



Miller Highlights

July 2011

How much nitrogen do I need?

Nitrogen availability near flowering time and during grain fill was one of the most important differences in final yields in 2010. Excess leaching, surface erosion, and denitrification due to excess rain in June last year led to suboptimal yields in many fields, especially on wetter soils and continuous corn situations. Side dressing of small amounts of N often led to yield increases of 1 bushel per acre or more last year. This was due to the fact that N was lost as well as the fact that roots stayed shallow due to a lack of oxygen during the period when roots were actively growing. Later planted corn actually grew a deeper root system and more completely explored the N in the deeper soil profile because it was drier in July. What appears as a mystery, was that many fields that looked the best during early growth, ended up the most challenged due to focusing too much root development on the surface and then running low on N, as the surface N was lost due to denitrification. Since nitrogen is so important to your corn crop, the use of the [Corn Nitrogen Rate Calculator Web tool](#) will help guide you toward maximum profitability as the price of corn and the price of N vary, but it only works if the nitrogen is not lost before the plant gets to it.

The ISU extension Ag Decision Maker website is: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/farmmanagement/> This is a great tool to use with your own costs and to help you put together a marketing plan for the crops or animals you manage, so you remain a profitable and sustainable farming operation. There are many input costs which you can control and the use of these tools emphasizes the need for a good marketing plan that is proactive rather than reactive. Some farmers who did not have a marketing plan and sold after harvest did well for the 2007 and 2010 crops and so many people abandoned their marketing plan for the 2008 and 2009 crops and they suffered from that strategy. This year is a critical year to have a plan that covers your variable production costs and allows capturing record profits, since there is considerable risk as we saw when corn dropped \$1.75/bushel in the last couple of weeks.

Insects

Black Cutworms cut plants significantly in several fields in the area and did minor damage in a lot of fields. Since most Miller Hybrids corn varieties were treated with Cruiser, you should be able to get a rebate from Syngenta for Warrior® if you work with your full-service chemical provider and Miller Hybrids to verify that the seed had Cruiser and cutworm damage was detected which suggested the need to spray.

Remember to scout for European Corn Borer on your refuge corn. Early corn will attract the first generation and either late maturing corn or late planted refuge corn is most vulnerable to the second generation. You could add an insecticide with your Headline for the second generation.

Miller Hybrids will again have corn rootworm traps to allow you to see the corn rootworm pressure you have in rotated fields. Contact Miller Hybrids if you would like to participate in this monitoring program. Traps should be placed before the middle of July.

Weeds

Carefully monitor weed pressure and try to spray corn for weeds before they exceed 4" tall, as weed pressure can have a dramatic impact on potential corn yield. I have noticed a late flush of waterhemp in several fields which used a full program around emergence or before. If you used straight Glyphosate "GT or RR" tolerant corn last year, spray with Ignite **now** to remove it if the corn planted this year contains the Liberty Link® trait.



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Volunteer corn can significantly affect yield and rootworm control, even in corn carrying the RW gene. Use drop nozzles if corn is at 7 leaves or more, which is the case in most corn currently.

Corn Seed and Pallet Returns

Call us to arrange pick up of any pallets or pro-boxes which we may have left in your storage sheds, or return them to Miller Hybrids' office at 1213 Larch Ave., Kalona, Iowa. Miller Hybrids' heavy oak pallets not returned by July 31 will be invoiced at \$15 each and the 50-unit pro-boxes will be invoiced at \$600 each. If you have any corn seed bags left, store them in a well-ventilated and dry place until next year. The carryover seed in the Miller Warehouse is currently in cold storage for the summer.

Special Program for early 2012 Seed

Genetic fees and production costs have gone up for 2012 by about \$15 or more per unit for 2011 production. Trait royalties are yet to be finalized, but are likely to go up slightly. We will offer seed at 2011 prices with a guarantee that you will get our lowest price (including any prepay discounts) through July 31 and you will only pay 1% more through August 31.

Building Update

The Miller Hybrids warehouse and office is now complete. We recently added concrete and landscaping around the outside, as well as another office and a cold storage unit inside. We welcome visitors throughout the year and look forward to a fall customer appreciation and seed day, tentatively scheduled for September 13, 2011.

Products

Miller Hybrids offers an excellent portfolio of unique corn hybrids, focused in the 104 to 114 day market with many herbicide options, trait options including Viptera®, and conventional corn. New for 2012, we will be the exclusive provider of Roeschley soybeans in Iowa. Miller Hybrids Alfalfa continues to offer excellent value, beginning with an excellent hybrid and three standard varieties, including a leaf hopper variety.

Research Update

Miller Genetics, a division of Miller Hybrids planted about 75 acres of small plots at 5 diverse locations in 2011. This testing appears to contain our most exciting class of hybrids yet and it includes many hybrids involving at least one of three unique inbred lines which were from our initial inbred development projects initiated in 2006. We are pilot producing a new 110 day conventional hybrid this summer, with one of these lines. Miller Hybrids has a bright future, partially because of the unique and diverse set of elite hybrids with various trait options arising from our research under typical farm conditions.

Personnel

Doug Cling is our newest team member. He is our sales agronomist, manages the warehouse and research fields, along with selling seed. Chad Gillam from Kalona, Iowa, is our V. P. of Sales. Chris Rusch is our Office Manager and financial specialist. Bob Miller is the President and is also in charge of research. Contact any of our seed experts by cell phone: Chad 319-330-8021, Doug 319-325-6190, or Bob 319-325-6158 or call our office at 319-656-2532 for assistance with your field scouting or any other questions. Come Grow With Us!