

WAPAC Research Committee- Bill Schaumberg-Chair, Paul Knutzen, Tom Novak, Phil Stern, Paul Sturgis

Recommendations for 2018

Corn Trials: The committee has recommended that the corn trials be discontinued effective immediately. Due to the lack industry involvement as well as consultant participation the corn trials have declined over the past 5 years. Since 2012 the participation has slowly declined from 12-14 consultant participants and 8-13 seed companies to now 6 consultants and 5-7 seed companies. The availability of enough seed for each maturity group has drastically gone down as well. Years ago, it wasn't uncommon to get full bags for every plot entry. Now we struggle to get 30,000 seed bags for every plot entry. So, it is our decision to recommend to the Executive Council to discontinue based on these facts. Finally, we feel that the value we get for the work that has been put in has greatly diminished.

Projects the Committee Recommends for 2018: Ranked from Highest Priority to Lowest

3ft Soil Fertility Test

Nitrogen on Winter Wheat

Alternative Products for Crop Production

Do cover crops affect Row Crop Yield and profitability

3FT Soil Fertility Testing

There has been some talk in the community about seeing lower soil test in recent years, especially when it comes to Potassium values. The Committee members have also listened to some talks from University Specialist on what the soil test levels have been below the normal root zone to a depth of 3Ft. The committee is recommending a study that is based around determine the nutrient value for our crops at those depths. We would determine what crops we would be looking at as well as tillage practices.

Nitrogen on Winter Wheat

Several consultants over the years have suggested that UW recs are not adequate when it comes to high yield (High management) winter wheat production. This study would focus on several Nitrogen rates to determine the optimum rate for high yielding wheat. This study will also look to include any wheat that is planted after an alfalfa crop to determine what the alfalfa rotation is giving to the wheat. Rates will be determined as well as timing of application.

Alternative Products for Crop Production

Our farm clientele is constantly getting bombarded by adds for growth regulators, stimulants and other products that can add bushels to their bins. As commodity price rises these items may seem easier for a grower to add into their input budget. But as the prices fall as they have in recent years these products may not be as appealing to our clientele. Although they may or may not increase yield and profitability. We would be looking to pick one or two products to study. The products could be but not limited to Micro Nutrients, Growth Regulators and Biologicals.

Do cover crops affect Row Crop Yield and profitability

With the increased popularity of cover crops in our row crop systems we would like to study the affects of these cover crops on the yield and profitability of our main row crops. Furthermore, as these watershed and adaptive management projects increase in popularity we look to study the effects of these secondary crops on our primary ones. Cover Crops have increased in popularity in the last few years and look to only grow in use.