

REGENERATING AGRICULTURE

A Keystone Bio-Ag Newsletter



Volume: 4 / March 2021

SEASONAL CALENDAR

MARCH

Free Delivery Route begins.

Orders over \$400 delivered with our truck on scheduled delivery day qualify for FREE delivery.

APRIL

4/2/21. Office Closed.

4/5/21. Office Closed.

4/27/21. 8AM conference call. Topic posted on hotline.

Order your sap test kits.

MAY

5/13/21. Office Closed.

5/24/21. Office Closed.

5/25/21. 8AM conference call. Topic posted on hotline.

JUNE

6/22/21. 8AM conference call. Topic posted on hotline.

SUMMER FIELD DAYS

July 6: Vegetable Field Day

July 7: Dairy Field Day

Good Debt / Bad Debt

Welcome, today I thought to share some of the articles that accumulated over the years concerning going in debt, and its consequences. Mainly because it is a major problem with struggling young farmers but hardly ever talked about.

First, a paragraph from the book, *A Bankers Confession*,

The enslaving power of Debt.....

One common excuse for not giving a full tithe is because we can't afford it, yet if we could examine the finances of many who give this excuse, we might possibly find a mountain of Debt. When Christians sell themselves into deficit spending, they rob God of what rightly belongs to him. Creditors won't wait, so the work of the Lord gets put on hold. Another way we rob God is our neglect of the poor. When Debt overcomes us, we have no extra cash to help the needy around us. When a person borrows money, he no longer remains free, he becomes a servant to the lender.

Allen Nation quotes, the difference between good debt / bad debt is that good debt creates an asset while paying for itself, like buying a rental property where the rent income MORE than covers the payments. Seems to me that there are only a few things farmers buy that become an asset, mainly seeds, and plant bio stimulants, nutrients that are proven to add value and volume to the plants that then are sold.

Bad Debt only buys you the illusion of wealth, and includes almost all other expenses that a farmer will have, not that a farmer doesn't need equipment and animals, but what he is saying is don't go in Debt to buy these. Instead, pay with money already earned, or borrow, rent, or swap the equipment, or do without.

Some good advice, wish I would have known and followed it 20 years ago.....

You have a good day,

Samuel Zook

Custom fertilizer blends made
according to your soil test



High Quality Crop Growth & Production

Most growers know how to get a fast growth response in their crops. It's really easy; apply lots of nitrate nitrogen and some potassium chloride and you're good to go, right?

The challenge with this approach is that it leads to plants that are long and spindly and not able to produce and fill out large amounts of fruit; not to mention that plants grown on nitrate nitrogen will be susceptible to a host of insects and diseases.

There is a way around this problem. There are actually four major growth minerals: potassium, nitrate, chloride, and calcium. Agriculture focuses heavily on the first 3 to get good growth. I am going to suggest that we need to start taking a longer look at calcium.

Calcium, just like potassium, nitrate, and chloride, triggers vegetative growth. It has one significant advantage, though, which is that it achieves the rapid growth in an entirely different fashion.

Calcium triggers growth through stimulating large root development. Once the plant has these large root systems, complete with white hair roots and mycorrhizal fungi attached, the plant now in turn releases large amount of nutrients in the right proportion for optimal crop performance.

Potassium, nitrate, and chloride achieve vegetative growth entirely differently. They have a synergistic relationship with a plant hormone called auxin, which triggers growth by stimulating shoot development, rather than root development.

This expresses itself visually as plants that are spindly and have long inter-

nodes. These plants can set fruit but they will likely fail when the plant is trying to fill them out because they don't have a good root system. In addition, these plants will have low brix levels and won't be able to produce high fat content crops. And there will be insects.

What's the take-home message? Focus on getting your rapid growth from available calcium and your plants will be stockier and more robust. They will have shorter internodes. The calyx, which is the nutrient transport pipeline into the fruit, will be larger. The fruit will fill out faster. The plants will be able to fill more fruit. The fruit will be of exceptional quality and storability.

I do want to clarify that we are not talking about using no nitrogen and no potassium; we are simply talking about a proper balance and, in the case of nitrogen specifically, using complete amino acid nitrogen forms such as blood meal, protein meal, feather meal, or Sea Power, rather than nitrate nitrogen.

Another question that will probably come up is the source of calcium to use to achieve this response. It depends on soil types: if you have low pH, use Hi Cal Lime. If you have pH higher than 6.5, you should use other forms of calcium such as gypsum. But more importantly, figure out how to release the calcium that is in your soil. This is done by having adequate levels of sulfur, boron, and silica, along with aggressive biology.

From a dry fertilizer perspective for making everything else work better, this is perhaps the single greatest investment you can make. **-Melvin Fisher**

GROWING TIPS



ROW CROPS

For dry corn starter, use 150 pounds Grow PRO Plus per acre in the dry hopper. For liquid corn starter, use 2 qt. each of Key Factor, PhotoMag, and SeaCrop, plus 1 oz. Santerra per acre.



DAIRY

Foliar feed alfalfa fields with Rejuvenate & PhotoMag at spring green-up. Add 3 pounds boric acid unless boron was addressed enough in dry blend.



PRODUCE

Educate yourself. 2 pieces of key importance are understanding photosynthesis and difference forms of nitrogen.



ORCHARD

Help prevent fireblight in apples and pears by foliar feeding with 6 qt. SeaCrop, 2 qt. SeaStim, and 2-4 oz. Micro5000. We have also found this to be helpful to stop fireblight after infection.



GREENHOUSE

Use shade cloth to keep your greenhouses under 80° once warm weather sets in. It is well worth it!



GARDENERS

Besides the popular garden package, we also have Accelerate which stimulates bloom and fruit set for a more abundant yield.

CONFERENCE CALL

4th Tuesday of Month @ 8AM

Join Live: 712-432-8773

Conference ID: 53978663

For recordings, dial 712-432-8774
Enter Conference ID: 53978663
Sharing ID 2021 gives conference info.



Conference Calls

The conference calls are similar to the weekly hotline updates except the conference calls are generally a little longer, and then followed by live questions and answers.

To join live, dial 712-432-8773 on the 4th Tuesday of the month @ 8AM (except November), then use conference ID 53978663. You will be joined into the conference call. All calls are recorded and can be listened to later.

To listen to recordings, dial 712-432-8774, use conference ID 53978663, then enter the sharing ID of the recording you want to listen to.

If you don't know which sharing ID to use, enter sharing ID 2021, which gives a list of previous recordings and their sharing ID's.

WEEKLY HOTLINE

Updated every Monday @ 7AM

Dial: 712-432-8774

Conference ID: 43017557

Enter Sharing ID.

Sharing ID 2021 gives hotline info.



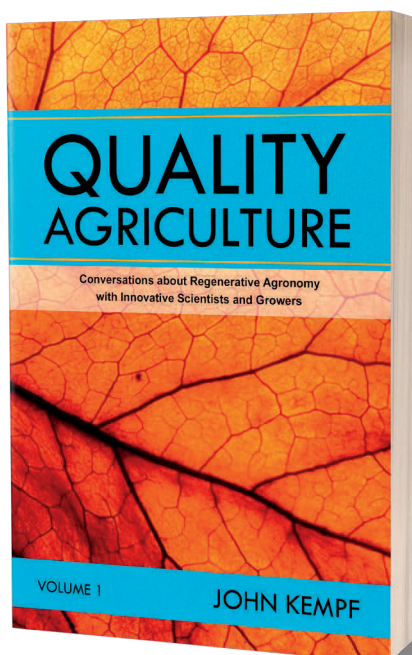
Weekly Hotline

The hotline is one of the ways we share useful and up-to-date information with our growers - it is updated every Monday morning at 7:00. To listen to the Hotline, dial 712-432-8774, use conference ID 43017557, then press 0# to listen to the most recent recording. Or you can enter a Sharing ID to listen to any previous recording.

For a list of recordings and their sharing ID's, use sharing ID 2020. Note: the sharing ID's for 2021 topics are listed on our calendar, or use sharing ID 2021 for a list of them.

Do you like our free hotline but wish to receive the information on paper for easy reference? Subscribe to the Hotline by Mail by sending a check to Keystone Bio-Ag.

Hotline by Mail Quarterly subscription...	13 issues...	\$39.00
Hotline by Mail Yearly subscription...	52 issues...	\$104.00



Quality Agriculture

By John Kempf, VOLUME 1

John Kempf has finally produced a book of his own! In Quality Agriculture, John uses his great human relationship skills and knowledge of the plant & soil ecosystem to extract knowledge from the innovative scientists and growers he interviewed.

In volume 1, John interviews Michael McNeill, Don Huber, Jerry Hatfield, Robert Kremer, Gabe Brown, Dr. Kris Nichols, Dr. Jonathan Lundgren, Klaas Martens, Gary Zimmer, Tom Dykstra, Ed Curry, Dr. Gerald Pollack, and Matt Kleinhenz.

This book offers valuable insights into the path we need to take for providing the quality and quantity of food essential for farm profitability and food security.

This is the first of a series that John is planning to produce within the next few years.

QAG1... \$24.99 + Shipping & Handling

No shipping and handling charge if shipped with other products.

Articles Inside:

KBA Update 1

High Quality Crop Growth and Production 2

KBA Educational Resources 3

Our mission is to educate, encourage, and empower farmers to produce healthy crops by supporting them with the products and information needed to make regenerative agriculture successful.



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Please contact us if you no longer wish to receive our quarterly newsletters and other announcements.

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Also does Dairy consulting.

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717-935-2413

Juniata • Huntingdon • Perry
Franklin • Mifflin • Dauphin

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Northumberland • Union Counties.

Willow Bank Seeds
814-933-9720

Clinton • Centre County
(Kings Agriseeds Dealer)

Cayuga Ag
(607) 227-0836

Trumansburg, New York
(Kings Agriseeds Dealer)

Mark Fisher
207-890-3585

450 North Rd
Parsonsfield ME 04047

New Release!

Grow PRO Plus

(5-11-2) Pelletized fertilizer blend

Grow PRO Plus is formulated to get a rapid growth response, with particular emphasis on quality. This is made possible by blending the right combination of amino acid nitrogen, calcium, phosphorus, and boron, along with products that stimulate fungal activity and root development.



Broadcast at 300-400 lbs. per acre or 10-30 lbs. per 1000 square feet. As a corn starter, apply 100-200 lbs. in-row per acre. In plastic layers, use 300-400 lbs. per acre. Check with your organic certifier prior to use.

Available in 2000 pound Totes, or in bulk to mix with a custom dry blend.

Ask your rep for a

Product Catalog

We now
have pelletized
organic gypsum in
50 lb. bags!