

November '25 Monthly Crop Report

Early '26 Growing Season Fertility Application Thoughts

It's no secret crop inputs have soared, making each fertility decision more and more important. Fall and/or winter applications may be a cost-effective solution, with anhydrous ammonia being a "cheaper" commercial option on a cost per unit basis (nothing's cheap). Anhydrous can be a reliable fertility source, when incorporated properly. For being the first of November, it has felt like a relatively warm fall; Kansas Mesonet reflects this, showing an average soil temperature of 54 degrees as of November 4th. This makes anhydrous ammonia application timing just a tad early, as optimal conditions are when those temperatures are below 50 degrees. The reason for this is that when ammonia is injected into the soil, it disperses in the soil reacting with soil moisture within a retention zone of three to six inches, approximately. As the ammonia reacts with water molecules, it forms plant available nitrogen. With soil temperatures below that 50-degree threshold, nitrification slows dramatically and holds your crop input in the soil for a substantially longer time period than that of pelletized fertilizer options. To help delay the nitrification process and keep as much viable product in the retention zone as long as possible, I would recommend using some type of nitrification inhibitor as well. NH₃ is not going to be an option for every producer out there, but for those considering it can provide logistical and cost saving advantages.

Farming Operations Seeing Vastly Different Economical Situations

Livestock revenues will make up more than half of the state's projected \$6.2 billion increase this year, but continued uncertainty lies ahead. This is according to Joe Parcell, director of the K-State Risk Management Center as he works in cooperation across the College of Business, Agriculture, and Engineering. Cattle producers are continuing to see strong profits, as shown through multiple sale barn record sales this year. On the flip side, row-crop farmers are dealing with tight margins and higher costs that have become the new expected normal.

"The one glaring issue out there is the difference between row crop farming and livestock farming. The other is what's going on in the equipment sector – and not just on farm. It's not just the farms, but it's the banks that are lending them money and what kind of situation that they're in, especially our local community banks."

A "Fall 2025 Farm Income Outlook for Kansas" created by the University of Missouri in collaboration with K-State, showed optimism for grain producers with crop receipts projected to rise by 8% in 2025, with increases expected across all four major commodities. One large factor could be tied to more persistent moisture accumulations than that of the couple previous years. For a complete look at the docket:

https://raff.missouri.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Fall_2025-Kansas-Farm-Income-Outlook.pdf



"Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after."

Henry David Thoreau