

ZFSelect® Seed NEWS

A publication of Zeeland Farm Services, Inc.®

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ZFSelect

Bean Team Update

By Dan Bailey, Seed Business Manager, Zeeland Farm Services

At Zeeland Farm Services, Inc., we are excited about the new opportunities for growers in the seed business.

The focus in the future will be the “War on Weeds,” and knowing the history of herbicide-resistant weeds can help you form a plan to whip them.

Based on our history with ALS, Atrazine and PPO inhibitors, herbicide-resistant weeds are nothing new. If you continue to attempt to control weeds the same way year-after-year, you are heading for disaster.

When fighting weed infestation, it is important to be timely. Control weeds when they are smaller, in the 2- to 4-inch stage. Follow and use recommended label rates. You should use different systems for weed control. Rotate between Roundup Ready soybeans, Liberty Link soybeans and conventional soybeans – yes, conventional soybeans. That will help break the cycle of continuous Roundup use.

A great option to break the weed cycle is to plant ZFSelect® non-GMO varieties from our tested and yield-proven varieties of Low Sat

and Low Lin beans. The ZFSelect® varieties command a processor-preferred premium and can be marketed throughout the growing and marketing season.

Zeeland Farm Services offers competitive pricing, delivery options and a reliable market for your conventional soybean crop.

Treated seeds and soybeans don't mix

You may be tempted to dump your remaining seed with last year's harvested soybeans. Don't do it.

As soybean seeds treated with crop-protection products have become more popular in recent years, it has also become more important for farmers to properly dispose of leftover seed.

For example, the government of China forbids the presence of any treated seed in commodity soybean shipments arriving at its ports, and farmers violating U.S. laws on treated seed disposal may be subject to legal action.

To protect the integrity of the U.S. soybean

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Grain Market Update

By **Kurt Bergstedt**, Grain Merchandiser, Zeeland Farm Services

If you take away anything from this article let it be the old adage, “The cure for higher prices, are higher prices.”

Recently, most of the focus seems to have been on corn, but let’s look at soybeans instead. As I write this, July bean futures are \$15.72. Beans have been around a long time, and only once have they had a nearby contract high above \$15 (\$16.63 in 2008). Three months

after that high, the nearby contract was around \$8.50. When prices get this high, options are a good strategy to use.

Today, you could buy a \$13 November put for 24.5 cents. Puts are a good strategy to use when markets seem like they can’t go back down, like in 2008. Wow, did we prove that wrong. It seems like the majority of the time options lose money, but the one time

they pay out usually makes up for all the losses.

If you bought this \$13 put at this premium, you would give yourself a minimum price of \$12.75 November bean futures. Which, as of today’s basis (-.55 the November), means a minimum price of \$12.20. Each option is 5,000 bushels worth of coverage/insurance.



Dier Tracks

By **Brian Dierberger**, Agronomist, Zeeland Farm Services

The fact that many areas of Michigan are short on rain so far this growing season, coupled with a low-snowfall winter, soil moisture and drought stress is on everyone’s mind.

The common thought is that soybeans will withstand extended drought stress better than corn. There is a small amount of truth to that, but understand that any crop will suffer yield loss without adequate soil moisture.

Different plants have different pathways for photosynthesis.

Soybeans use a system that is commonly referred to as “C3”, while corn uses a system known as “C4.”

Under hot, dry conditions, C3 plants simply shut down the process of photosynthesis. C4 plants close their stomata (think of it like the plant is closing its mouth and holding its

breath) during the hot conditions, regardless of the amount of moisture available.

What we see as drought tolerance by soybeans more closely resembles dormancy.

Here is to hope and prayer that we see some significant change in the rainfall pattern soon. I look forward to seeing your fields later this summer.



New Product Showcase

ZFSelect® 830 LL



Benefits

- Processor preferred
- Irrigates well
- Superstar top yielder

Management Tips

- Drill or row
- No-till tested
- Great Emergence

Product characteristic	Value
Yield	4
Relative maturity	3.0
White mold	3
Avg. seed per pound	2,600
Processor preferred	Yes
Standability	4
Emergence	4
No-till adaptability	4
Soybean cyst nematode	S
Good ground	5
Marginal ground	4
Muck	2
Hilum color	Black
Plant type	Intermediate

1 = Poor, 5 = Best, S = susceptible



Summer Seed Intern

By Nick Reigler, Zeeland Farm Services Summer Seed Intern

Hello. My name is Nick Reigler and I'm the summer intern in the Seed Division at Zeeland Farm Services, Inc.

I come from a farming, excavating and trucking background in the very small town of Freeport.

The outdoors is my passion and I'm an avid hunter, as well as a motorsports enthusiast.

Being of smaller stature, I wrestled

in high school, where the competition was closer to my size. However, football and basketball are by far my favorite sports to watch.

I am entering my fourth and final year at Michigan State University, where I'm majoring



in agribusiness management, specializing in crop and soil sciences.

Last year, I worked for Crop Production Services in Greenville and was introduced to the broad spectrum of chemicals and fertilizers.

This summer, Dan Bailey has allowed me the opportunity to assist him in the Seed Sales department at ZFS, where I am enjoying an exciting and educating summer.



Fungicides Can Increase Soybean Yields

By Charles Scovill, Southern Michigan Agronomic Service Rep. - Syngenta

So, you've done everything right this year. You planted your non-GMO soybeans in a timely manner, the soil was in good condition, the stand came up and the weeds have been managed effectively.

Well, that was certainly the plan, but Mother Nature doesn't always follow our plans. Either way, that part of the season is done and over with, so what now?

Some farmers believe that it's all over

except the harvest at this point. However, I will assume that if you are still reading this you are growing non-GMO soybeans, and you actually want to get more out of your crop's potential than the average farmer.

With that in mind, it is time for you to give serious consideration to adding a fungicide application to your soybean crop this year.

Like many things in life, timing is everything. Fungicides have shown

the greatest yield gains when applied at the R3 growth stage (when pods are 5mm long at one of the four uppermost nodes).

Quilt Xcel® is a broad spectrum preventative fungicide with systemic and curative properties recommended for the control of many important plant diseases.

Begin planning your fungicide applications soon, or be ready to simply take what everybody else gets at harvest.



Bean Team (continued)

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supply, it's imperative that farmers avoid mixing treated seed with harvested soybeans. Taking these extra steps can be hard, but proper disposal ensures we continue to produce a safe and abundant supply of food, feed, fiber and

fuel. Continue to scout soybean fields regularly and manage fields for insects, disease and pests only when needed.

The June 27 MSU Weed Tour with Christy Sprague was a great success. Please see photos on Page 4.

The DF Seeds' Best of the Best Plot Day is Aug. 9. Contact any member of The Bean Team for more information.

The plot will showcase non-GMO, Liberty Link and Roundup Ready soybeans.

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2012 MSU Weed Tour

