



DID YOU KNOW?



Fertilizer: a chemical or natural substance added to soil or land to increase its fertility.



Organic matter: matter that has come from a recently living organism.



Compost: an easy way to turn waste into useable material.



Agricultural aircraft: an aircraft that has been built or converted for agriculture use.



Pesticide: a substance used for preventing, repelling, or mitigating any pests.



Herbicide: a substance that is used to destroy unwanted vegetation.

FERTILIZER OPTIONS

When talking about fertilizer you might think that synthetic (man-made) or chemical fertilizer is the only way farmers fertilize their crops. But fertilizer is a general term for adding plant nutrients. If you want to increase the soil's fertility and add more nutrients to the soil you would use fertilizer. A lot of farmers will use different types of fertilizers. Some will be natural like livestock manure or compost and others can be synthetic. Manure is a good fertilizer because of the natural nutrients like NPK (nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium) that help plants grow. It's also a lot more efficient for farmers to use since manure is readily available to farmers with crops and livestock.



EQUIPMENT



With new technology coming out and new advances being made, there are many different ways we can apply fertilizer, herbicide, and pesticides to the crops. The most common way is to use a tall sprayer. These are usually owned by a cooperative and are big enough that they can drive in between the rows of corn and soybeans. Recently, planes and drones have been more common and modified for agricultural purposes. Using a drone with a soil map allows farmers to be more accurate when applying.

TIMING

Just like there's an ideal time to plant, time there is also a specific time to apply fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides to the crops. Usually, fertilizer is applied either before planting or right after when the seed is still underground. Then depending on what type of herbicide that's being used it's either applied before the weeds emerge or after. Finally, pesticides can be applied before planting as a treated seed or sprayed directly on the plant.



FUN FACTS

- Agriculture is the single largest employer in the world.
- Just in the U.S., there are 914 million acres of farmland.
- The average U.S. farmer can feed 155 people.

Brought to you by:



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Scott, Benton & Linn County

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JOKE OF THE DAY

What do you call a happy farmer?

A Jolly Rancher!