Tuesday – June 2, 2020

BILL: And good morning and welcome into out Tuesday edition of Ag Talk. Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz. Ed good morning to you. This time around Nitrogen Extenders, it’s sidedress time.

ED: A lot of people might thing we just got done planting but most people use what we call a split application of nitrogen where we put a little bit of nitrogen on at planting and then we’ll put the bulk of it on later on with what we call sidedress. The corn can be anywhere from three leave to up to six leave when we do that and depending on the acreage that a farmer has to cover he may put it on earlier so by the time he is all finished we’d be up to six leaves. There is basically two nitrogen extenders we talked about. They are nitrification inhibitors, urease inhibitors, and I guess I should stress, in general since it’s sidedress time, we know we are getting warmer temperatures coming into June if we don’t have excessive rainfall being predicted for next two weeks we are going to have rapidly growing plants. And so other words these plants are going to be growing, they are going to be taking up nitrogen and to protect the nitrogen per say is not as critical because those plants are going to be utilizing it and we don’t have a great of potential for it to be lost from the field. These inhibitors basically just buy us time. The nitrification inhibitor, if I put a fertilizer on in what we call the ammonium form it’s got a positive charge the soil could hold it. All that nitrification inhibitor does is it keeps it in that ammonium form longer. The plant can take it up as ammonium and prevents it from going on to nitrate. As we get warmer that inhibitor breaks down sooner too so it doesn’t last as long in June and we may only be getting from two to four weeks and by that time the corn plant is growing quite rapidly and we generally don’t see the benefit from it. A urease inhibitor we can have volatization if we put a urea type product that would be urea or even urea ammonium nitrate on the soil surface. However, if you inject it you don’t have that risk of volatization and we don’t need a urease inhibitor. So for that one there depends on how the farmer is going to apply that 28% or urea. So generally speaking, in anhydrous ammonia if you are sidedressing with that the data would show we seldom every get a benefit from a nitrogen extender with anhydrous ammonia. And so the bottom line is what do we have coming up in the next two or three weeks, we have pretty good growing conditions, you’re probably not going to benefit from either one of the inhibitors. They would work, they would do their job and it could be a statement you could say, I’m doing everything I can to protect the fertilizer, but if your looking at economics there’s a strong potential you are not going to need them and you are just going to have another input cost that you could save for other things. So sidedress is coming and think what the nitrogen is doing and decide if you need them or not.

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

Ed: Good morning.