

Farmers invited to tour Buchheit Tech Park

Buchheit, Inc. and Merschman Seeds are happy to invite area farmers to tour the Buchheit I-55 Tech park soybean and corn plots on Monday, August 24 from noon until 2 pm and from 5 until 7 pm. Directions to The Buchheit I-55 Tech Park: Go south on B Highway to F Highway. Turn left on F. Go five tenths of a mile to County Road 516. Turn left on 516 and go about six tenths of a mile to the Tech Park.

According to Dave Danker, agronomist for Buchheits, visitors will see many varieties of corn and soybeans planted with different population rates, different seed treatments and different herbicide and fungicide treatments.

One new soybean product being tested this year is the fungicide-seed treatment ILeVo. This product, according to Danker, has potential for considerable improvement in the prevention of SDS (Sudden Death Syndrome) and minimizing nematode damage according to Danker. "One side effect that caused considerable concern this spring was the "Halo Effect" on seedling soybeans. The soybeans exhibit a browning or burning effect on the edges of the cotyledons and the early leaf stages. Beans typically grow right through this issue, but this spring in the cold and wet conditions, Pythium and some "Valor herbicide burn" teamed up to cause some replant issues. Most soybean fields that were treated with ILeVo now look very good and we expect good results from the treatment," Danker said.

Danker explained corn plots were fertilized with 300 lbs. of 9-23-30 fertilizer along with 300 lbs. of ESN polymer-coated urea and 250 lbs. of conventional urea treated with Agrotain, a volatilization inhibitor. All plots are No-Till. Herbicide treatments for corn were 2,4-D, Verdict and Sharpen, with a second pass of Status and Roundup (Buccaneer). The Corn Plots were treated with the fungicide Fortix at the V8 stage.

"This fungicide has a long half-life and protects the crop through ear fill and development. Our Corn Plots contained three Conventional Corn numbers that were destroyed when I failed to communicate that fact prior to application of the Roundup (Buccaneer) and Status to the all of the corn plots. The blank spots in the front end of the plots serve as a reminder to how important signs and good communication are when we plant different herbicide technologies on the same farm," Danker explained.

"Our corn Plots give a good representation of the major hybrids for our area. The "16" hybrids are the VT Double-Pro technology with the BT genes for corn borer and the Ear Worm gene to prevent damage to ear tips. The Triple-Pro technology is available, but we have always felt that there is not enough root worm pressure in our region to justify the \$25-35 per bag extra cost. In 2016, we will be able to offer Triple-Pro technology at the same price as Double-Pro. If you really want protection from root worms, we feel that you need to plant the Double Stack technology that typically costs \$70 to \$80 per bag more. We also have plots with the Agri-Sure traits as well. We recommend the "RIB" (refuge in the bag) technology. This 5% inclusion of refuge corn reduces the need for a 20% refuge strip and keeps you in compliance with EPA. In 2013, we had corn yields ranging from 195 to 253 bushels per acre, please refer to the yield data handouts available. In 2014, we had severe wind and hail damage on July 1st and saw a significant reduction in plot yields with a range of 130 to 170 bpa. This year we are expecting yields in the 240-260 bpa range for many hybrids," Danker said.

"In 2014, our North Corn Plots were focused on a Planting Depth Study and a Population study. We recommend a planting depth of 2.5 to 3.0 inches and



Visitors to the tech park will see varieties of corn and soy beans treated with different seed treatments, herbicides and fungicide treatments. Tours take place on Monday from noon to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. until 7 p.m.

the plots tend to bear this out. We had a \$500.00 to \$650.00 difference per acre in the planting depth plots in 2013!

Don't plant your corn too shallow, depth is critical! Genetic companies in general are recommending higher corn populations. We have population densities from 28,000 to 38,000 plants per acre. In 2013 our top yielding populations were the 38,000 and 40,000 plots.



This year we expect to have similar results," he explained.

"Our Corn Plot has replications of most of the Merschman varieties that we recommend for our region. The nomenclature for the corn is as follows: the first two digits indicate the year of commercial release, the second two digits indicate the relative maturity (add

100 to the last two digits to get the relative days maturity).

The Alpha letter indicates the genetic line and the last two digits indicate the trait technology package. Please refer to one of our seed catalogs or ask a representative to help explain our program," Danker said.

"Our North Soybean Plot is a sampling of the Roundup Ready 2 (RR2Y) genetics that we offer. Our early burndown program was a neutral program of the Roundup Ready 2 (RR2Y) sprayed in mid-April. This offered good weed control until we planted the soybeans on June 5th.

We had several rains in June and we were unable to get our early Post-emerge herbicides sprayed in a timely fashion. We had a huge Waterhemp escape that grew at an astounding rate. By mid-July we had Waterhemp that were 5-6 feet tall and stems the diameter of a soda can.

Roundup, Volunteer and Prefix herbicides were sprayed over the top 5-6 weeks after planting and

failed to get the situation under control.

We finally chopped the front plot and then sprayed it again with 40 ounces of Generic Roundup (total dose was 80 ounces of Roundup).

The back RR2Y plot shows what happens when Roundup Resistant Weeds escape the pre-emergence weed control program. The back RR2Y plot has had a second dose of 40 ounces of Generic Roundup as well," he said.

"Our center Soybean Plot is a sampling of the Liberty Link (LL) genetics that are available for our area. We have really been amazed at the rapid growth in sales of Liberty Link genetics in our trade area.

All full season soybean plots were treated with 2,4-D, Sharpen and Verdict prior to planting. Liberty, Prefix and Volunteer were sprayed over the top 5-6 weeks after planting on the Liberty Link (LL) soybeans and again two weeks later.

We strongly recommend 16-20 gallons of water per acre, flat-fan nozzles and slower travel speeds. The

key to making Liberty programs work is adequate water volume and heat of the day application timing (temperatures in the upper 80's to low 90's are recommended).

Do not spray early or late in the day for best results. In 2013, we had soybean yields as high as 76 bushels per acre and our population study verified that planting 100,000 seeds per acre was enough to top the test!

40,000 soybean seeds (one third of a bag), per acre was enough to yield within 7 bushels of the best population," Danker explained.

Our South soybean plot soybeans are all Liberty Link (LL) varieties and were planted on June 5th as a comparison plot between Bonus Coated seed with Fungicides and an Insecticide and the same seed treatment with ILeVo added. We have sold several thousand units of ILeVo treated seed and I have personally looked at a few thousand acres of ILeVo treated soybeans. Most look great and to date, we see no signs of SDS (Sudden Death Syndrome).