

THE FORAGER

Agronomics with livestock in mind!

2012 Seed Availability & Demand...

It is critical that producers order their seed for next spring's planting as early as possible. More than any other year in recent memory, the availability of specific hybrids is likely to be very tight, based on the kind of growing season experienced nationally this past spring and summer 2011. It is easy to recall the extreme rain and flooding of last spring... and the heat and drought of mid-to-late summer. Many fields of corn and other crops were severely impacted, causing a large amount of damage, and reducing the forage inventories needed to feed livestock through the coming winter months. An added consequence was a reduction in available seed(s) for the coming growing season. The article below, edited for use in this publication, can provide some additional considerations.

As harvest gets into full swing, it is not too soon to consider planting decisions for 2012. Given the vast array of choices in today's hybrids, you cannot simply check the box to "order seed" without careful, strategic thinking and planning. It takes time and effort to understand which genetics, technologies and traits are best suited for specific field environments on each farm. Here are some steps to consider as you plan for next year:

- Make time to talk to each producer about their goals for 2012. Reaching out to someone who knows their nutritional needs, fields for planting (etc.) as well as you do, can help them to navigate through the important decision of hybrid selection. We recommend that they plant more than one hybrid!
- Evaluate what worked in 2011 and in prior years. Also evaluate other risks and variables.
- Consider how crop rotation decisions may affect seed needs. If the producer is planning corn-on-corn, focus on hybrids with good resistance to diseases such as [Goss's wilt](#). This bacterial infection can cause leaf blight or a severe systemic disease and death, and was devastating in some Illinois counties in 2011. If the producer is not using crop rotation to prevent diseases, consider which agronomic characteristics are going to have the most impact on their farm.
- Choose hybrids that match end uses. Think about whether the crop will be used for feed, processed grain or another specific market. Consider quality and also nutritional components such as protein, starch and oil content as you weigh hybrid choices.
- Research new technologies, such as Dow AgroSciences Refuge Advanced[®] powered by SmartStax[®], which can help maximize yield per acre. Each bag of Refuge

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Advanced contains a blend of 95% high-yielding SmartStax seeds and 5% high-quality, non-insect-traited refuge seeds.

- Work with producers and agronomists to evaluate fertility strategies to ensure nutrient uptake is optimized. They need to understand the nutrient needs of each hybrid they want to plant and plan accordingly, to ensure efficient growth, grain filling and stalk quality. Many of today's high-yielding hybrids will greatly benefit from sequential applications of nitrogen. For fall nitrogen applications, it is recommended that producers consider adding N-Serve[®] nitrogen stabilizer to their crop management plan. This will help ensure that more of the nitrogen will be available to the crop when it is needed.

Planning for the next cropping year is always exciting. With the many new technologies and advanced genetics, growers have an unbelievable opportunity to maximize whole-farm productivity each year. But it isn't automatic success — it requires careful analysis of the environment, together with knowledge of the genetics, traits and technologies available to help each producer succeed.

(Edited from an article by Sean Jordal, Dow-Mycogen)



SEED – AGRONOMY – NUTRONOMY™
Contact our Agronomy Office for Information & Support
1.800.346.3649