

# TECHtalk®

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FEED AND FUEL  
THE WORLD

TECHtalk is published monthly for dealers of Latham Hi-Tech Seeds, focusing on technology, agronomy, trends and news from around the seed industry.

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## Herbicide Applications Update for Xtend® Soybeans in 2020

by MARK GRUNDMEIER SOYBEAN PRODUCT MANAGER

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### IN THIS ISSUE

- p1** Herbicide Applications Update for Xtend® Soybeans in 2020
- p2** Managing Weeds with Various Herbicide Technologies
- p3** Ideas to Conduct Your Own On-farm Experiments
- p4** Latham to Test PowerCore® Enlist™ Hybrids in 2020

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added some comments from state Departments of Agriculture (DOA) about possible 2020 changes to the herbicide labels.

**Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin:** No known changes to the state label in any of these states. The individual state DOA's direct applicators to the various company websites listed below for their annual training.

**Minnesota online:** Applications needing dicamba training should visit <https://mcpr-cca.org/dicamba-information-trainings/>. Some farmers were hoping the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) would loosen its restriction on how late dicamba applications may be made. The

Before you spray Xtend soybeans this spring with a dicamba-based herbicide, remember that federal law requires that all applications be made by a properly trained certified applicator. **Both custom or private applicators must attend annual training**, so they're up-to-date on all new rules and regulations.

Most of the live training sessions have been cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. However, there's still time to complete online training. Listed below are websites, by state, where you can get information about online training courses. I've also

MDA is holding fast to June 20 or the R1 stage of the crop, whichever comes first. No changes have been made from 2019 requirements.

**Nebraska:** The Nebraska DOA is directing applicators to this University of Nebraska—Lincoln (UNL) Extension website for dicamba training <https://pested.unl.edu/dicamba>. No listed changes to the 2019 guidelines for application.

**Illinois:** The Illinois DOA has further restricted applications of dicamba herbicide over the top of Xtend soybeans to no later than June 20 or the R1 stage of the crop, whichever comes first. NOTE: This is a change from 2019 when the last date of application was June 30. For training, the IDOA directs applicators to this website, sponsored by the Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association: <https://ifca.com/IllinoisDicambaTraining>.

There are four dicamba herbicide formulations approved for use over the top of Xtend soybeans. They are XtendiMax® with VaporGrip® Technology from Bayer CropScience, Engenia® from BASF, FeXapan® with VaporGrip® from Corteva and Tavium® with VaporGrip® from Syngenta.

All four companies provide online dicamba application training for applicators. NOTE: You're only required to attend one online session, regardless of which herbicide you eventually apply. Here's the list of the various company sponsored training websites:

- **BASF:** <https://bit.ly/2xTIJv9>
- **Bayer CropScience:** <https://bit.ly/2RjHt3e>
- **Corteva:** <https://bit.ly/2UTSpH7>
- **Syngenta:** <https://bit.ly/2V7OuFv>

May God keep you and your family safe as we work together to provide the world with much-needed food and supplies during this difficult time. You are a blessing to all!

# Managing Weeds with Various Herbicide Technologies



by **DARIN CHAPMAN** PRECISION AGRONOMY ADVISOR

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One of the main topics of conversation this season is weed management and herbicides with various technology options. As an independent company, Latham Hi-Tech Seeds has broad options of trait packages, so it's good to strategically select which trait option will work best for your operation.

Start by looking at the type of weed pressure you have and also consider any insect pressure that needs to be factored into the decision. Then weigh the Independent Options® and their herbicide technologies.

Latham's Data Forward<sup>SM</sup> platform provides an easy way to keep these options organized within your operation and prevent mistakes from happening during the busy seasons. Below are **"organizational options" within Data Forward:**

## Crop protection and fertilizer placement

Staying organized will help ensure there are no mistakes in the busy season. Simply enter your herbicide and fertility programs into your Data Forward app, using your iPhone or iPad. Data Forward helps you track your crop protection and fertilizer program, so your operations run efficiently all growing season long. You can run reports to show a photo of the field and boundaries, total acres, application timing, application method, product type, product name, rates, and total amount of product needed for that field. Your crop protection decisions also will play a large role in your seed decisions.



## Planting recommendation

Another great tool within Data Forward is the Planting Recommendation tab, which keeps your seeding plan organized for the busy season. Planting recommendation is a great way to assure that your varieties/hybrids get placed on the correct acre at the proper population rates. We understand that sometimes things change in season and the plan doesn't always come together. If this happens, it is easy to edit to make these changes in the Data Forward app. You can apply notes to why you may have made these changes for record keeping, which is crucial to your return on investment (ROI).

**Recommendation Summary**

Grower: Darin Chapman  
Farm: Chapman Grain Farm  
Report Created: 3/18/20

Agronomist: Darin Chapman  
Phone: 712-260-9481  
Email: darinc@lathamseeds.com

2020 Recommendation Total Area: 263.02 ac

Product Type	Product	Rate	Total	Application Timing
Herbicide	Clethodim 2EC	6 fluid oz/ac	12.33 gallons	Pre-plant
Herbicide	Interline (USA)	32 fluid oz/ac	65.75 gallons	Pre-plant
Herbicide	Me-Too-Lachlor II	1 liquid gal/ac	32.85 gallons	Pre-plant
Additive	AMS (Spray Grade)	3 lb/ac	789.06 lbs	Pre-plant
Additive	FS COC Supreme	6 fluid oz/ac	12.33 gallons	Pre-plant

Application Method: Broadcast

Field Maps:

- Fitch Farm East (116.86 Acres) 2/18/20 to 3/13/20
- Home Farm North (72.59 Acres) 2/18/20 to 3/13/20
- Home Farm South (73.47 Acres) 2/18/20 to 3/13/20

Now, more than ever, it is important to avoid any mistakes within our farming operations. Data Forward allows you to keep the 2020 crop plan at your fingertips! Literally, you can work your plan by using the Data Forward app on an iPhone or iPad or using our detailed Data Forward Report book that may be kept in your cab. Reach out to your Precision Agronomy Advisors to learn more!

# Ideas to Conduct Your Own On-farm Experiments



by **COREY CATT** FORAGE PRODUCTS MANAGER  
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Seeing is believing.

That's why I'm a big believer in doing on-farm experiments. This information is derived from your soil, your planter and your fertility. It's also affected by your environmental conditions. This information is most relevant to you since it came directly from your acres. Latham's Data Forward<sup>SM</sup> program can even help provide additional data management to make it easier.

Here are two types of trials to consider as you plan 2020 on-farm experiments:

- 1** Corn silage plant population
- 2** Alfalfa seeding rates

## Population Density Affects Yield and Quality

As population density decreases, fiber digestibility generally improves. Every 1 point in fiber digestibility improvement correlates to an increase of approximately one-half pound of milk per head daily.

It's a matter of finding the perfect balance between not leaving any yield in the field while capitalizing on the best quality. Some 2019 corn silage research revealed that leafy hybrids planted in North Dakota under lower populations had tonnage of 30 tons per acre with significantly above-average neutral detergent fiber digestibility (NDFD) scores around 60. Normally, we see NDFD scores around 50 or 55.

Yield and quality is affected by more than population and genetics. The seasonal environment also impacts NDFD scores. Leafy hybrids respond very well under lower populations. While it's not always easy to change planter populations on-the-go, it might be worth it!

Consider conducting an on-farm experiment with a Latham<sup>®</sup> Leafy Hybrid option, such as 4542, 5062, 5199, or a

dual-purpose 4242. Plant the majority of your acres at your standard prescription population. Then make a couple of passes at both a lower and a higher population. Some families of hybrids may be more responsive to population.

## Optimal Alfalfa Seeding Rates

Consider seeding a double pass or two of alfalfa this spring. We have heard great reports from many growers indicating favorable results.

Data from an on-farm study conducted in southern Wisconsin supports those findings. This graph from the on-farm replicated study shows that it pays for this grower to double seed. Yield advantages extended into the second year, increasing profit for this particular alfalfa grower.

	2013 Total DM Tons Harvested from 32#	2013 Total DM Tons Harvested from 16#	DM Ton Advantage per Acre	Additional Alfalfa Value at Rate of \$300/ton	Additional Input Cost for 32# Rate at \$429/50#	ROI from 32# in \$/Acre when Alfalfa is \$429/50#
Rep 3	3.87	3.37	0.50	\$149.43	\$137.20	\$12.23
Rep 2	4.15	3.22	0.93	\$278.72	\$137.20	\$141.52
Rep 1	4.23	3.34	0.89	\$267.97	\$137.20	\$130.77
Avg			0.77	\$232.04		\$94.84

In 2013, the 32# alfalfa seeding rate shows **more yield, more profit** per acre. This data was based on seed cost from 2013.

It's worth it to implement a small-scale research project on your own farm. This study may provide additional perspective to gaining more yield and even longer stand life for innovative and progressive growers. Plants equal yield, but as we add more plants, we also need to be mindful that those areas will need more fertilizer to ensure best results.

When the equipment is all cleaned up and put away, I hope you have the deep sense of confidence. Try pushing the boundaries of tradition, leaving no yield in the field and improving soils for future generations.



## Latham to Test PowerCore<sup>®</sup> Enlist<sup>™</sup> Hybrids in 2020

by **LYLE MARCUS** CORN PRODUCT MANAGER

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The Latham Product Team first shared information with you about PowerCore<sup>®</sup> corn hybrids the summer of 2017. Since then, we have communicated bits of information in anticipation of product approval. At last, we have received full approval and licensing to test and promote hybrids with this exciting technology!

I'll begin with a short recap of what PowerCore<sup>®</sup> hybrids offer from the standpoint of the trait. Hybrids with this trait provide outstanding control of above-ground insect feeding via a combination of three Bt proteins. You will find control of European Corn Borer, Corn Earworm, Black Cutworm, Fall Armyworm and Southwestern Corn Borer. In addition to the insect protection provided, you also will have the flexibility of using the Enlist<sup>™</sup> Corn weed control system. These hybrids offer tolerance to Corteva's new 2,4-D Choline (Colex-D<sup>®</sup>),

glyphosate, as well as the FOP herbicide family. You will see excellent insect protection with great flexibility in managing hard-to-control weeds.

At Latham Seeds, our primary concern in bringing products to our dealers and customers continues to focus on high yielding, agronomically sound, corn hybrids. That's why we do not plan to launch products until we have had a good opportunity to assess potential products. Our 2020 testing program includes hybrids with this technology in our MiniStrip and SuperStrip plots. These testing platforms will aide our corn product team in identifying hybrids we feel earn a place in our lineup, and allow you to see them first-hand.

We look forward to sharing more with you about PowerCore<sup>®</sup> Enlist<sup>™</sup> corn at one our 2020 meetings or plot tours!

**POWER**Core<sup>®</sup>