

Research Report of Progress
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*Potassium and Phosphorus
Research on Field Crops*

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REPORT OF 1982 PHOSPHORUS AND POTASSIUM RESEARCH
RECEIVING SUPPORT FUNDING BY POTASH/PHOSPHATE INSTITUTE
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Research results are presented in this report from studies conducted in 1982 receiving partial support from PPI. The PPI support was utilized mainly for the soil and plant analytical results reported. Most of these results have been reported in the annual Kansas Fertilizer Research Report of Progress - 1982 and are taken from the research report and duplicated here. Recognition of Researchers at the Kansas River Valley, East Central Kansas and Sandyland Experiment Fields is intended for their part in conducting the experiments in the field and collection of the plant and soil samples.

I. PRODUCTION AND QUALITY OF IRRIGATED ALFALFA

MANAGEMENT OF IRRIGATED ALFALFA

Sandyland Experiment Field

Jim Ball, George TenEyck and David Whitney

An irrigated alfalfa management study was initiated in the fall of 1975 with the objectives of (1) to determine the forage yield and nutrient removal of alfalfa from phosphorus, potassium and sulfur applications; (2) to determine stand persistence to three cutting management systems; (3) to study variety effect for response to fertilization and stand persistence. The study is located on a site that consists of two sandy soil types; Pratt loamy fine sand and Naron loamy fine sand. The original fertility treatments included one treatment of a split phosphate application and one with sulfur application. Because no yield advantage over similar treatments was found through 1981, these two treatments were changed in 1982 to treatments of 320 and 640 lb K_2O/A with constant phosphorus applications.

Two varieties, Kanza and Marathon, were seeded in the fall of 1975. Although little yield difference was found over the first several years, the stand of Marathon has thinned and only results for the Kanza variety are reported. The cutting managements are as follows: cutting each time at the bud stage; cutting each time at the 1/10 bloom stage; and cutting alternately at the bud stage and full bloom stage. Four cuttings were harvested in 1976 and are not included in the following data. Five cuttings were made in 1977 and 1978 for all managements with an additional late cutting made on the bud stage in both years for the two treatments with this management and only on the 1/10 bloom stage in 1978. In 1979 through 1982, five cuttings were taken from the bud and 1/10 bloom stages and only four cuttings from the alternate cutting management. All managements had the late fall cuttings taken.

The results for 1982 as well as for the five previous years have shown a good response to P at this location. The optimum phosphate rate has increased from 40 lb P_2O_5 annually in the first years of the study to 120 lb of P_2O_5 annually in 1982. With the removal of slightly more than 50 lb P per acre annually by the top yielding treatments, the addition of 120 lb of P_2O_5 is roughly equaling P removal. Soil test results for P also are reflecting a similar trend in that the high P rate is needed to maintain soil test P levels. The application of 320 lb P_2O_5 per acre prior to planting in 1975 (preplant) has resulted in higher yields over the six years than where no P has been applied, but preplant plus annual applications has not resulted in

higher yields than where adequate annual P applications have been used, however, the optimum annual P_2O_5 has been lower. Soil test results for P reflect residual P in the soil from the preplant application. These results would suggest that over the period of the study frequency of phosphorus application is not as important as getting adequate phosphate applied to meet plant needs.

The potassium has not resulted in a significant yield response with rates going as high as 640 lb K_2O per acre. This is surprising with soil test K levels at or below 100 lb per acre on all plots. The higher K rates initiated in 1981 have resulted in greater K removal with 145 lb K per acre more in 1982 for the 640 lb K_2O/A compared to no K at 120 lb P_2O_5 annually for both treatments. These results would suggest that the K soil test is not reflecting soil K available for plant uptake.

The results of this study have clearly shown that for high yielding alfalfa, close attention must be paid to phosphorus available from the soil and from fertilizer application.

FERTILIZATION OF IRRIGATED ALFALFA

Kansas River Valley Experiment Field

L. D. Maddux and P. L. Barnes

This study was initiated in 1976 to evaluate the effects of phosphorus fertilizer applied preplant and plowed down and annual treatments of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium on irrigated alfalfa. Kanza alfalfa was seeded April 13, 1976 at 10 pounds per acre. Annual treatments of phosphorus and potassium were applied November 17, 1981. Harvests were made June 16, July 12, August 19, and October 6 with a flail harvester. The first harvest was delayed due to the rainy weather in May and early June.

A thin stand of alfalfa was obtained when this study was established. The original stand had been fairly well maintained until this year when a substantial stand depletion occurred over the winter. Yields, plant tissue nutrient content and soil test data are shown in Table 23. There was no significant difference in protein content due to fertilizer application. The annual P treatments increased the P content in the alfalfa tissue. There was also a trend to increased P content of alfalfa tissue with the plowdown treatments, but this was not significant. There was no significant differences in K tissue content although the 0-40-0 treatment tended to be lower in K than the treatments receiving potassium fertilizer. The annual P and K fertility treatments increased total alfalfa yield by about one-third ton. Yields were fairly low due to the declining stand and the late first harvest.

soil levels of phosphorus have increased slightly with the 80 pounds P_2O_5 per acre annual treatment, while plots not receiving phosphate have decreased to a low level (11 pounds available P_2O_5 per acre) from the original 40 pound per acre soil test value. Potassium soil test levels have declined from the 1976 value of 450 pounds exchangeable K_2O per acre even with the annual applications of potash.

Effect of phosphorus and potassium rates and phosphorus frequency of application on irrigated Kanza alfalfa yield, crude protein, phosphorus and potassium removal at Sandyland Experiment Field over six years.

| Fertilizer Treatment lbs/A | Forage yield Tons/A ¹ 15% moisture | | | | | | Crude protein yield lbs/A | | | | | | Nutrient Content of Forage lbs/A | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|------|------|------|------|------|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | P205 | | K20 | | K | | P | | K | | P | | K | | P | | K | | | | | | | |
| | 1982 | 1981 | 1980 | 1979 | 1978 | 1977 | 1982 | 1981 | 1980 | 1979 | 1978 | 1977 | 1982 | 1981 | 1980 | 1979 | 1978 | 1977 | | | | | | |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | |
| 40 | 8.2 | 9.1 | 7.1 | 7.4 | 7.7 | 8.1 | 2815 | 3050 | 2640 | 2909 | 2718 | 3040 | 29 | 33 | 26 | 30 | 27 | 33 | 270 | 314 | 265 | 286 | 341 | 363 |
| 80 | 9.7 | 10.6 | 8.5 | 8.9 | 9.3 | 9.3 | 3342 | 3707 | 3103 | 3581 | 3266 | 3585 | 39 | 43 | 35 | 41 | 35 | 44 | 334 | 366 | 317 | 358 | 415 | 426 |
| 120 | 10.4 | 11.4 | 8.8 | 9.5 | 9.7 | 9.3 | 3816 | 3973 | 3427 | 3875 | 3466 | 3566 | 50 | 51 | 44 | 50 | 42 | 49 | 334 | 376 | 341 | 373 | 449 | 429 |
| 0 | 11.4 | 12.1 | 9.5 | 10.0 | 10.6 | 9.6 | 4077 | 4063 | 3656 | 4124 | 3858 | 3732 | 58 | 59 | 53 | 59 | 49 | 53 | 354 | 389 | 360 | 396 | 479 | 452 |
| 320 | 9.4 | 10.1 | 8.3 | 9.0 | 9.9 | 9.4 | 3252 | 3488 | 3175 | 3609 | 3623 | 3613 | 35 | 39 | 34 | 41 | 40 | 46 | 320 | 363 | 325 | 356 | 466 | 432 |
| 320 | 10.2 | 11.4 | 9.1 | 9.7 | 10.7 | 9.9 | 3657 | 3927 | 3387 | 3931 | 3801 | 3753 | 44 | 49 | 42 | 52 | 45 | 52 | 334 | 382 | 340 | 387 | 480 | 456 |
| 320 | 11.2 | 12.1 | 9.2 | 9.7 | 10.3 | 9.5 | 4091 | 4169 | 3647 | 4047 | 3704 | 3629 | 55 | 55 | 49 | 58 | 48 | 54 | 370 | 403 | 364 | 376 | 463 | 436 |
| 320 | 11.1 | 11.9 | 9.5 | 9.6 | 10.6 | 9.8 | 4189 | 4262 | 3681 | 3964 | 3802 | 3773 | 59 | 63 | 54 | 59 | 51 | 59 | 350 | 399 | 357 | 384 | 485 | 460 |
| 0 | 120 | 0 | 11.5 | 11.9 | 9.6 | 9.6 | 4117 | 4247 | 3783 | 3991 | 3907 | 3779 | 60 | 60 | 53 | 59 | 53 | 54 | 310 | 351 | 329 | 356 | 472 | 429 |
| 0 | 120 | 160 | 10.9 | 11.9 | 9.5 | 9.9 | 3971 | 4121 | 3696 | 3981 | 3799 | 3752 | 54 | 56 | 50 | 56 | 49 | 54 | 369 | 408 | 379 | 395 | 491 | 451 |
| 0 | 120 | 320# | 10.9 | 12.0 | 9.2 | 9.8 | 4064 | 4115 | 3574 | 3962 | 3587 | 3544 | 56 | 69 | 45 | 52 | 43 | 48 | 421 | 445 | 346 | 393 | 467 | 424 |
| 0 | 120 | 640# | 10.9 | 11.6 | 9.2 | 9.9 | 3879 | 4064 | 3589 | 4078 | 3668 | 3729 | 55 | 57 | 50 | 59 | 48 | 53 | 455 | 472 | 346 | 386 | 470 | 436 |
| 320 | 120 | 80* | 10.4 | 12.7 | 10.0 | 10.6 | 3626 | 4407 | 3827 | 4290 | 4081 | 3635 | 57 | 65 | 57 | 69 | 57 | 57 | 322 | 403 | 359 | 402 | 506 | 437 |
| 0 | 0 | 80* | 7.4 | 9.5 | 7.8 | 8.3 | 2463 | 3186 | 2844 | 3225 | 2914 | 3046 | 25 | 34 | 29 | 35 | 28 | 33 | 265 | 356 | 302 | 324 | 374 | 367 |
| LSD (.05) | | | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 252 | 245 | 269 | 257 | 189 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 23 | 40 | 33 | 32 | 31 | 25 |

*These two treatments were changed in 1981 from previous rate of 80 lb/A of K₂O

#Late cutting taken after frost when possible

1Averaged over three cutting managements

Effects of cutting stage on irrigated Kanza alfalfa annual yields and crude protein over six years at the Sandyland Experiment Field.

| Stage of Cutting | Forage yield, T/A 15% moisture | | | | | | Crude protein % | | | | | | Crude protein lb/A | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 1982 | 1981 | 1980 | 1979 | 1978 | 1977 | 1982 | 1981 | 1980 | 1979 | 1978 | 1977 | 1982 | 1981 | 1980 | 1979 | 1978 | 1977 |
| 1/10 Bloom | 10.4 | 11.7 | 9.5 | 10.5 | 10.1 | 9.4 | 20.5 | 19.9 | 22.8 | 23.0 | 20.9 | 21.2 | 3618 | 4056 | 3768 | 4194 | 3689 | 3508 |
| Bud | 8.3 | 11.0 | 7.8 | 8.9 | 9.6 | 9.3 | 21.7 | 20.6 | 22.6 | 24.0 | 21.2 | 22.3 | 3189 | 3978 | 3062 | 3700 | 3519 | 3617 |
| Alt. | 10.3 | 11.2 | 9.6 | 8.9 | 10.3 | 9.4 | 19.7 | 19.3 | 21.7 | 23.0 | 19.8 | 22.3 | 3465 | 3759 | 3517 | 3589 | 3548 | 3626 |
| LSD (.05) | 0.6 | N.S. | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.5 | N.S. | 0.3 | N.S. | 0.5 | 0.7 | N.S. | N.S. | 253 | 195 | 287 | 385 | 193 | 305 |

Effect of phosphorus and potassium rates and phosphorus frequency of application on average forage yield and soil test phosphorus and potassium levels under irrigated alfalfa at the Sandyland Experiment Field.

| Fertilizer Treatment, lbs/A | 6-year avg Forage yield T/A 15% moisture | Soil Test Results - lbs/A | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--------|------|------|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | | Available P | | | | Exchangeable K | | | | | | | |
| | | Preplant | Annual | 1982 | 1981 | 1980 | 1979 | 1978 | 1982 | 1981 | 1980 | 1979 | 1978 |
| 0 | 0 | 7.9 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 105 | 103 | 107 | 93 | 88 | 112 |
| 0 | 40 | 9.4 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 16 | 100 | 115 | 106 | 89 | 88 | 127 |
| 0 | 80 | 9.9 | 10 | 14 | 17 | 16 | 18 | 87 | 104 | 106 | 88 | 88 | 112 |
| 0 | 120 | 10.5 | 19 | 25 | 27 | 26 | 27 | 97 | 93 | 93 | 88 | 88 | 112 |
| 320 | 0 | 9.4 | 6 | 11 | 13 | 18 | 26 | 98 | 106 | 109 | 82 | 82 | 131 |
| 320 | 40 | 10.2 | 11 | 15 | 22 | 28 | 36 | 97 | 101 | 100 | 88 | 88 | 121 |
| 320 | 80 | 10.3 | 16 | 29 | 31 | 38 | 42 | 92 | 101 | 96 | 82 | 82 | 119 |
| 320 | 120 | 10.4 | 21 | 40 | 46 | 40 | 55 | 88 | 95 | 102 | 79 | 79 | 122 |
| 0 | 120 | 10.5 | 17 | 27 | 30 | 22 | 26 | 82 | 82 | 89 | 77 | 77 | 113 |
| 0 | 120 | 10.5 | 17 | 25 | 25 | 26 | 23 | 99 | 100 | 113 | 85 | 85 | 119 |
| 0 | 120* | 10.2 | 14 | 18 | 20 | 24 | 23 | 115 | 108 | 102 | 83 | 83 | 134 |
| 0 | 120* | 10.3 | 20 | 24 | 32 | 31 | 29 | 127 | 93 | 92 | 83 | 83 | 118 |
| 320 | 120** | 10.8 | 33 | 49 | 49 | 45 | 49 | 77 | 83 | 86 | 73 | 73 | 125 |
| 0 | 0** | 8.3 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 12 | 109 | 93 | 103 | 85 | 85 | 133 |

*These two treatments were changed in 1981 from previous rate of 80 lb/A of K₂O

**Additional cutting taken late fall.

Initial soil test level: P = 19 lbs/A, K = 252 lbs/A

TABLE 23. EFFECT OF P AND K ON FORAGE YIELD AND PERCENT PROTEIN, PHOSPHORUS AND POTASSIUM OF ALFALFA, 1982.

Kansas River Valley Experiment Field
L. D. Maddux and P. L. Barnes

| Fertilizers, lb/A | | | Cut 1 | | | | Cut 2 | | | | Cut 3 | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-----------|------|------|---------------------------|-----------|------|------|---------------------------|-----------|------|------|
| Pre | Annual | | Forage yield ¹ | Protein % | %P | %K | Forage yield ¹ | Protein % | %P | %K | Forage yield ¹ | Protein % | %P | %K |
| P ₂ O ₅ | P ₂ O ₅ | K ₂ O | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0 | 0 | 80 | 1.75 | 16.88 | .195 | 2.36 | 1.01 | 16.15 | .217 | 2.61 | 0.82 | 14.54 | .236 | 2.49 |
| 0 | 40 | 0 | 2.22 | 17.65 | .271 | 2.11 | 0.95 | 16.38 | .288 | 2.34 | 1.07 | 13.75 | .327 | 2.32 |
| 0 | 40 | 80 | 2.29 | 16.58 | .239 | 2.29 | 0.97 | 16.54 | .276 | 2.60 | 1.04 | 14.27 | .331 | 2.53 |
| 0 | 80 | 80 | 2.41 | 17.81 | .290 | 2.18 | 0.98 | 16.75 | .300 | 2.50 | 1.04 | 13.65 | .335 | 2.55 |
| 80 | 0 | 80 | 1.87 | 16.27 | .233 | 2.39 | 1.06 | 17.79 | .246 | 2.49 | 1.13 | 14.90 | .242 | 2.31 |
| 80 | 40 | 0 | 2.08 | 17.06 | .296 | 2.34 | 0.88 | 17.44 | .301 | 2.36 | 1.08 | 14.15 | .331 | 2.31 |
| 80 | 40 | 80 | 1.95 | 16.79 | .257 | 2.25 | 0.96 | 17.13 | .296 | 2.59 | 1.33 | 14.52 | .288 | 2.27 |
| 80 | 80 | 80 | 1.89 | 17.44 | .330 | 2.49 | 0.83 | 16.88 | .343 | 2.74 | 1.22 | 14.58 | .376 | 2.44 |
| 160 | 0 | 80 | 2.00 | 17.13 | .241 | 2.42 | 0.97 | 16.71 | .260 | 2.56 | 1.22 | 15.50 | .290 | 2.38 |
| 160 | 40 | 0 | 1.74 | 16.96 | .300 | 2.22 | 0.79 | 16.94 | .322 | 2.47 | 1.06 | 14.10 | .380 | 2.51 |
| 160 | 40 | 80 | 2.07 | 16.92 | .283 | 2.52 | 1.00 | 16.44 | .300 | 2.66 | 1.10 | 14.79 | .320 | 2.44 |
| 160 | 80 | 80 | 2.40 | 16.83 | .289 | 2.21 | 0.92 | 16.88 | .322 | 2.53 | 1.23 | 12.96 | .403 | 2.46 |
| LSD(.05) | | | .26 | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS |
| Preplant P ₂ O ₅ Means: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0 | | | 2.13 | 17.03 | .250 | 2.25 | 0.99 | 16.45 | .270 | 2.50 | 1.01 | 14.15 | .306 | 2.43 |
| 80 | | | 2.00 | 16.86 | .272 | 2.37 | 0.95 | 17.43 | .295 | 2.57 | 1.22 | 14.32 | .303 | 2.30 |
| 160 | | | 2.05 | 16.99 | .283 | 2.42 | 0.92 | 16.75 | .299 | 2.56 | 1.15 | 14.30 | .347 | 2.44 |
| LSD(.05) | | | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | .10 | NS | NS | NS |
| Annual Fertilizer Means: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0 | 80 | | 1.87 | 16.76 | .223 | 2.39 | 1.01 | 16.88 | .241 | 2.55 | 1.06 | 14.98 | .256 | 2.39 |
| 40 | 0 | | 2.01 | 17.22 | .289 | 2.22 | 0.88 | 16.92 | .304 | 2.39 | 1.07 | 14.00 | .346 | 2.38 |
| 40 | 80 | | 2.10 | 16.76 | .259 | 2.35 | 0.98 | 16.70 | .291 | 2.61 | 1.16 | 14.53 | .313 | 2.41 |
| 80 | 80 | | 2.23 | 17.36 | .303 | 2.30 | 0.91 | 16.83 | .322 | 2.59 | 1.16 | 13.73 | .371 | 2.48 |
| LSD(.05) | | | .12 | NS | .024 | NS | .06 | NS | .018 | NS | .09 | NS | .028 | NS |

| Fertilizers, lb/A | | | Cut 4 | | | | Total Forage yield ¹ | Soil Test Levels ² | |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-----------|------|------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| Pre | Annual | | Forage yield ¹ | Protein % | %P | %K | | Avail. | Exch. |
| P ₂ O ₅ | P ₂ O ₅ | K ₂ O | | | | | P ₂ O ₅ | K ₂ O | |
| 0 | 0 | 80 | 0.95 | 18.46 | .199 | 2.41 | 4.53 | 11 | 312 |
| 0 | 40 | 0 | 0.97 | 17.83 | .263 | 2.10 | 5.22 | 28 | 240 |
| 0 | 40 | 80 | 0.99 | 16.21 | .264 | 2.20 | 5.36 | 30 | 323 |
| 0 | 80 | 80 | 1.11 | 16.13 | .299 | 2.15 | 5.36 | 41 | 287 |
| 80 | 0 | 80 | 1.04 | 17.50 | .221 | 2.21 | 5.10 | 12 | 309 |
| 80 | 40 | 0 | 1.03 | 16.92 | .290 | 2.05 | 5.08 | 31 | 237 |
| 80 | 40 | 80 | 1.14 | 16.13 | .279 | 2.21 | 5.38 | 32 | 304 |
| 80 | 80 | 80 | 1.09 | 15.67 | .288 | 2.05 | 5.04 | 55 | 282 |
| 160 | 0 | 80 | 1.04 | 17.35 | .238 | 2.22 | 5.22 | 17 | 286 |
| 160 | 40 | 0 | 1.06 | 14.79 | .313 | 1.80 | 4.66 | 36 | 233 |
| 160 | 40 | 80 | 1.15 | 15.21 | .291 | 2.17 | 5.32 | 32 | 271 |
| 160 | 80 | 80 | 1.06 | 15.77 | .332 | 2.00 | 5.60 | 54 | 271 |
| LSD(.05) | | | NS | | | | | | |
| Preplant P ₂ O ₅ Means: | | | | | | | | | |
| 0 | | | 1.00 | 16.88 | .258 | 2.20 | 5.16 | 28 | 291 |
| 80 | | | 1.08 | 16.60 | .267 | 2.16 | 5.15 | 33 | 283 |
| 160 | | | 1.08 | 15.69 | .292 | 2.04 | 5.20 | 35 | 265 |
| LSD(.05) | | | NS | NS | NS | NS | | | |
| Annual Fertilizer Means: | | | | | | | | | |
| 0 | 80 | | 1.01 | 17.77 | .219 | 2.28 | 4.95 | 13 | 302 |
| 40 | 0 | | 1.02 | 16.51 | .289 | 1.98 | 4.99 | 32 | 237 |
| 40 | 80 | | 1.09 | 15.85 | .278 | 2.19 | 5.35 | 31 | 299 |
| 80 | 80 | | 1.09 | 15.85 | .306 | 2.07 | 5.39 | 50 | 280 |
| LSD(.05) | | | NS | NS | .019 | .13 | | | |

¹ Machine harvested yields corrected to 15% moisture, tons/A.

² 0-6" soil depth, 1981.

II. RESIDUAL FERTILIZER EFFECT ON SOYBEANS

RESIDUAL EFFECT OF 14-YEARS OF CORN FERTILIZATION ON IRRIGATED SOYBEAN YIELDS AT THE SANDYLAND EXPERIMENT FIELD

George TenEyck and Jim Ball

An irrigated corn fertilization study was begun in 1968 at the Sandyland Experiment Field. The same fertility treatment were applied to each individual plot through 1981. Yield results on the corn have shown a good response to nitrogen and phosphorus over the duration of the study, however, grain yields the past few years have not matched those of earlier years. Soil samples taken from individual plots in 1981 showed that a wide range in soil test phosphorus levels had developed from phosphorus application and the soil pH had been lowered markedly by the highest nitrogen application rates. For 1982 the study area was cropped to soybeans without fertilization to study the residual effect of the 14 years of corn fertilization on soybean production Table 1.

Excellent soybean yields were obtained with the highest treatment averaging 67.3 bu/A. A good yield response was obtained to the residual from previous P fertilization of the corn. There was no effect from previous nitrogen, potassium or zinc applications on yield, in spite of the fact, that pH's were found to be in the high 4's on plots receiving the high nitrogen rates over the past 14 years. Soil samples taken in the late winter showed that the soil test levels of P related to previous fertilization history. Those plots receiving no P had tests in the range of 10 to 23 lb/A, those with 50 lb/A of P₂O₅ per year for the 14 years in the range of 34 to 81 lb/A and the one treatment with 100 lb/A/yr a test of 128 lb/A. The soil test results will illustrate the value of soil tests to monitor the status of soil fertility levels.

Table 1. Residual effect of 14 years of corn fertilization on irrigated soybean yields.¹

| Previous Corn Rates | | | | Grain Yield | 1982 Soil Test Results | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|----------|---------|
| N | P ₂ O ₅ | K ₂ O | Zn ² | | pH | Avail. P | Exch. K |
| ----- lb/A ----- | | | | bu/A | | lb/A | lb/A |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 63.2 | 7.2 | 23 | 304 |
| 0 | 50 | 50 | 10 | 67.2 | 7.2 | 81 | 387 |
| 75 | 50 | 50 | 10 | 63.5 | 6.8 | 58 | 347 |
| 150 | 50 | 50 | 10 | 63.3 | 6.4 | 39 | 318 |
| 225 | 50 | 50 | 10 | 63.3 | 5.9 | 40 | 331 |
| 300 | 50 | 50 | 10 | 67.3 | 5.3 | 45 | 292 |
| 375 | 50 | 50 | 10 | 66.7 | 4.9 | 61 | 318 |
| 450 | 50 | 50 | 10 | 58.4 | 4.9 | 59 | 243 |
| 225 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 54.6 | 5.5 | 13 | 248 |
| 225 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 51.9 | 5.8 | 12 | 265 |
| 225 | 50 | 0 | 10 | 64.8 | 6.2 | 39 | 279 |
| 225 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 62.8 | 6.1 | 34 | 290 |
| 225 | 0 | 50 | 10 | 59.2 | 5.7 | 10 | 298 |
| 225 ³ | 100 | 100 | 10 | 62.5 | 5.9 | 128 | 380 |
| 225 ³ | 50 | 50 | 10 | 59.1 | 5.8 | 39 | 323 |
| 225 ³ | 50 | 50 | 10 | 60.5 | 5.8 | 45 | 291 |
| LSD .05 | | | | 8.0 | | 21 | 62 |

¹ Williams 82, planted on May 21, 1982.

² Zinc applied as ZnSO in 1968 and 1971 through 1974.

³ Split N applications during duration of corn study.

III. EFFICIENT PHOSPHORUS PLACEMENT

EFFECT OF P FERTILIZER PLACEMENT AND N SOURCE ON EARLY PLANT GROWTH, NUTRIENT COMPOSITION, AND YIELD OF GRAIN SORGHUM

East Central Kansas Experiment Field

K. A. Janssen and D. A. Whitney

A study to evaluate phosphorus fertilizer placement with two N sources was begun on grain sorghum at the East Central Kansas Experiment Field in 1980. The experimental site (Woodson silty clay loam soil), initially, tested low in soil available phosphorus (22 lbs. P/a) and medium in exchangeable potassium.

Procedure: Treatments evaluated were anhydrous ammonia knifed (6-8" deep on 15" centers) and ammonium nitrate broadcast, with P fertilizer broadcast, knifed (6-8" deep on 15" centers) and banded (2" side and 2" below the seed at planting time). The N application rate was 100 lbs. N/a. Phosphorus was applied at 40 lbs. P₂O₅/a using 18-46-0 fertilizer for broadcast and banded P applications and 10-34-0 fertilizer for knifed P applications. All fertilizers, except the banded fertilizer at planting time, were applied just prior to seedbed preparation. Pioneer 8272 grain sorghum was planted July 6, 1982. Planting was late due to a prolonged wet spring. Ramrod-atrazine, flowable, at 4 qt./a (pre-emergence), plus one cultivation was used to control weeds. Whole plants were collected on August 11 for measuring early plant growth, and for tissue analysis. Leaf samples for tissue analysis were also collected at the boot stage (August 30). Grain harvest was November 4. Results are presented in Table 43.

Results: Early season grain sorghum growth was influenced by P fertilizer and method of application. Compared to the check, bandplaced P fertilizer at planting increased 8-leaf stage, plant dry weights 1.5 times; knifed P fertilizer increased plant dry weights 1.4 times; and broadcast P fertilizer increased plant dry weights 1.2 times. Nitrogen sources, anhydrous ammonia knifed and ammonium nitrate broadcast, produced no significant difference in early plant growth.

Plant tissue P levels at the 8-leaf stage were highest in plants in which phosphorus fertilizer was broadcast (.264 % P) followed by knifed P (.246 % P) and banded P (.229 % P). This response pattern is opposite that observed in the two previous years of this study. Anhydrous ammonia knifed significantly increased plant tissue P compared to ammonium nitrate broadcast. This was the first year that N source influenced tissue P.

Grain sorghum maturity was advanced by the application of phosphorus fertilizer. Plants which received phosphorus fertilizer were several weeks ahead in maturity compared to plants in the check. This difference in maturity was likely an advantage in 1982 because of the lateness of planting and frost on October 21.

1982 grain sorghum yields were less than half that in 1981. Despite that, yield response to phosphorus was excellent. Averaged over all P fertilizer application methods, phosphorus increased yield 24.8 bu/a. Yield differences due to P placement were not statistically significant. These results differ from those recorded previous. In 1980 and 1981 both broadcast P and knifed P yielded better than banded P at planting time. Banded P at planting has a tendency to advance maturity more than broadcast P and knifed P. As a result, both years, banded P treatments encountered poorer weather conditions during critical growth stages which influenced yield.

This year for the first time nitrogen source, anhydrous ammonia knifed, significantly increased yield compared to ammonium nitrate broadcast. The reason could be related to the prolonged wet weather this spring.

Conclusions: Grain sorghum response to phosphorus fertilizer placement has not been consistent; also influence of N source has been variable. Part of the inconsistency seems to be related to the P application methods' influence on maturity of the grain sorghum and subsequent growing conditions during critical growth stages. As a result, no clear cut advantage has been observed for banded P, knifed P, or broadcast P in this study.

Table 43. EFFECT OF P FERTILIZER PLACEMENT AND N SOURCE ON EARLY PLANT GROWTH, NUTRIENT COMPOSITION, AND YIELD OF GRAIN SORGHUM

East Central Kansas Experiment Field

K. A. Janssen and D. A. Whitney

| N Application @ | | P Application @ | | Grain Yield @ | Plant Dry Weight 8-Leaf Stage g/4 Plants | Plant Tissue Composition @ ^{2/} | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|---------------|---------------|--|--|------|------------|------|
| 100 lbs. N/a | Source Method ^{1/} | 40 lbs. P ₂ O ₅ /a | Source Method | | | 8-Leaf %N %P | | Boot %N %P | |
| NH ₄ NO ₃ | BC | -- | -- | 35.8 | 32.7 | 3.18 | .225 | 2.54 | .289 |
| NH ₄ NO ₃ | BC | 18-46-0 | BC | 54.6 | 39.6 | 3.11 | .250 | 2.62 | .339 |
| NH ₄ NO ₃ | BC | 10-34-0 | KN | 67.9 | 51.3 | 2.90 | .238 | 2.65 | .314 |
| NH ₄ NO ₃ | BC | 18-46-0 | BD | 56.7 | 53.1 | 2.88 | .222 | 2.64 | .327 |
| NH ₃ | KN | -- | -- | 44.0 | 39.2 | 3.16 | .226 | 2.64 | .298 |
| NH ₃ | KN | 18-46-0 | BC | 72.5 | 45.6 | 3.20 | .277 | 2.81 | .349 |
| NH ₃ | KN | 10-34-0 | KN | 67.2 | 52.0 | 3.09 | .254 | 2.86 | .334 |
| NH ₃ | KN | 18-46-0 | BD | 69.6 | 56.3 | 3.02 | .236 | 2.82 | .321 |
| LSD .05 | | | | 13.4 | 11.0 | NS | .027 | 0.16 | .027 |
| Mean Values: | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>N-Source</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| NH ₄ NO ₃ Broadcast | | | | 53.8 | 44.2 | 3.02 | .234 | 2.61 | .317 |
| NH ₃ Knifed | | | | 63.3 | 48.3 | 3.12 | .248 | 2.78 | .326 |
| LSD .05 | | | | 6.7 | NS | NS | .013 | 0.08 | NS |
| <u>P Application Method</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| -- | | | | 39.9 | 36.0 | 3.17 | .226 | 2.59 | .294 |
| BC | | | | 63.6 | 42.6 | 3.16 | .264 | 2.71 | .344 |
| KN | | | | 67.5 | 51.7 | 3.00 | .246 | 2.75 | .324 |
| BD | | | | 63.1 | 54.7 | 2.95 | .229 | 2.73 | .324 |
| LSD .05 | | | | 9.4 | 7.8 | NS | .018 | 0.11 | .019 |

^{1/} BC (Broadcast).
 KN (Knifed into soil 6-8" deep on 15" centers).
 BD (Bandplaced at planting, 2" side and 2" below seed).

^{2/} 8-Leaf Stage - Whole plant, above ground. August 11, 1982.
 Boot Stage - Leaf below flag leaf. August 30, 1982.