And welcome in to our Friday edition of Ag Talk. This is Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz and Ed one of my favorite things for this time of year, and I’m sure I’m not alone, is sweet corn. Can’t wait to eat it. Let’s find out how we get there.

Well we are already getting sweet corn in our grocery stores coming up from Florida and from the south, Florida and Georgia. And of course we would like to have our own sweet corn that we plant that’s always fresher and better when we do it in our own backyard. They thing about sweet corn, if you are in the commercial side we all know we get the better price if you’re one of the first people to get on the market. So they always push the environment to get that early corn. We can do that in our backyard too if we want to have bragging rights that we have the first sweet corn. But if you want what I call really good sweet corn and everything going right for you, there’s certain environmental conditions you got to remember for it. For one thing, sweet corn is what I call the puny of the corn plants as far as the field corn and the popcorn. It is made to be sweet and not necessarily a tough plant. Ideally we like our soil temperatures to be 60 degrees. If you really want to find about that you can get a soil thermometer at most garden centers to check that. But that’s where that seed germinates and does well when the soils are above 60. Cause if you look at that sweet corn kernel it’s pretty shriveled compared to a regular field corn so it can’t take a lot of adverse environments. So, we want conditions well if we are going to get a good stand on there. Otherwise we’re going to have to plant a lot more seeds just to get that hopefully that magic number to get us through that early planting. Always use new seed, it doesn’t keep well from year to year. So buy it new you are going to have the best results from that. And then when you plant it, you want to plant it 10 inches apart each seed apart from the others in rows 2-3 feet apart. We always recommend that you have 4 rows when you plant sweet corn because it’s wind pollinated and so you need to more rows so that wind can blow over from one corn plant over to the other. If you just have a single row it’s just going down a line it can be more difficult for that pollination to occur and get your sweet corn later. It can also be contaminated by field corn, Indian corn and other corn types out there so you want to make sure it’s isolated from other corn types particularly if they are going to pollinate at the same time and that’s generally about 250 feet away. Ideally you want to pollinate differently by 10 days if you want make sure they don’t get contaminated pollen. If you start planting here now with this temperature and plant every 2 weeks, you can do that all the way into late June and have sweet corn coming on line for you all through that latter part of the summer and have sweet corn for your enjoyment until the frost comes.

It’s a great thing about summer, certainly is sweet corn. Thank you Ed, for Ag Talk this is Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz. Good morning to you.

Ed: Good morning.