BILL: And good morning and welcome into another week of Ag Talk Programs. This is Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz. Happy Monday to you Ed. Today, Sidedressing Nitrogen our topic.

ED: We have a lot of farmers already been doing sidedressing probably for the last week or so and I guess for our non-farm audience what do we mean by sidedressing nitrogen. It’s nothing more than a split application of nitrogen where farmers coming back and putting the remaining part of his nitrogen later on the corn. We call that sidedressing because we are putting to the side of the corn row so it’s basically a split application. They put a little on at planting time and they put the majority on a the sidedressing time. The farmer always asks when is the best time to do it and the biggest thing to keep in mind is when does the corn plant need it. Basically it is V6 or when it gets six collared leaves is when a corn plant starts to rapidly take up nitrogen. But often times, Bill, it’s a logistic issue because when we use ground equipment, you know if the corn is waist high or even shoulder high it’s kind of hard to drive a tractor across it. But we do have some special equipment with wide drops that can do it later but historically we do it by V6 or knee high because I can still get my equipment across there without damaging too much of the corn. Another question the farmer often times asks, what is the better nitrogen source of sidedress? Is it 28%, which is urea ammonium nitrate or is it anhydrous ammonia? Both of them are going to work particularly if the 28 is injected. However, in a dry year, we’ve got kind of a dry period going on now, we haven’t had a nice shower, we’ve had some little showers. In a dry year sometimes the anhydrous ammonia may do better as far as yield cause it spans out from about seven inches from where you apply it and so the corn roots can reach it sooner, and the 28 has got to either have rain to move it to the row or the corn roots have to grow to it. So we got a dry year it may take longer for those roots to get to it. Another thing they might want to keep in mind is if you are using 28, particularly if it is a really hard soil and it’s a dry soil, we can’t get those slots closed or get good coverage we might want to use urease inhibitor. Probably don’t get the benefit from a nitrification inhibitor at this time unless we are going to have a lot of wet weather for the next ten days after application. We look at manure sidedress time if your corn is past the fourth leaf collar you probably can’t use a drag line you will do too much damage to it. Broadcasted over the corn just depends on the amount that you put on so you can avoid smothering and burning it. And so these are just kind of the three different things the farmer needs to think about the source, whether to use an extender and what kind otherwise it’s time to do it if you haven’t got it done.

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

Ed: Good morning.