



April 14, 2011

Instinct

This week our Agronomy Topic of the Week will focus on Instinct. Instinct is a Nitrogen Stabilizer product. Instinct has the same active ingredient as N-Serve, which is Nitrapyrin. N-Serve is a proven science and has been around for 30 years. N-Serve is used with anhydrous ammonia while Instinct on the other hand, can be used with UAN, manure, and Urea.

How Instinct works is that it attacks the Nitrosomonas bacteria in the soil and keeps it away from attacking the nitrogen that you added to the soil and keeps it stable longer. This protects from leaching and denitrification.

The application rate of Instinct is 35 ounces to the acre. This seems minimal when putting on it on 5,000 pounds to the acre of hog manure, but since you are treating the soil and not the product, the rate stays the same. The 35 ounce rate is across UAN, Urea, and manure. There is data from fall applications which proves that using 70 ounces to the acre pays as well. There is still research being conducted on that however, so for now we will stick with the 35 ounce use rate until the data becomes stronger.

So why would you use Instinct? For the same reason we use N-Serve. We want to keep the nitrogen in the root zone. Most nitrogen losses occur in the spring, either through denitrification or leaching, and stabilizing with Instinct will keep the nitrogen from doing both of those. Six to eight weeks is the amount of time you can anticipate stabilization of your Nitrogen when treating it in the spring. This will get you through Memorial Day, which is when most Nitrogen loss occurs. Also, when the soil is above 40 degrees you still will receive 90 days of activity from the Nitrapyrin, the active ingredient.

Another great feature of Instinct is that it is non-corrosive, in comparison to N-Serve, which is corrosive. They have the same active ingredient but are formulated differently. Another advantage is it can last up to 10 days on the soil surface before it needs to be incorporated and it is water-based.

If you would like to try Instinct with your spring applications of Urea or UAN, or even next fall with some manure, please contact your Central Valley agronomist today!

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