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### **NEW N CALCULATOR CAN MAXIMIZE PROFITABILITY**

Recently completed research at the University of Nebraska has led to revised nitrogen recommendations for corn. The new nitrogen recommendations for corn account for corn and nitrogen prices to maximize economic return

The "Corn Nitrogen Needs Calculation Worksheet" for Nebraska was developed to ease estimation of the most economical N rate for corn grain production. It is a computerized form of the University of Nebraska formula for determining fertilizer N requirements for corn. The formula is based on information from 80 research trials conducted across Nebraska.

For years, a few folks had been critical about a Nebraska Agronomy Department data set that was developed when irrigated corn yields were topping out at 180 bushels per acre. Now corn field trials the past three years have been grown at five different nitrogen rates in 34 environments to evaluate existing UNL nitrogen recommendations for corn. Yield levels varied from 210 to 275 bushels per acre at many of the sites (small plot, replicated research). Testing included the most economic nitrogen application rates for corn after corn and corn after soybean environments.

For those of you that have Microsoft Excel on your computer, the new N calculator program is an amazing new tool to help you with nitrogen management decisions on application timing and rate. If you are not computer savvy and you have the soil sample information, I would be glad to run some examples for you.

Download a copy for free from UNL at [soilfertility.unl.edu](http://soilfertility.unl.edu). You do need to have Excel to run the program. I like the program because it takes into account price of corn, price of fertilizer and timing of fertilizer application. The program allows irrigation nitrate credit, organic matter credit, legume credit, soil nitrate credit and manure nitrogen credits. With fertilizer costs on the rise, it really gets you thinking about the most economic level of nitrogen rate to be using for crop production. Once you understand the program, it is very easy to run. If you have any questions how to run the program, please give me a call.

### **MILLIGAN 10-20 WORKSHOP FOR CROP PRODUCERS**

We will be demonstrating the use of the new computer worksheet at the 10-20 program to be held in Milligan, Wednesday, March 1st, at the Evening with Friends restaurant. The program starts at 10:00 AM with a \$20.00 registration fee, payable at the door, noon meal included. Call today at 821-2151 to pre-register for the class so we have enough notebooks and a meal count. Nitrogen management and energy use are two main topics at the meeting this year. The notebook is a very valuable resource for producers. Last year, we held a 10-20 program at the Wilber Crop Clinic with approximately 65 producers in attendance. This year you still have a chance to receive the materials by attending the Milligan meeting.

In a one-year-after-the-fact type of survey, we just received feedback from farmers attending the 2005 Geneva and Wahoo 10-20 meetings. They were asked which of the presented practices did



they try? For those they tried, they were asked to rate how well it worked, and if it was less than advertised, they were asked to put their own value on the practice. Participants indicated a \$31.27 to \$87.46 per acre change to their operations.

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