and Bad Soil Samples

Tissue and soil samples May10, 2012



Green Wheat

Tillering Stage - Whole above ground plant sampleTissue Total N - 3.4% (3.8- 5.5% is sufficient)Soil Nitrate9 lb/aAmmonium N20 lb/aTotal Soil N29 lb/a (0-6")

Yellow Wheat

Tillering Stage - Whole above ground Plant sampleTissue Total N - 2.2% (3.8- 5.5% is sufficient)Soil Nitrate1 lb/aAmmonium N7 lb/aTotal Soil N8 lb/a (0-6")

Winter Wheat Tissue Example 2012 Good and Bad Tissue Samples, Good and Bad Soil Samples

Green Wheat

May 21 (More N applied) 75 lb Urea - no Agrotain 35 lb actual N ½" Rain the next day Yield 55 bu Protein 14.6%

Yellow Wheat No- N applied 20 bu yield estimate (small area) Protein 10.7%

Winter Wheat Tissue and Soil Test Demo

- Tissue test confirmed N was low in "bad" area and "marginal" in Good area
- Soil test confirmed "bad" area was very low in N and "Good" area may need more N applied
- N fertilizer made large difference in % protein and yield

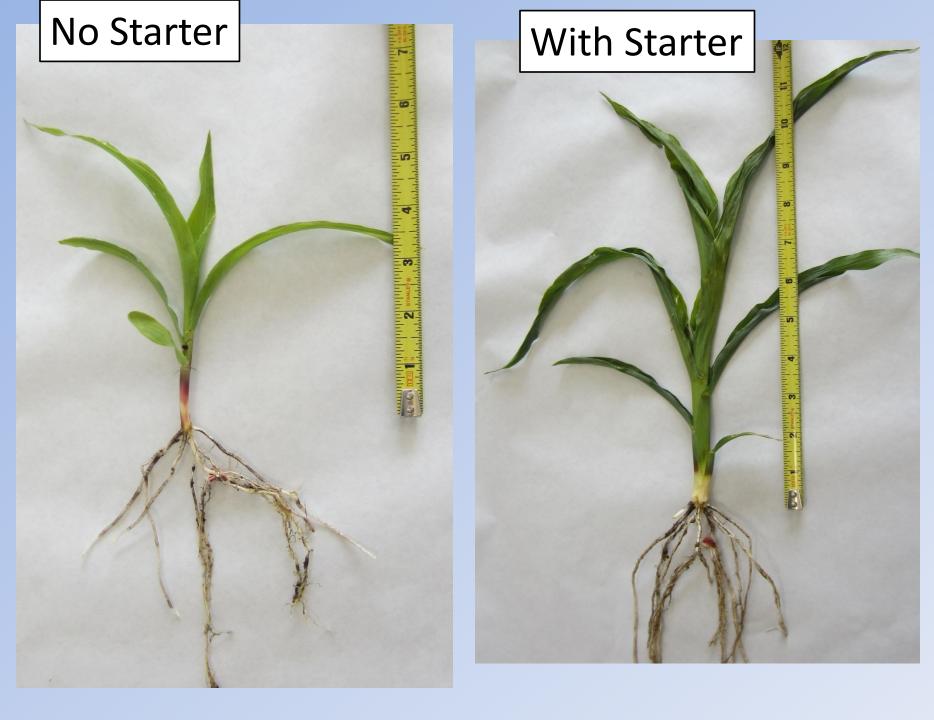
Corn Tissue and Soil Test Demonstration - Starter



Plant size without and with starter



Starter – 5 gallons 10-34-0 with 2 pints of zinc chelate



No Starter

Tissue Total N – 4.1% (3.5-5.0 is sufficient) Tissue Total P - .48% (.35-.80 is sufficient) Tissue Total Zn – 25 ppm (20-75 is sufficient)

With Starter (5 gallon 10-34-0 - 2pt Zn)

Tissue Total N – 5.6% (3.5-5.0 is sufficient) Tissue Total P - .83% (.35-.80 is sufficient) Tissue Total Zn – 56 ppm (20-75 is sufficient)

Tissue Test Results



No Starter

Soil nitrate in row – 16 lb/a (0-6" sample) P Soil test in row – 15 ppm Zn Soil test in row – 1.6 ppm With Starter (5 gallon 10-34-0 - 2pt Zn) Soil nitrate in row – 102 lb/a (0-6" sample) P Soil test in row – 68 ppm Zn Soil test in row – 5.9 ppm

Soil Test Results Picture 5-23-2012

No Starter

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Tissue Plus Soil Test Helps Make better Decisions

- Tissue test showed differences between "short" and "tall" corn was starter
 - Even though "short" and "tall" both showed sufficient
 Nutrient levels for N, P and Zn
- Soil test confirmed lack of starter was the difference
 - Soil test N,P, Zn in the row for "tall" was much higher than soil test in row where no starter had been applied



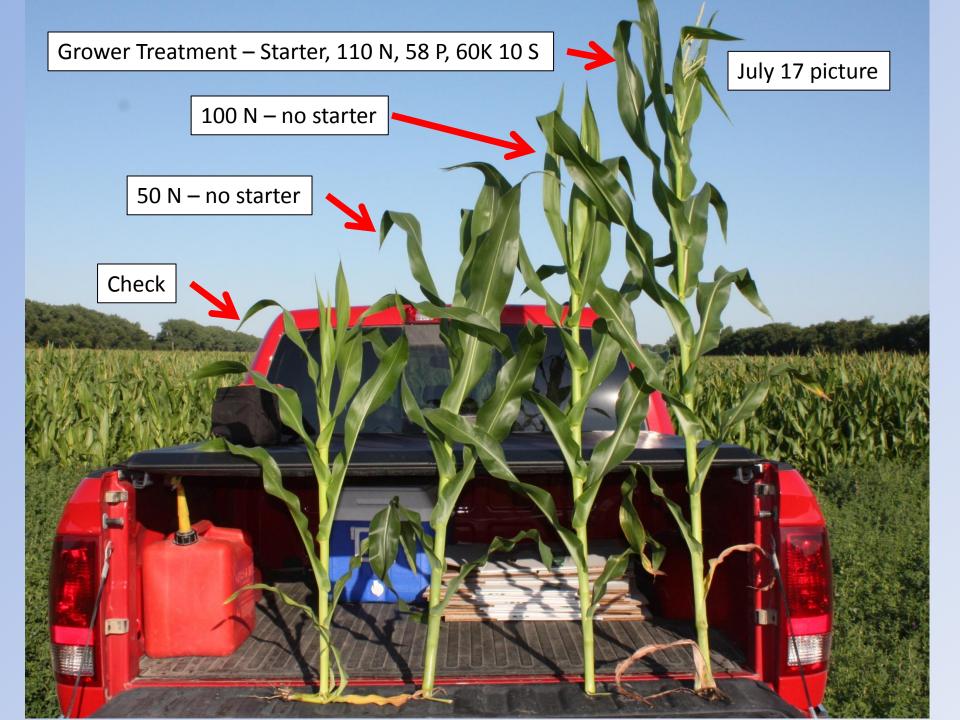
Corn – Tissue and Soil Test Nitrogen Demonstration

- Soil Test Levels
- Previous crop soybeans
- N 25 lb/a
- P 12 ppm (Olsen P)
- K 100 ppm
- S 30 lb/a
- Zn .9 ppm
- OM 1.5%
- pH 6.2

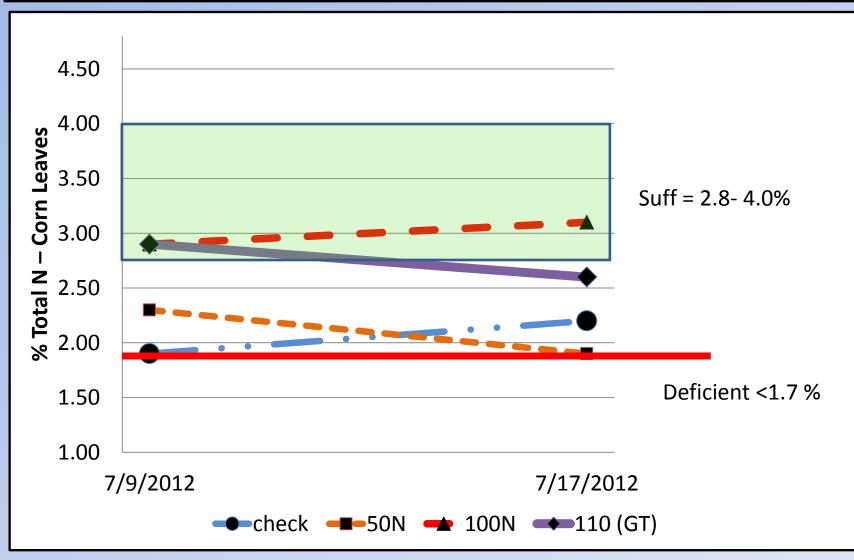
Corn – Nitrogen Demo

- Check area (no starter no broadcast N,P,K,)
- N Top-dressed at 6" corn (ammonium sulfate)
 50 and 100 lb/a actual N (about May 25)
- Grower Treatment (5 gallon 10-34-0 starter plus Zn)
 - 110 N
 - $-59 P_2 O_5$
 - $-60 \text{ K}_2 0$
 - 10 S
 - .5 Zn





Corn N – Tissue Tests Check, 50, 100, 110 (Grower Rate)



N Deficiency showing on lower leaves, even on high N treatment



Corn Stalk Nitrate and Soil N Test at the end of the season (September 26)

Treatment	Corn Stalk Nitrate ppm	Fall Soil Nitrate 0-24" lb/a
Check	35 ppm	5 lb/a
50 lb/a N topdressed	185 ppm	8 lb/a
100 lb/a N topdressed	162 ppm	8 lb/a
Grower trt – 110 lb/a N pre-plant incorporated	188 ppm	24 lb/a

Corn Stalk Nitrate Interpretation

Low: (Less than 250 ppm) Likely that N deficiency limited yield Marginal: (250-700) Possible that N deficiency limited yield Optimal: (700-2000) Yield was not limited by N Excessive: (>2000 ppm) Nitrogen supply was excessive

Corn – Tissue and Soil Test N Demonstration

- Tissue test identified where N was limiting
- Corn Stalk nitrate Test confirmed N was limiting (even with grower rate!)
- Soil Test after harvest was very low where N was limiting



Sugarbeet – Soil and Tissue Demonstration Mid June - Sandy ridges yellowing off Warren, MN

North Star Ag Service Scott Edgar

Sugarbeet Soil Analysis – June 20

Site Appearance	Sulfur 0-6"	Sulfur 6-24"	Chloride 0-6"	Chloride 6-24"	
	lb/a	lb/a	lb/a	lb/a	
Yellow	8	24	4	8	
Green	108	240+	22	104	

Sulfur Sufficiency Range: 15 lb/a topsoil?

Chloride Sufficiency Range: 40 lb for wheat?

Soil nitrate for good and bad >80 lb/a 0-24"

<u>Tissue</u> Analysis - June 27

Site	Sulfur	Chloride
Yellow	.14%	.22%
Green	.23%	.87%

Sulfur Sufficiency Range: .25% to .50%

Chloride Sufficiency Range: Sugarbeets?

All other nutrients in sufficiency range

Sugarbeet <u>Tissue</u> Analysis After Fertilizer Trial Strips (July 11)

Treatment	Sulfur	Chloride	
Yellow (check)	.13%	.13%	
Green (adjacent good)	.28%	.41%	
Potassium Chloride – 50 lb/a	.17%	.42%	
AMS - 50 lb/a	.50%	.47%	
Potassium Chloride – 50 lb			

Tissue and soil tests helped to identify what was Different between the green and yellow beets

Research project planned by U of M/Crystal Sugar Starting next year to address this issue

North Star Ag Service Scott Edgar

Corn – Soil and Tissue Demonstration Purple and Stunted plants

- Previous Crop was <u>Sugarbeets</u>
- Low rate of low P Content starter fertilizer with seed

06/12/2012 13:45

Greg Reidman Riverbend Agronomy

Corn – Purple and Stunted

06/12/2012 13:45

- Soil Test May 24
 - P 21 ppm (Olsen)
 - K 241 ppm
 - S 16 lb
 - OM 4.0%
 - Salt 0.8 mmhos/cm
 - pH 7.7

Sugarbeets don't support Mycorrhizae (Fallow syndrome)

- Fungus helps plant take up nutrients like P and Zn
- Previous crop of sugarbeets, canola, fallow
 - Don't support mycorrhizae and fungus pop decreases
- Following crop needs extra P fertilizer
- Corn needs high starter rate and extra P broadcast



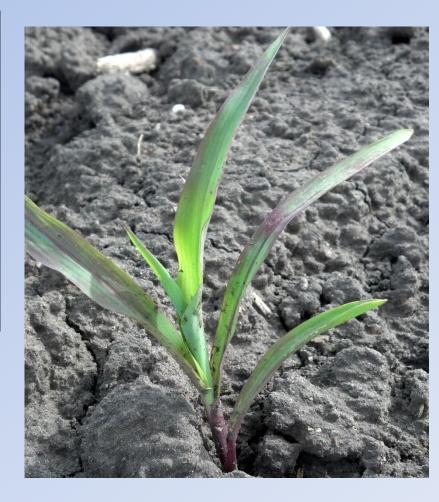
Tissue Analysis - May 24

- Phosphorus very low in tissue
 - .17% Sufficiency range is .35% to .8%
 - P soil test 21 ppm (very high)



P Def. - Rescue in season?

- 6 gallon 9-24-3 applied
 - placed near row with single disc
- 4 gallon 10-34-0 + Zn
 Foliar application



P Def. - Rescue in season?

Tissue Test 2 weeks trt

Check - .24% P Treated - .22% P (Sufficiency Range is .35% - .80%)

- No difference in growth
- No difference in tissue P
- Yield loss estimated at 40 bu/a



Corn – Tissue and Soil Test Demo – Purple Corn

- Tissue Test indicated low P was issue
- Soil Test was high in P (Low rate P starter)
- Previous Crop of Sugarbeets pointed towards "Fallow Syndrome"
- Rescue Treatment did not work
- Strong Starter P program for corn following sugarbeets or do not plant corn after beets

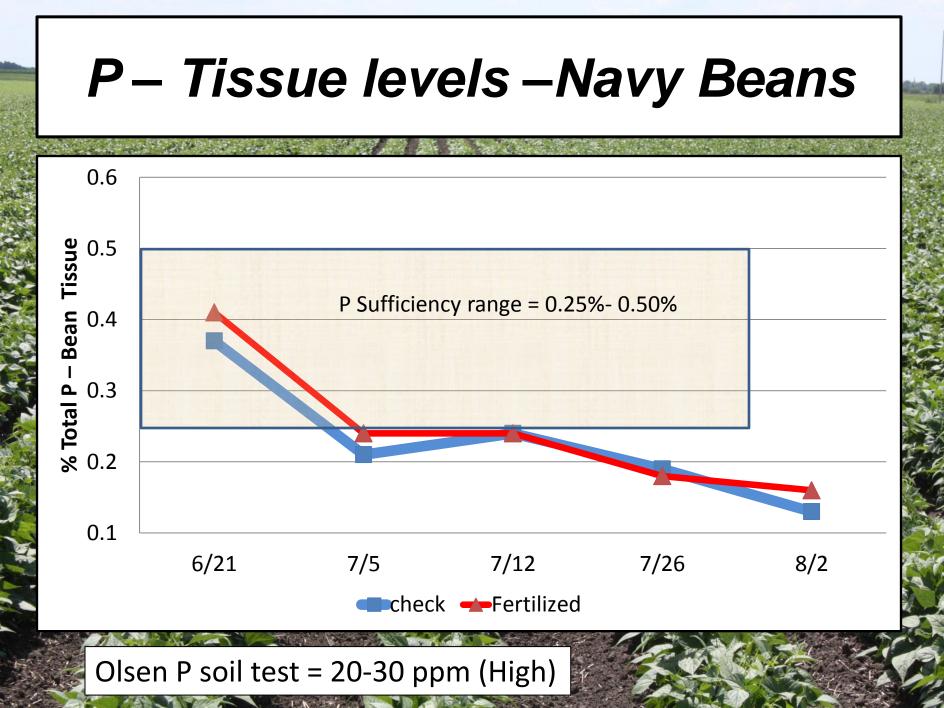
Navy Bean – Tissue and Soil Test Demonstration Fertilized and unfertilized

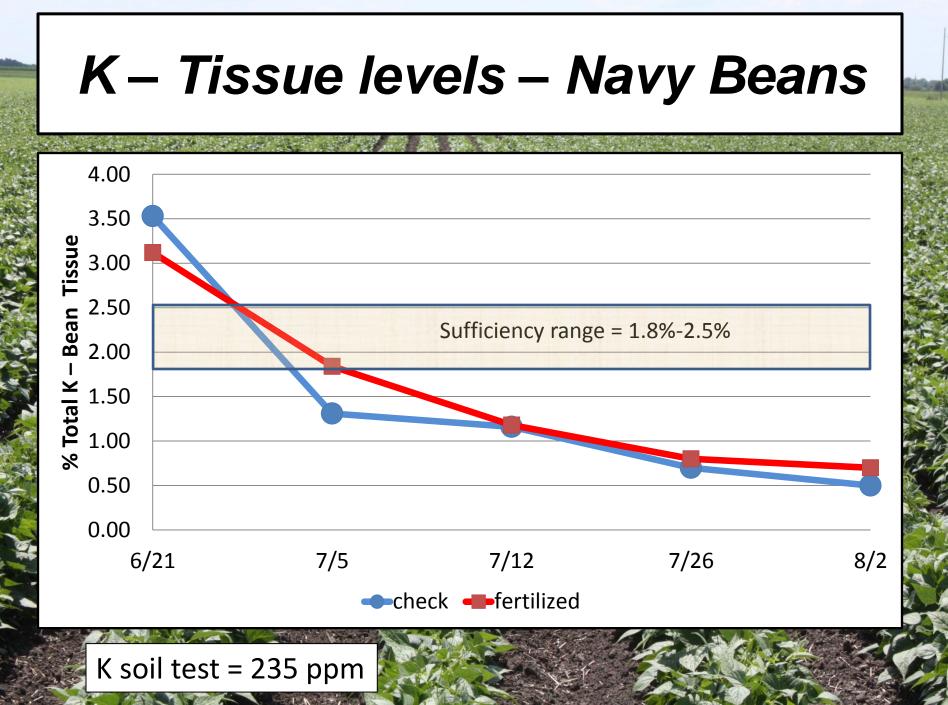


Navy Bean – Soil Test – July 17 Demonstration - Hatton ND

Treatment	N 0-6"	Ρ	K	S 0-6"	Zn	OM
		(Olsen)				
	Lb/a	ppm	ppm	lb/a	ppm	%
check	10	30	235	6	2.6	2.6
Fertilized	24	24	227	14	2.4	2.8

20-31-0-15 broadcast and tilled in before planting





Navy Bean Tissue and Soil Test Demonstration

- Tissue levels for P & K dropped off once topsoil got dry
- Soil test showed both P and K levels were high
- Both fertilized and unfertilized area had uptake issues once topsoil got dry
- As crop approached maturity we expect most nutrient levels to decline, but not this early!
- Tissue test does not account for issues like dry soil



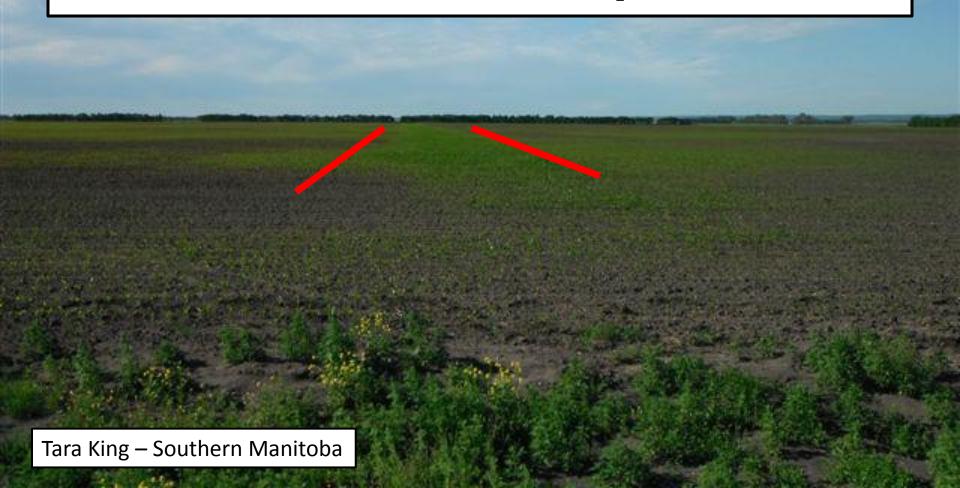
Tissue and Soil Tests (Good and Bad) Provide Better Information

- Very dry areas in 2012: Many tissue samples showed nutrient levels dropping off rapidly as topsoil dried out
- Tissue testing alone may indicate nutrients are low, while a soil test shows the nutrient level to be sufficient or high.
- Reduced nutrient levels in plants also happen with excessive water, compaction etc.
- Having both soil and tissue tests to compare "Good" and "Bad" areas will help make better decisions!

<u>Tissue Test and Soil Test</u> (Good and Bad) Provides Better Information



Corn – Soil and Plant demo Purple corn field with one "Green" strip



Corn – Soil and Tissue Demonstration Purple and Stunted plants

- Previous Crop canola
- No starter fertilizer with seed
- Fallow syndrome suspected





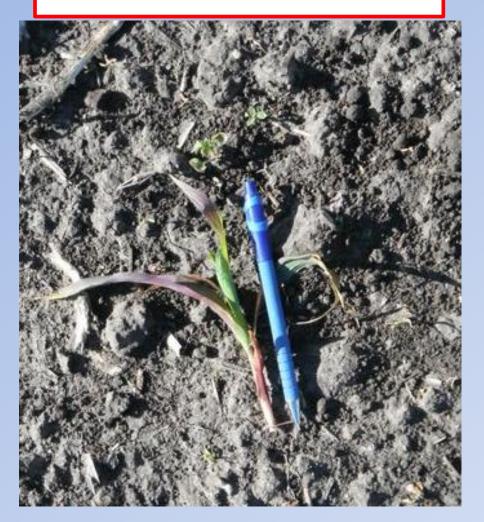
Fallow syndrome is a situation where a beneficial fungus called Mycorrhizia die because there are no host plant roots to grow on. Mycorrhizia is a beneficial fungus which helps plants take up phosphorus, zinc etc. Crops following fallow need extra P fertilizer.

<u>Canola and sugarbeets</u> do not support Mycorrhizia fungus so they die off. The following crop then needs extra P fertilizer to ensure adequate P uptake.





Purple stunted corn Previous crop: <u>canola</u> Tissue P = .14% (suff .35 - .80) P soil test 8 ppm (Olsen)



Green normal height corn Previous crop: <u>Old tree row</u> Removed previous year Tissue P = .28% (suff .35 - .80) P soil test 8 ppm (Olsen)

