

Nitrogen strip trial evaluated at field day

This article was published on FarmWeekNow.com on September 3rd and written by IFB Digital Communications Specialist Ali Seys.

U.S. Rep Cheri Bustos and State Rep. Norine Hammond joined nearly 60 farmers to learn about nitrogen efficiency. Warren-Henderson Farm Bureau provided a great opportunity for local farmers and researchers to showcase research efforts to improve nitrogen use efficiency. Last week's event represented the final field day as part of Illinois Farm Bureau's 2019 Nutrient Stewardship Grant Program. Host farmer Jacob Baker approached his county Farm Bureau with the idea to showcase a nitrogen strip trial that experts could evaluate and discuss with attendees. "A lot of people don't use N-Serve with ammonia in the spring and that's sort of a question around our area, whether they should be adding it or not as an added expense," he said. "So, you have to justify it." Baker said it allowed farmers to see the field before harvest and make their own opinions on if it will benefit their fields.

U.S. Rep Cheri Bustos, D-East Moline, and State Rep. Norine Hammond, R-Macomb, joined the nearly 60 attendees for lunch to discuss science, policy and get an update on crop conditions. Bustos later tweeted, "Such a great turnout for the Field Day Lunch with Warren-Henderson County Farm Bureau! Issues like trade, health care & rural broadband access are top of mind for folks. I'll continue to bring your voices to the table and work to deliver real results for our farm families."

In addition to the strip trial, experts discussed the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy and what it means to Illinois farmers. The event allowed educators to share information on improving profitability via nitrogen management while also improving the understanding of the practices that minimize nitrogen losses. Presenters included Gina Long, Warren-Henderson Farm Bureau manager; Lauren Lurkins, director of environmental policy at IFB; Haley Haverback, U of I Extension watershed outreach associate; and Philip Alberti, U of I Extension commercial agriculture educator.

This W-HFB Nitrogen Strip Trial Field Day was held on the morning of Friday, August 30th just off of 34 between Kirkwood and Monmouth. W-HFB received an Illinois Farm Bureau Nutrient Stewardship last fall and with it decided to do a nitrogen rate trial comparing anhydrous ammonia applied in April to liquid nitrogen applied in June at varying rates. The goal is to determine which product will have the least nitrogen losses with maximum yield. The nitrogen sources applied include anhydrous ammonia, anhydrous ammonia with N-Serve, liquid nitrogen, and liquid nitrogen with Preserve N, each applied at varying rates of 120, 170, 200, and 230 lbs. per acre. Nitrogen soil test and tissue tests have been collected throughout the growing season. Results will be compiled after harvest and will be made available.

Photo Caption : US Congresswoman Cheri Bustos and IL Representative Norine Hammond were able to be on hand for August 30th's Nitrogen Strip Trial Field Day outside Kirkwood. From L to R: Michael Moore, Janelle Duckwiler, Gayle Baker, Gina Long, Congresswoman Cheri Bustos, Justin Allaman, Phillip Alberti, Haley Haverback, Josh Dean, Jacob Baker, and Lauren Lurkins.

Photo Caption 2: Attendees take a look at the nitrogen field plot trial and view signs stating different nitrogen sources, rates, and costs per acre while waiting for a Tri-County Cattlemen meal at August's field day.

