

NEWS RELEASE
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Useful to Usable Corn SplitN Decision Support Tool Now Available in All 12 Corn Belt States

West Lafayette, Indiana-The USDA funded Useful to Usable climate initiative has just expanded their free Corn Split N decision support tool to include all 12 corn belt states. The tool helps farmers and advisors manage the application of in-field nitrogen for maximizing crop yields and minimizing environmental damage.

“Economic conditions are such that efficient N management is critical for earning a profit. Studies indicate that Split N applications to corn can improve profitability. But it can also increase risk. The Corn Split N tool helps farmers understand and manage the risk of split N applications,” said Ray Massey, Extension Professor of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Missouri.

Corn Split N combines historical weather data and fieldwork conditions with economic considerations to determine the feasibility and profitability of completing a post-planting nitrogen application for corn production. Fall is a critical decision making season for corn farmers and the expansion of this tool aligns to help farmers make accurate preparations.

“We have combined corn yield response data from extension crop fertility specialists, together with statistical modeling of days suitable for fieldwork to expand the SplitN tool to cover seven new states,” said Benjamin Gramig, Associate Professor of Natural Resource and Environmental Economics at Purdue University.

Farmers in Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Missouri, Kansas, Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska, Ohio and Michigan can get customized results based on their planting and fertilization schedule, local costs and available equipment. A summarized fieldwork table and crop calendar makes it easy for farmers to see how schedule adjustments might affect their ability to fertilize on time. The tool takes into account estimates of corn development stages based on location, selected planting date and accumulated corn growing degree day (GDD) for the year. GDD accumulations and associated corn growth beyond the current day are estimates based on the historical 30-year (1981-2010) average GDD accumulation for a location.

Corn Split N is part of the U2U suite of tools created to help farmers and agricultural advisers manage increasingly variable weather and climate conditions across the Corn Belt. For more information, go to www.AqClimate4u.org.

Useful to Usable is a USDA-funded research and extension project comprising 50 faculty, staff and students from nine north-central U.S. universities with expertise in applied climatology, crop modeling, agronomy, cybertechnology, and agricultural economics and other social sciences.

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