Monday – July 13, 2020

BILL: And good morning and welcome into another week of Ag Talk Programs. This is Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz. Ed, Happy Monday to you and we’re starting off the week talking about tissue analysis for both corn and soybeans.

ED: Just going to have both of these, kind of the same topic here even though it may be a different time when you’d actually collect the analysis. But if you are going to do this properly you just want to keep track of your fields to see if there is something showing up every year. There is a certain time you should actually take the tissue for that check and that’s going to be right at the flowering period. And the reason why is at flowering is when those plants have the most demand for the nutrients. So we have set up terms and other things to base that on if this plant is getting what it should have. What is that magic range that we want to be in? Now for soybeans we’re already kind of right there right now. We’re right at the initial bloom and we tell people to take the leaves from the upper part of the plant only at flowering. And if you’re already into R2 and even if you’re in R3 or early pod development you can still do a tissue analysis just know that your readings may be down because that plant’s going to be pulling those nutrients out of the leaves and going to be putting it into that early pod so it isn’t going to fit the curve as well because the curve wasn’t made for pod development. And when we get to corn it’s the same thing. It’s at flowering. So when the corn is beginning to silk, you start seeing those silks come out of the ear tips, that’s the time we recommend that you do the tissue analysis for corn as the same rationale as the soybeans. And then take that leaf that’s right there by the ear. You only want to collect ear leaves from that field, a random sampling, because that’s going to be the leaf that has the highest demand for nutrients. So we’re at that time period in soybeans and soon will be in corn if you’re going to do a check to just see what’s going on out there this is the time to do it. Keep in mind that tissue analysis is a diagnostic tool. It just gives us information on what the plant is doing. It’s not, never to be used as a fertilizer recommendation rate. The curves have never been made for fertilizer. You can compare it to the sufficiency chart but I would use a university chart because some private industry people kind of skew that a little bit to try to encourage you to buy fertilizer on that out there. And also keep in mind the weather conditions. If it’s really dry you could be deficient in a lot of things not because the soil is deficient but because the plant can’t take it up because it’s not actively taking up nutrients because of the dry weather. So it’s a tool and you got to know how to use it when you’re looking at things. And if you’re using it as a diagnostic tool you also need to take a soil test cause soil ph is so important to whether to determine whether a nutrient is going to be there or not. In general we generally don’t need micros, that’s what we use this for but you can use this test to kind of see where you are.

BILL: Thank you Ed. For Ag Talk this is Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz. Good morning to you.

Ed: Good morning.