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Broadcast versus Banding: Efficiency Testing Results

Fertilization is key to successful crop yield, but being efficient with time and money can make all the difference to your bottom line. In recent field tests with corn, two growers used broadcast fertilizing equipment and 1st Products dry hopper banding fertilizer equipment on two test plots to compare broadcasting versus banding when applying fertilizer to corn crops. Details of the results are below and provide valuable information on fertilization techniques and efficiency.

Corn Field Test 1: Broadcasting v. Banding

Total Acreage Tested: 18 Acres

Types of Fertilization	Acreage Tested	Amount of Fertilizer Used	Type of Fertilizer Used	Yield on Plots
Broadcast Fertilization (Pre-plant)	9 acres	700 lbs/acre granular & 10 gal/acre (Liquid Pop-Up)	Active Ingredient/Granular: 78-140-164 Liquid: 10-34-0 & 30-0-0-5	269 bushels/acre
Banding Fertilization (Post-plant)	9 acres	655 lbs/acre granular & No Liquid Pop-Up	Active Ingredient/Granular: 82-82-98	266 bushels/acre

Net Savings on Banded Fertilized Plot: $67/acre

Corn Field Test 2: Broadcasting v. Banding

Total Acreage Tested: 60 Acres

Types of Fertilization	**Acreage Tested**	**Amount of Fertilizer Used**	**Type of Fertilizer Used**	**Yield on Plots****
Broadcasting Fertilization (Pre-plant)	30 acres	550 lbs/acre granular	Homogenized Fertilizer	308.2 bushels/acre
Banding Fertilization (Pre-plant)	30 acres	330 lbs/acre granular	Homogenized Fertilizer	313.1 bushels/acre

Net Savings on Banded Fertilized Plot: $60/acre

*****Note: 60% of the Banded applied fertilizer yielded 4.9 bushels more per acre than the Broadcast applied acres. Total return on investment (ROI) was well over $80/acre on the Banded Acreage versus the Broadcast Acreage. ROI varies based on selling price of corn.***