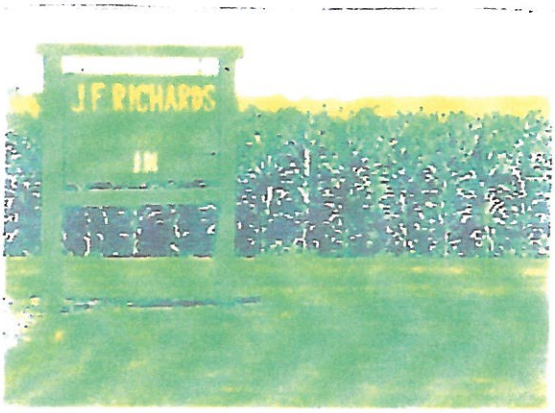
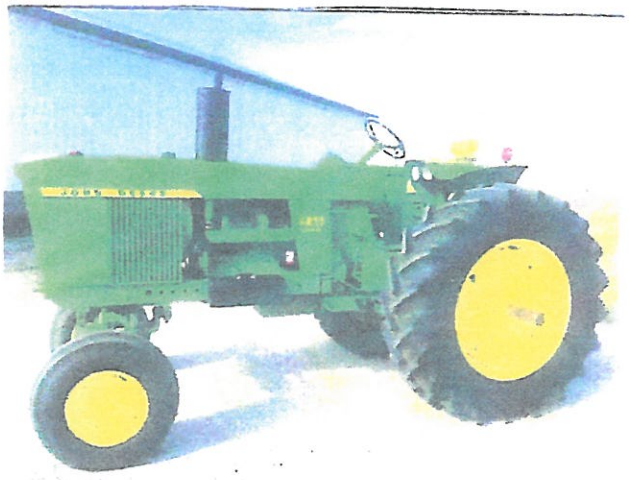
JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE

J.F. RICHARDS LAND LABORATORY

DEMONSTRATION & RESEARCH GUIDE

2013





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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many people have contributed numerous resources to the J.F. Richards Land Lab Demonstration and Research Farm during the 2013 growing season. A few of those resources included equipment, pesticides, seed, cash, and chemicals to help the farm throughout the year. These people are listed on page 4. On behalf of the Joliet Junior College, I would like to thank these people and their companies for supporting the Joliet Junior College Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences Department through their generous donations.

I would like to give extra thanks to Dr. Judy Mitchell, Vice President of Administrative Services, Janice Reedus, Director Business and Auxiliary Services, Dr. Peter Linden, Dean of Career and Technical Education and of course the entire Agriculture Staff for all of their input and continued support of the research being conducted here at the Joliet Junior College for the benefit of the students.

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J.F. RICHARDS LAND LAB

INTRODUCTON

The Joliet Junior College Demonstration and Research Farm began operation in 1983 by the generous donation of the Richards Family. The Richards family previously owned the land that is now the main campus of the college. The main objective of the farm is to provide an instructional setting for students to utilize during their research and classes, demonstrate crop response to various farming practices giving students a first hand observation of crop growth and development, and to provide unbiased, sound agronomic research information to crop producers.

The land lab is used by both faculty and students for educational purposes. Students are able to experience all aspects of production farming and apply it to their classroom settings. The students are able to work with their instructors to assist in management decisions of the farm. All agriculture classes utilize different aspects of the farm to enhance their studies in the classroom. Students enrolled in Soil and Fertility will study soil types and fertility levels. Crops classes look at cropping systems, yield calculations and plant growth development. Crop Protection classes will look at disease, insect, and weed pressure. Marketing students will utilize crop yields and prices to market grain. Mechanics students will learn the proper operation and adjustment of machinery to maximize equipment use and efficiency.

The Demonstration and Research Farm consists of 98 acres here at the main campus with 44 acres of corn and 42 acres of soybeans in 2013. Despite the lack of water and the continued pressure from the deer population, we had corn yields that averaged 160 bushels/acre and soybeans 36 bushels/acre across the entire farm. The small wheat demonstration averaged just over 79 bushels/acre.

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CONTRIBUTORS 2013

Alyssa Abbott	Dupont/Pioneer	Corn, Soybeans, Wheat
Fred Beane	Mark Seed	Corn, Soybeans, Expertise
John Cronin	Right Hand Man, Transportation, Advice	
Gary Fritz	Fritz Farms	Machinery Donation
Keith Gehm	Renk Seed Co.	Corn, Soybeans
Ken Krapf	Fuller/Krapf Farms	Machinery Donation
Scott Lagger	Elburn Coop	Fertilizer, Chemicals, Expertise
Justin Laramie	Channel Bio LLC	Corn, Soybeans
Criag Lauderman	FS Seeds	Corn
Bob Lawless	Syngenta/NK/Golden Harvest	Corn, Soybeans
Jeff Lovell	Stine Seed	Corn, Soybeans
Eric Moon	Helena Corporation	Chemicals, Expertise
Dennis Mueller	Burris and Hughes Hybrids	Corn, Soybeans
Tom O'Connor	O'Connor Farms	Custom Harvest, Advice
Merrill Orns	Sun Prairie	Corn, Soybeans
Mike Phil	Wyffels Hybrids	Corn
Dan Schneider	LG Seed Co.	Corn
Greg Seitz	DeKalb/Monsanto	Corn, Soybeans, Chemical
Bill Skonetski	Dairyland Seed	Corn, Soybeans, Alfalfa, Advice
Wayne Walz	Dupont/Pioneer Seed	Corn, Soybeans, Wheat
Dennis Webster	Becks Hybrids	Corn, Soybeans, Wheat

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AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES FACULTY AND STAFF

A complete list of faculty and staff in the Agriculture and Horticulture Sciences Department at Joliet Junior College

Brad Angus	Argonomy/Business, Dept. Chair
David Bartz	Landscape Design
Steve Brockman	Farm/Hort. Lab./Greenhouse Manager
Doug Foss	Mechanics
Caryn Genens	Greenhouse Manager
Dale Hummel	Animal Science
Bill Johnson	Agriculture Economics/Marketing
Frederic Miller	Nursery Management
Tammy Miller	Soils/Fertilizers/Agriculture Business
Lisa Perkins	Turf Management
Nathan Ray	Animal Science
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Donna Theimer	Floral Design/Interior Plantscaping
Diane Vlna	Department Secretary

Steve Brockman is the JJC Demonstration and Research Manager and can be contacted at {815} 280-6636 or sbrockma@jjc.edu. To contact any staff member, call {815} 280-2320.

2013 Weather at the Joliet Junior College

The growing season started off very wet in the Joliet area. Because of the soil type we have here at the J.F. Richards Land Lab, I was able to apply all of the chemicals and some of the nitrogen the last week of April and started planting corn on April 25th. I also put a small plot of soybeans in the last day of April as well.

On the morning of May 12th we had a temperature of 33 degrees registered for about 5 hours. Any corn over the four leaf stage was not affected. The smaller corn was burnt off at ground level. In two days corn rows could be seen again and did not have any impact on our final yields. Soybeans had not yet emerged on that date.

We had very good rainfall up until July 1st. The months of July and August appeared to be more like desert climates without the heat. Only one 100 degree day recorded, and only 18 days of 90's this year. The nights turned out to be very cool as well which pushed a lot of crops into late October before maturity was reached in this area. Fall harvest was dry and problem free except the soybeans seemed to start growing again with a couple of late September and early October rains.

Monthly Moisture Recorded for 2013

January	2.8	February	4.1	March	2.5	April	8.2
May	5.4	June	7.3	July	0.6	Aug.	1.9
Sept.	1.8	October	4.5	Nov.	2.3	Dec.	2.0

Normal Year 36" Total 2013 43.4"

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CONTINUOUS CORN WITH VARIOUS TILLAGE TRIAL

Continuous Corn has become more popular in the Midwest in recent years with many tillage options available for the producer to choose from. The following results were observed on the Continuous Corn plot at JJC planted very early. Planted with Pioneer 1142AMX on 4/25/13 at 34,500 population and harvested on 9/25/13 with six different tillage practices tried. 100 # nitrogen was applied at planting and side-dressed with 75# on 6/12/13. A dry fertilizer of 30-75-75 was applied in the Fall of 2012. The plot has averaged over 130 bu./ac. the last 5 years. Sprayed with 28OZ. of Roundup on 6/05/13. Standability was very good. Deer did major damage on four rows on the East and West side of the plot which was taken into account.

RESULTS

FALL PLOWED	16.1%	135.16 BU./AC.
CHISEL PLOWED	16.0%	145.82 BU./AC.
SPRING DISC	15.7%	124.94 BU./AC.
FIELD CULTIVATE	15.8%	117.22 BU./AC.
STRIP TILL	16.1%	105.21 BU./AC.
NO-TILL	16.0%	60.34 BU./AC.

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1901

CORN HYBRIDS VARIETY PLOTS-2013

VARIETY	MOISTURE	YIELD	VARIETY	MOISTURE	YIELD
CHECK	14.8	158.40	RENK RK880	16.6	203.97
WYFFELS W5787	15.5	168.95	CHECK	17.1	223.96
WYFFELS W7057	16.9	165.24	LG 2549	16.0	219.57
WYFFELS W7477	16.2	184.89	LG 2575	16.7	223.66
WYFFELS W6487	16.0	184.05	LG 2602	17.5	244.15
STINE R9733	15.7	171.65	LG 2620	18.2	241.50
CHECK	14.7	153.63	BECKS XL5475	18.5	201.25
STINE R9631	15.0	154.85	CHECK	19.1	219.67
STINE R9728	14.8	152.54	BECKS XL 6175	19.0	218.65
STINE R9732	15.7	145.19	AGRI-SURE 5552	19.5	235.49
MARK EX. 112T	14.6	145.64	AGRI-SURE 5642	17.9	238.59
MARK EX. 107G	15.0	151.12	FS 595X1	18.3	207.67
CHECK	14.7	149.53	FS 61BX1	18.7	208.78
MARK RR10106	15.0	139.93	CHECK	17.5	208.78
MARK 13110	15.5	150.77	FS E6302	18.5	224.85
DSR DS9707	14.2	147.44	FS 635X1	20.1	227.68
DSR DS9809	15.0	151.48	CHECK	14.7	195.23
DSR DS9310	15.9	171.08	CHANNEL 202-64	15.1	170.21
CHECK	14.9	155.04	CHANNEL 205-38	14.7	164.72
DSR DS9311	16.0	151.05	CHANNEL 210-95	15.3	183.23
RENK RK699	15.2	163.35	CHANNEL 211-99	15.8	168.06
RENK RK7415	14.8	165.73	CHANNEL 212-86	15.5	191.79
RENK RK831	15.4	174.23	CHECK	15.7	180.65

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CORN VARIETIES CONTINUED:

VARIETY	MOISTURE	YIELD
CHANNEL 213-59	16.5	179.70
BURRIS 6F74	16.3	179.69
BURRIS 4G46	16.1	164.06
DEKALB DKC61-88	15.9	161.64
DEKALB DKC63-19	15.5	158.00
CHECK	15.7	149.06
SUN PRAIRIE 2738	15.7	169.72
SUN PRAIRIE 2640	15.3	165.89
PIONEER P0987	15.8	150.25
PIONEER P0636	15.0	152.13
PIONEER P01221	14.7	134.59
PIONEER P1142	14.4	131.29
CHECK {Deer Damaged}	14.1	14.56

CHECK AVERAGE	15.7	164.54
HIGHEST IN PLOT	17.5	244.15
LOWEST IN PLOT	15.0	139.93
VARIETIES AVE.	16.1	178.81

The plot was planted on 4/30/13 and 5/1/13 at 34,500 seeds per acre. An application of Harness and Roundup was applied with 100# of 32% nitrogen pre-plant. The plot received an application of 30-75-75 in the Fall of 2012.The plot was planted by no-till method into soybean stubble from 2012. On May 11th, the corn had emerged and was burnt down with a 33 degree temperature. In two days, could see rows again. An application of 75# of nitrogen was side dressed on June 11th and sprayed with Roundup on June 15th. Harvest was on October 9th and 10th. Standability and weed control was very good.

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Corn Rootworm

Corn rootworms are one of the biggest pests to corn producers in the Midwest today and for the foreseeable future.

Treatments and Trials

Previous Crop: Corn

Hybrid: Burris 6J35 {control}

Burris 6J36 {crw}

Tillage: No-till, Chopped Stalks

Insecticide: Varies

Herbicide: Harness/Roundup

Results

Treatment:	Yield Bu./Ac.
Burris 6J35 No Insect.	142.37
Burris 6J35 Force Ins.	157.41
Burris 6J35 Fortress Ins.	153.12
Burris 6J36 No Insect.	126.68
Burris 6J36 Force Ins.	146.43
Burris 6J36 Fortress Ins.	162.86
Burris 6J35 No Insect.	152.64

Summary

Very little damage observed with the crop this year despite being corn on corn. All the headlands on the west end of the plot were eaten off by deer and some of the south end as well. Took the middle 8 rows of each 24 row trial for the results. Harvest was completed on 10/8/13.

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Corn Population + Row Width Study

With the cost of seed a very big factor in the overall cost to farm, a very large plot was set up varying populations and row width.

Treatment

Previous Crop: Corn

Planted: 4/25/13

Hybrid: Channel 205-38STX

175# Nitrogen Pre-Plant

Harness/Roundup Pre,

Roundup Post on 5/28/13

Tillage: Fall Plowed, Spring F. Cult.

Results

Seeds/Ac.	Row	Yield/Ac.
36,000	30"	243.67
36,000	15"	277.01
40,000	15"	271.86
40,000	30"	239.60
44,000	30"	259.86
44,000	15"	285.97
42,000	15"	269.31
42,000	30"	234.24
38,000	30"	235.98
38,000	15"	220.97
34,000	15"	224.93
34,000	30"	251.38
30,000	30"	254.36
30,000	15"	243.12
Plot average		252.34

Moisture averaged between 17%-19%

Summary

The results can only be said in one word, wow. I had no idea what this field was capable of this year with very limited rainfall in July and August. Harvest on 9/22/13. The entire plot was harvested with a 30" corn head with no problems.

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Various Tillage and Various Planting Dates: Soybeans

There are a lot of different types of tillage operations that can be performed on Midwest Soils. This combined with various planting dates were tried in this demonstration plot each year.

Treatments

Previous Crop: Corn

Hybrid: NK S27RR

3 Tillage and 3 Planting Dates

Planted 4/30, 5/18, 6/8

Harvest Date: 10/26/13

Results

Planting Date	No-till	Chisel	Disked
	Yield Bu./Ac		
Early	31.13	24.42	30.17
Normal	27.37	25.79	26.62
Late	29.42	27.29	40.09

Summary

This was one of those very odd years that nothing stood out no matter what tillage was used. The entire plot was effected by both deer and geese this year and even ended up replanting some of the late planted Soybeans . Had a very bad weed flush come on after July 4th and ended up spraying this whole plot a second time with Roundup. Good control at time of harvest.

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Soybean Varieties

Always a highlight of any demonstration farm is the variety plots. This year there was a total of 20 soybean varieties. All planted in 15 inch rows, all planted as no-till into corn stalks. All were harvested on October 26th at 12% moisture. All soybeans were harvested by a John Deere 6600 combine and a 13 foot grain platform.

Results

Variety	Yield
PIONEER P28T33R	49.50
PIONEER P29T98R	45.58
SUN PRAIRIE 28R22	45.71
MARK SEED 2R1329	45.65
MARK SEED 2R1029	37.67
ASGROW AG2433	36.48
ASGROW AG2933	35.15
NK 525-ES	30.03
RENK RS263NR2	25.98
RENK RS274NR2	28.30
RENK RS244NR2	31.09
STINE 29RD02	26.03
STINE 26RD02	25.41
BURRIS 28V2	31.63
BURRIS 34T3	39.89
DAIRYLAND DSR2612	31.38
DAIRYLAND DSR2880	31.00
DAIRYLAND DSR2995	32.99
DAIRYLAND DSR3019	33.41
DAIRYLAND DSR3126	37.56

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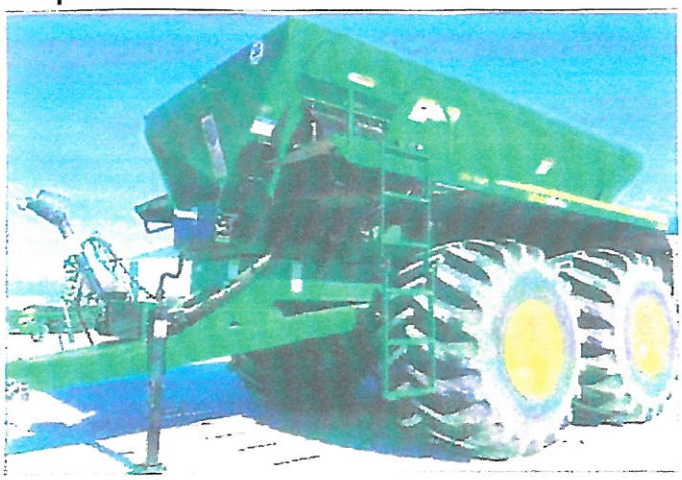
Soil Fertility

Properly applying very expensive fertilizer based on soil samples is the best way to ensure proper nutrients for your crop. How much to put on is always the big question.



Previous Crop: Corn

Soybean Planted: Dairyland

Tillage: None

Various amounts of Dry Fertilizer Applied in the Fall

Results

Fertility	Yield/Acre
Normal	71.11
No Phosphorus	49.75
No Potassium	45.56
No P or K	59.55
Normal	64.05
Acidic	62.02
Basic	54.83
No Phosphorus	41.05
No P or K	40.26
Normal	30.31
No Potassium	30.27
Acidic	21.51
Basic	10.96
Normal {Deer Damage}	9.69

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SOYBEAN POPULATION AND ROW WIDTH STUDY

Two Mark Seed soybean varieties were planted in 15" and 30" rows to determine best practice. With the continued cost of Soybean Seed rising, this trial could be very beneficial to the average farmer.

Previous Crop: Corn

Planted on 5/13/13

Harvested on 9/29/13

Herbicide: Roundup both

Pre-plant and end of June.

Planting type: No-Till

Fertilizer: 30-75-75

Results

SEEDS/ACRE	ROW WIDTH	YIELD
Variety 1 Mark Seed 2R1429 CTA		
90,000	15"	39.68
90,000	30"	43.63
125,000	30"	43.85
125,000	15"	45.33
150,000	15"	51.78
150,000	30"	49.58
175,000	30"	41.96
175,000	15"	47.99
Variety 2 Mark Seed 2R1428 CTB		
90,000	15"	43.96
90,000	30"	52.56
125,000	30"	50.38
125,000	15"	48.88
150,000	15"	53.96
150,000	30"	55.90
175,000	30"	53.79
175,000	15"	52.27

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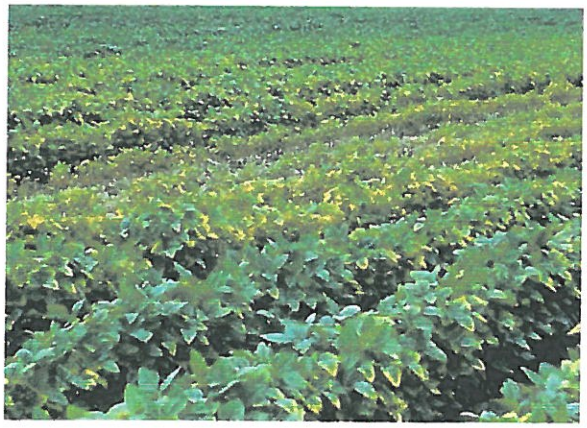
Continuous Soybeans: Cyst-Nematode Study

Mark Seed Company

Nematodes seem to be everywhere. This study is to determine if new varieties and new practices can reduce yield loss from the big problem of nematodes and growing continuous soybeans on the same ground year after year.



Planting date: 5/17/13

Harvest date: 10/17/13

Previous crop: Soybeans

Fungicide: Headline 7/5/13

Insecticide: Garlic

Herbicide: Roundup 2X, AMS,Sugar

Planting type: No-Till, 30" Rows

RESULTS:

Mark Seed Variety CTA

{Resistant}

36.32 Bushels/Acre

Pioneer Variety 92Y80

{Resistant}

31.48 Bushels/Acre

Stine Seed Variety 27RD00

{Susceptible}

25.39 Bushels/Acre

Mark Seed Variety CTB

{Resistant}

32.13 Bushels/Acre

Soil samples indicated very high populations of nematodes present in this field. The University of Illinois suggested that soybeans not be planted in these areas for two years and then a rotation with corn. Will switch "A" variety with "B" variety next year to continue the study.

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2013 WEITENDORF SOYBEAN VARIETY PLOT

This year, Channel Bio LLC used the entire 14 acre farm for Soybean Variety trials. The plot was planted no-till into Corn stubble on May 20th. The farm recieved one inch of rain shortly after planting. The plot was sprayed with roundup and 2,4-D on May 10th and Roundup a second time on June 25th. Noticed some thin areas in the fill portion of the field and replanted about 2 acres on June 25th. At harvest, those replanted areas yielded up towards 60 bushels per acre on the monitor. The following results were observed on 10/14/13.

CHANNEL 2306	39.6 b/a
CHANNEL 2402	43.1 b/a
CHANNEL 2605	46.0 b/a
CHANNEL 2607	43.6 b/a
PIONEER 92Y80	37.8 b/a
CHANNEL 2706	36.6 b/a
CHANNEL 2800	39.9 b/a
CHANNEL 2907	42.8 b/a

Want to thank Channel and Justin Laramie for their continued support of the Joliet Junior College and the Weitendorf Agriculture Education Center. Look forward to working with them again in 2014.

Corn Enhancement Products 2013

Helena Chemical Company has been working with JJC and the research farm for some time. In 2013, they were provided with five acres of tilled soybean stubble to experiment with different yield enhancing products for corn production. The field was planted on May 8th at 34,000 seeds per acre, 175# of nitrogen was applied pre-plant, the field was sprayed with Roundup on June 12th. The following products were used on the corn crop:

ENC-a unique blend of concentrated foliar nutritional products and biological enhancement materials.

Magafol-a results oriented foliar fertilizer that increases nutrient uptake and improves recovery from stress.

Nucleus HP-high performance 8-24-4 starter fertilizer that gives crops a jump on early growth.

Avaris-provides superior preventative and curative disease control.

CoRoN-well known controlled release foliar fertilizer for weeks of nutrition.

The following results were observed at harvest on 10/10/13:

Trial	#2 corn yield/acre	Advantage
Untreated Check	211.085	0.0
ENC/Megafol	222.335	+11.25
Nucleus HP + ENC/Megafol	217.110	+6.03
Nucleus HP	219.132	+8.05
Nucleus HP + ENC/Megafol + Avaris + CoRoN	218.392	+7.31
ENC/Megafol + Avaris + CoRoN	222.340	+11.26

Soybean Enhancement Products 2013

Helena Chemical Company was provided with a five acre test plot for yield enhancement products on Soybeans. The ground was Spring field cultivated prior to planting. Soybeans were planted on May 8th. An application of 30-75-75 was applied in the Fall of 2012. Besides the formulations applied to the corn crop described on the previous page, some additional products were also included in these test. A description of each those follows:

Nucleus 0-Phos 8-24-0- is a high performance starter fertilizer that can give crops a jump start on strong, early growth.

Viathon- is a broad spectrum fungicide with three modes of action.

Fungicide and Insecticide-general materials also included in the test.

Trial	Bu./Ac	Advantage
Untreated Check	40.37	0.0
Nucleus O-Phos 8-24-0 @ planting	40.26	-1.0
Nucleus O-Phos + Megafol/ENC @V5	40.12	-.25
Megafol/ENC @ V5	40.96	+.59
Viathon + CoRoN R3	41.22	+.85
Megafol/ENC + Viathon + CoRoN	43.47	+3.10
Stratego + Hero R3	44.14	+3.77
Nucleus O-Phos + Megafol/ENC + Insect. + Fung.	41.04	-.22

Very dry weather most of the growing season on this plot. Want to thank Eric Moon and Helena Chemical for the trials held this year and look forward to working with them in 2014.

Wheat Varieties and Cover Crops Trials

Six Wheat varieties were planted on October 1st, 2012 here at JJC for the first time in school history. They were planted in 15" row spacing with a Kinze planter using the normal Soybean plate with a special patented backing plate provided by Larry Hack from Ohio that eliminates any seed loss from the planter unit. The backing plates worked very good with no seed loss what so ever. The recommended rate is one and a half million seeds per acre. With the seed provided by Becks and Dupont/Pioneer, I only had enough to plant 650,000 seeds per acre or less than half the rate suggested. The stand was very good and 70 pounds of Nitrogen in a dry form was applied in March of 2013. The Farm received about 4 inches of rain one day after the application. No chemicals were used on the plot. The three Dupont/Pioneer varieties had standing water on most of the plot about 4 times during the spring/summer growing season. They were harvested, but did not do any comparisons from the results. Harvest was done on July 4th and July 6th with the Becks Plot.

Becks 87 77B/A

Becks 113 75B/A

Becks 120 79B/A

Because of an area we could now use for Cover Crop demonstration and teaching purposes, seven different crops were planted which included Tillage Radish, Rape Seed, Crimson Clover, Annual Rye Grass, Oats, Rye and Mustard. A Kinze planter using a milo type seed plate at the slowest setting on the planter as possible were planted in 15" rows on August 20. We received about .6" of rain the next day, and could see rows in about 5 days. They have been a wonderful teaching tool and can only wait to see how they improve the soil and overall outcome of 2014 crop. As of December 1st, most of the Tillage Radish are well over 3" in diameter and more than 12" long. This should be great for nutrient absorption and hard pan alleviation in this plot.

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Alfalfa Plot provided by Dairyland Seed

There has been Alfalfa research conducted here at JJC for a long time. This Plot had been in Alfalfa since 2009. It was sprayed with a very heavy rate of 2,4-D on September 10th, then chisel plowed very deep two times on September 25th. The ground was tilled and planted on April 1, 2013 with six different Alfalfa varieties, duplicated two times and rolled two times. The stand was very good. Because of very dry weather, only two harvests occurred this year. First harvest was on 6/18/13 and the second occurred on July 29th. A 30" X 35' strip was cut, harvested and weighed for each and results are Dry Tons/Acre.

	6/18/13	7/28/13	Total
Dairyland HybriForce 2400	1.27	2.06	3.33
WL WL367HQ RR	1.28	1.80	3.07
Dairyland HybriForce 3400	1.41	1.95	3.36
Pioneer 54Q32	1.25	1.65	2.89
Dekalb DKA41-18RR	1.33	1.54	2.86
Dairyland HybriForce 3400	1.31	2.00	3.31
Croplan LegenDairy XHD	1.41	1.81	3.21
Dairyland HybriForce 2400	1.33	1.91	3.24
WL WL367HQ RR	1.46	1.71	3.17
Dairyland HybriForce 3400	1.42	1.63	3.05
Pioneer 54Q32	1.31	1.51	2.83
Dekalb DKA41-18 RR	1.40	1.52	2.93
Dairyland HybriForce 3400	1.36	1.62	2.98
Croplan LegenDairy XHD	1.39	1.45	2.84
Dairyland HybiForce 2400	!.48	1.35	2.83

SUMMARY: CROP YEAR 2013

J.F. Richards Land Lab

This has been another great year for the Joliet Junior College and the J.F. Richards Land Lab. It has certainly been my honor and privilege to serve as the Farm Manager for most of the decision making, planting, harvesting and see all the interaction with the student body as they try to extract as much information on a "hands on" basis with the Farm.

Since last year was so devastating on crop yields, one of my first decisions was to acquire Multi-peril crop insurance for the farm this year. The corn crop, very surprisingly, came in well over the levels where insurance would start to pay. Soybean yields did fall below insurance guarantee levels, and will be paid about three bushels per acre in relief. The total cost of insurance was $550 and will be paid back well over$1300. Sure lets you sleep a little better at night.

Despite a very wet Spring, a lot of the corn was planted in April this year on the research Farm. A lot of the corn was pollinating on July fourth which does not happen that often in this part of the state. I have very strong feelings this helped the yields considerably on the Farm overall. One particular test in the population and row spacing plot produced an amazing 298.2 bushels/ac. @ 17% moisture planted in 15" rows. I missed the three hundred bushel club by just two bushels. This was corn on corn and only a 102 day corn variety. Never seen anything like that before in my lifetime, and may never again.

Wheat was planted in October of 2012 for the first time here at JJC on about four acres. Not only did we get a very respectable yield and some important comparisons, this also allowed me to plant double crop soybeans on two acres and a variety of Cover Crops on the farm for research and teaching purposes.

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Because of the Deer, drought and geese, the soybeans grew to about six inches tall and were not harvested. We also had a very good Cyst-Nematode trial with the continuous Soybean plot that will be replicated again next year.

One additional new venture was accepting and spreading over 500 tons of clean leaves on some of the poorest ground for organic matter trials mainly on the continuous corn plot. Will compare 10, 20, 30 and 40 ton rates per acre and see how yields are affected next Fall on the corn crop. The land was chiseled to help with decomposition. Other areas received 10 tons per acre and will be planted into directly using no-till methods in 2014.

One thing certainly getting in the way of trying to do the best job possible and making a big mess of trial plots are the tremendous amount of Deer on the Farm. Some estimates suggest there are over 120 Deer on the 300 acres of land owned by the Joliet Junior College. In a very conservative estimate, I believe there was over $11,000 worth of crop value lost this year and certainly disrupted at least 75% of the plot comparison trials at some level. With the combination of Deer damage, Soybean prices down 10% and Corn prices down 40% from a year ago, the bottom line will not be much different from 2012 despite the amount of crops produced.

Want to again thank the management, staff, students and all of the contributors for another great and exciting year. Despite the rising cost to run the research farm, it cannot be under estimated the tremendous value gained by the student body from this great teaching tool we have here at Joliet Junior College. As I said last year, no growing season will ever be the same. Some will be wetter, some will be drier, some hotter and some colder. Prices may be higher, they may be lower. All we can do is the best job we can, and Mother Nature will certainly do the rest.

Steve Brockman '71 JJC

Farm Manager

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