

Australia poised for large wheat crop

Official government statistics suggest Australia is headed for a bumper wheat harvest. According to the latest figures from the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics, this year's harvest will be 25.1m tonnes, 14 per cent higher than the June projection and 16 per cent higher than 2009.

As a result, Australia could be exporting 18.4m tonnes, second only to 1996-97's 19.2m tonnes.

Australian farmers benefited from plentiful rains in the eastern and southern parts of the country, prompting farmers to apply additional fertilizer to take advantage of the higher yield potential.

Production

Convenience and payback prompt growers to reconsider inoculants

Research has shown that even acres in long-term soy production benefit from inoculation

BY PETER RESCHKE

Ontario Farmer

Darren Munro is typical of a lot of growers in Ontario's "soybean belt". The Inwood-area producer grows mostly soybeans on his 1,700 acres of Brookston clay and, up to a year ago, never saw much need for adding an inoculant to his bean seed.

There were a number of reasons: with a long-time history of soybeans he figured there was no shortage of nitrogen-fixing rhizobia in the soil; he questioned the payback; and



A 50-bushel soy crop takes 210 lbs of N/acre

he didn't like the inconvenience of mixing the seed with a peat or liquid product going into the drill.

But this year Munro had a change of heart. For the first

time, all his seed went into the drill with a coating of inoculant and CruiserMaxx seed treatment.

A number of factors changed his mind. There was the three-year OMAFRA study headed by soybean lead Horst Bohner that found an average 1.25 bushel yield response for using inoculants on established soybean land – enough to pay for the input and make a bit of a profit to boot. In one year the yield gain average two bushels, in another just three-quarters, Bohner says.

He was also surprised by a plot harvested just last week north of Stratford. There was a significant yield response to inoculation despite the fact that yields topped 65 bushels, he says.

But the biggest factor was that

Licensed Custom Manure Applicators

- 2 Jamesway 7400/6200 gal. Steering Tri Axle Tankers
- Cadman 5500 Drag Hose with adjustable 3 Nozzle Boom
- 1 mile of hose
- 2 - 20 Ton Bunning Dry Manure Spreaders
- Wheel Loader with 8ft grabble bucket for loading dry spreaders & cleaning out sand pits

Saugeen AGRI SERVICE

See us working on the Web at www.saugeenagri.ca

SMYTH SNOWBLOWERS

Skid Steer Blowers

- 3 models: 66"-SH, 72"-SH & 78"-SH
- Hydraulic drive
- Optional wing edges, elec. hood turner & truck loading chute.

3 P.H. Blowers

- 15 models from 4' to 10'
- H.D. gear boxes w/ shear pin protection
- Optional side discharge on 84" & larger w/ right or left discharge

"Tough & Dependable - Built for Canadian Winters"

Smyth WELDING & MACHINE SHOP LTD.

RR #2, Auburn
519-529-7212
Fax 519-529-3277
E-mail: info@smythwelding.com
Website: www.smythwelding.com

HUSKY

Committed To Quality You Can Depend On

8" & 10" Pipe Size
Pump Mount
Hose Mount
Aluminum Style
Steel Heavy Duty Style

In Stock For Immediate Delivery

Husky Farm Equipment Ltd.
Alma, ON. (519) 846-5329 1-800-349-1122
www.huskyfarm.ca

VANDEN BUSSCHE IRRIGATION

greenfield

Bring Big Lateral Savings to Smaller Fields, starting at \$650 per acre

- ✓ Efficient
- ✓ Easy to use
- ✓ Precise irrigation
- ✓ All at the touch of a button!

King City 1-866-703-5464
Delhi 1-800-387-7246
Allison, NB 506-850-0040
visit us at: vandenbussche.com

Used Tractors Come with 12 Month Warranty/Insurance. Call for Details

Case IH MX120 - 105HP. 1997. One owner 5800HRS..... \$38,000	Case IH 165 puma 135 hrs 2007 unit..... \$84,900	Wilrich 42 ft c shank w/ rolling harrows..... \$12,950	Case IH JX90U - mfd cab, one owner, mint..... \$39,500
White 2-60 mfd single remote v/clean..... \$7,950	JD 1850 - 30' air drill w/ 787 tank. Markers. Seed firmers..... \$55,000	Case IH 5400 no till 15 ft w/ pop monitor..... \$17,900	Case IH JX80U mfd, loader..... Just Arrived
MS 750 - tandem diaphragm pump, loaded, one owner..... \$12,500	Case IH 7120 triple remotes, 4 sp/ rev A..... \$42,500	New Holland TD 95 dual remotes 190 hrs..... \$9,900	Case IH STX280 Acu steer, PTO, 3PT hitch 657 hrs..... Just Arrived

Over 90 Years Of Continuous Service

O'NEIL'S

Hwy. #56, Binbrook
905-572-6714
E-mail us at: info@Oneils.ca

After Hrs.: Bruce Waddell-905-317-9008 - Casey Smith-905-577-5860

© 2008 CNH America LLC. All rights reserved.
Case IH is a registered trademark of CNH America LLC.
CNH Capital is a trademark of CNH America LLC. www.caseih.com

CASE III
AGRICULTURE

“Those nodules are right at the root and they work day in and day out.”

— Horst Bohner, OMAFRA

companies are taking the inconvenience out of inoculant application. Munro opted for Becker Underwood's new HiCoat N/T S225 inoculant, one of the company's new family of so-called bio-stacked products. It has a number of advantages: it comes pre-applied on the seed, can be mixed with other seed treatments, and has a 225-day shelf life (125 days if it's combined with CruiserMaxx).

From the grower's perspective it means he can take delivery in March and plant right up until June 15 without having to worry about a decline in rhizobia activity, says Becker Underwood's Mike Verhoef.

But he cautions that the June 15 is more of a “best before” than an expiry date. Up to that date you have full activity, he says. After that date you'll still get living rhizobia, but they will become less and less.

For anyone concerned about getting full inoculation, he recommends adding a half rate

of peat after June 15.

Verhoef hopes that, like Munro, a lot of growers will react positively to the pre-inoculated seed. He points to a 2009 soybean inoculants study done by Ipsos Forward Research in southwestern Ontario.

The survey, done before the arrival of the pre-inoculation HiCoat product showed that less than 40 per cent of soybean growers used an inoculants regularly over the past three years. It also showed that more than half knew very little about the products.

The ones that wanted more information were interested in the return of investment, the yield impact, and the cost. Now that some of these questions are being answered, Verhoef believes inoculants usage will increase.

He also says that inoculant usage in newer growing areas like Quebec is substantially higher. “About 70 per cent of their seed comes pre-inoculated,” he says. “Growers there

choose inoculants before seed treatments.”

Munro says he's happy with his decision so far. Although he had no yield numbers as of last week, he says his inoculated beans “looked greener” throughout much of the season than those that didn't get coverage.

With the cost of soybean seed he says it's important that growers get the full benefit of what they're paying for. When it comes to things like seed treatments and inoculants, his new motto is: “load 'er up.”

JOEL ROBSON, who farms some 500 acres of soys, corn, wheat and edible beans with two brothers in the Ilderton area of Middlesex County, has been inoculating all his soybean seed for the past three years, first using HiStick N/T self-adhering peat and now using HiCoat N/T S225.

He says he's “impressed with the coverage that I'm getting on the seed.”

In numbers...

SOYBEAN NODULATION FACTS:

A 50 bu crop of soybeans will remove 210 lbs/ac of nitrogen
Between 50 and 75 per cent of this comes from the nodules
Nodules become visible within 10-14 days of colonization
Nodules reach full size in four weeks, start to fix nitrogen in six to seven
Maximum N fixation happens at the R5 crop stage.
Adequate nodulation requires seven to 14 nodules per plant.
Nitrogen fixation works best when temperatures are between 25 and 30°C.

Source: Horst Bohner, OMAFRA

He tried the farm-applied liquid formulation in the past but never liked the product because of bridging problems, something that was never a concern with the peat products.

Robson has used both Apron and Cruiser as a seed treatment and says the difference is “like night and day.” With the latter there is no leaf feeding. “For the few extra dollars it's worth it.”

Bohner says the benefits of inoculants are not always obvious because there are few visual differences. But the eventual yield gain has been consistent.

He says nitrogen fixation provides something to the plant that nitrogen fertilization can't do: it makes nitrogen available throughout the season when the plant needs it. “Those nod-

ules are right at the root and they work day in and day out. Nitrogen fertilizer tends to fizzle out.”

That means there may not be enough during the critical seed fill period, he adds.

But an inoculant won't cure that period in the spring when the beans look yellowish and sickly, Bohner cautions. That's the time before the nodules start to kick in to supply nitrogen to the plant, he explains. It's actually important for the plant to go through this phase because the lack of N prompts the roots to signal the rhizobia to start the nodulation process.

As long as proper nodulation occurs, the sickly period usually lasts only a couple of weeks, he says.

What does it
take to grow
confidence?

DEKALB® brand Genuity® Roundup Ready 2 Yield® soybeans. The seeds of **confidence.**

DEKALB brand Genuity® Roundup Ready 2 Yield® soybeans deliver in-field performance you can take to the bank. For 2011, we have the most comprehensive line-up of Genuity® Roundup Ready 2 Yield® soybeans – 27 varieties in all – delivering more beans per pod and more beans per plant.* That means more bushels per acre and more profit potential for you.

So plant the seeds of confidence in your fields.

Contact your DEKALB dealer today or visit us on-line at DEKALB.ca.



*19 Monsanto U.S. field trials in 2008 with seed counted from a total of 4,728 plants from 340 plots. ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW PESTICIDE LABEL DIRECTIONS. Always follow grain marketing and IRM requirements. Details of these requirements can be found in the Trait Stewardship Responsibilities Notice to Farmers printed in this publication. ©2010 Monsanto Canada Inc. (DK1010-E-06/10)