

# KQ Fertility Facts

Grower Edition

## PUMP UP WHEAT PROFITS WITH PHOSPHORUS SOLUTIONS!



**I**f you're not using phosphorus (P) in your fertility program, it may be the most limiting factor for your profits.

**It's time to be thinking about wheat...and wheat profits.** A good soil fertility program is one of the keys to higher yields and more profitable wheat production. Adequate amounts of P allow you to take advantage of better varieties, good soil moisture, and an effective pest management program.

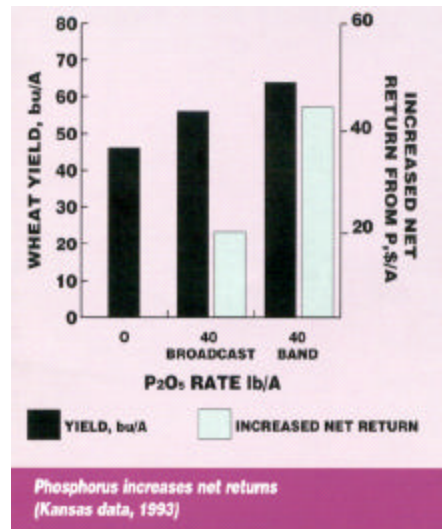
**In a system of best management practices (BMPs)...**for higher yields, lower per bushel production costs, and higher profits...you can't cut corners on nutrient use without hurting returns from other inputs. Remember, too, higher yields remove more nutrients from each acre, nutrients that must be replaced to keep your soils productive.

**Here are some things to think about as you plan for the next wheat crop.**

**Know your needs.** A good fertilizer program starts with a soil test...for residual nitrogen (N), available P, potassium (K), sulfur (S), Zinc (Zn) and other nutrients. Don't overlook soil PH, particularly if you are in an area where soil acid-

ity is a common problem ... or starting to be a problem.

**Do a good job of soil sampling.** One sample per field won't tell you all you need to know. Think about soil sampling by soil type. Big differences can exist in nutrient availability among soil types within one field. You may be able to profitably adjust nutrient rates to fit areas within the field. More work?? More expense? Sure...but the payoffs can be even bigger. That is site specific management...and the more you know about your soils' needs the



more profitably you can farm.

**If you don't think your wheat needs fertilizer P, think again.** Remember the effects of P deficiency...poorly developed root sys-

tems, poor tillering, winter kill, lowered head numbers. Adequate P boosts water use efficiency, N use efficiency, plant health, crop maturity and in the final analysis...yield and profits.

**Using adequate fertilizer P is one of the most important decisions you can make.** From 60 to 70 percent of the soils in the Great Plains test medium of lower in available P. That means these soils need P. Wheat needs for P fertilization are something you can't short-change on P responsive soils without cutting profits.

**Pump up what forage profits with P solutions.** Best stocker cattle profits require P fertilization of wheat pastures. Preplant N and plenty of P are essential for good forage growth, high quality forage and good gains. Texas data show that adequate P and proper placement have big effects on profits. Net value of weight gain with no P was a loss of \$1.50/A compared to a net profit of \$65.10/A when 90 lb P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> in a P solution was banded with N.

**Band apply P solutions...for best results...and best profits.** Preplant banding solution P is the best choice, especially when soil test P is medium to low. Banding N with the P solution boosts P uptake and yield.

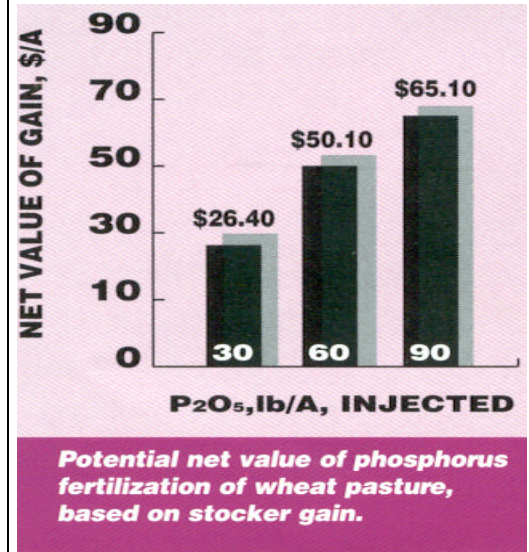
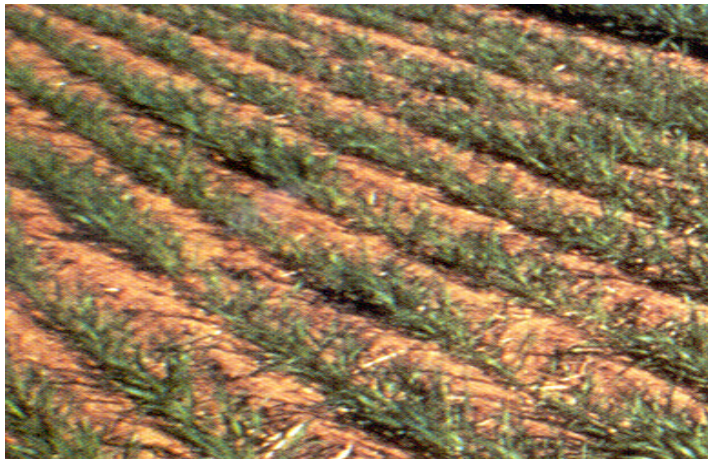
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# THE BOTTOM LINE

- ◇ **If you could harvest 39 percent more wheat without planting any more acres—would you do it?** Not using P is like planting only 98 acres of wheat on each quarter section.
- ◇ **Successful P management for wheat requires serious attention.** Don't limit variety potentials, water use efficiency and N use efficiency by not supplying the P your crop needs.
- ◇ **Wheat not responding to N like it should?** The problem is probably not enough P. To find out, do a soil test.
- ◇ **Planning to graze wheat?** Pre-plant N and plenty of P are es-

sential for early forage growth, big gains and higher profitability. Build carrying capacity and grain yields with adequate P.

- ◇ **For best efficiency, place P where roots have a higher probability of contacting it.** Phosphorus placed in the root zone relatively near the seed row increases efficiency.
- ◇ **Don't forget—starter P is still important.** Starter P is very effective when soil test P is low.
- ◇ **Keep wheat yields and profits high by using P solutions.**



**Starter P with the seed...** can mean quick, early season growth, important for grazing and for high grain yields. Phosphorus banded with the seed can help wheat cope with extreme soil acidity by lowering the toxicity of aluminum (Al), even when P soil tests are very high. It's not a cure for soil acidity, but it is an option when liming isn't possible. Remember, too, banded P helps avoid P "tie-up" in calcareous soils and keeps fertilizer P available for plant use.

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