Wheat and Canola Top-dress Fertility Options

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Jackson Co. Winter Ag Conference
Topdress Rate...?..

• Things to consider in reverse order
• Optimist vs Pessimist
  – Worried about losing yield or wasting money.
• What was your preplant fertility
• What was the previous crop
  – What was its fertility and yield
• And may be number one.
So.....

- What does your wheat look like
So......

• What does your canola look like
The 3 Levels of our Crops

• The Big stuff
  – Wheat with 5 to 6 tillers and 5-6 inches tall
  – Canola, 75+ viable stand, canopy closure

• Middle Ground
  – Wheat with 3 to 4 tillers, rows open
  – Canola, 60+ viable stand, rows open

• Struggling..
  – Wheat recently germ, 0-2 tillers.
  – Canola, -50% viable stand, lots of dead plants
The Big Stuff

• What do you have under it?
• What do you think the weather will do?
• Manage for an average year.
• If it does not rain this crop is a risk.
Middle Ground

- May be the highest potential.
- Based on tilling fertilize for average
- Pay close attention to past fertility and preplant.
Struggling

- Expect well below average yield.
- 10-15ish bushel acre.
- Fertilize, or not, based on this.
Sources

• Urea 46-0-0
  – + Cool weather and precip
  – - warm humid windy weather

• UAN 32-0-0/28-0-0
  – Streamer Nozzle especially on No-till
  – Can flat fan with herbicide
Sources

• Anhydrous 82-0-0
  – Cheapest
  – + soil moisture to 6 inches

• Ammonium Nitrate 34-0-0
  – All around good source when temps are above 55-60 and it is humid and windy.
  – In this scenario the added cost is worth it.
Thank you!!!

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