

Start Strong

Four Key Steps Can Help Soybeans Get A Head Start

BETTY VALLE GEGG-NAEGER

MidAmerica Farmer Grower

PERRYVILLE, MO.

One of the main goals for Syngenta is to help farmers grow more soybeans. To support that, Quinn Showalter, Commercial Traits Product Lead for Syngenta, is presenting a four-fold plan to help farmers attain that goal.

“In soybeans, we really think there’s three stages with respect to growing more soybeans,” he said. “The first is to Start Strong.”

Growers need to build a solid foundation going into planting to ensure they give their fields every advantage possible before weeds, insect pests, diseases and weather come into play.

“The second step is to help farmers Grow Strong during the vegetative stages of production,” Showalter added. “Then the third stage is to Yield Strong. That’s really the reproduction stage and we want to show them what they need to be doing to maximize that development through June and July. We will be going out to farmers and talking about that.”

To Start Strong, there are four key steps a farmer needs to follow. The first is variety selection and placement.

“A farmer needs to understand by field what he needs in a variety,” he stated. “Does he have a specific disease in that field, are there specific weeds he needs to target? The placement side of that is the right population and row spacing,

planting in 15-inch rows or less.”

The second part of that is using high performance seed treatments, fungicide and insecticide seed treatments. The third part is to have a nutrient management plan for the soybeans.

“A lot of farmers just fertilize for corn, but there’s a lot of information to show that soybeans can do much better with the proper fertility,” Showalter said.

The fourth part of starting strong is planting early. That depends a lot upon the locality. For the northern states like Illinois or Indiana early would be from late April to early May. Planting early isn’t that important in the south, but the optimum planting time for states like Kentucky, Missouri and Kansas is typically mid-April to mid-May.

Syngenta representatives can help farmers select NK soybean brands that meet the needs of a specific field.

“Our dealers and retailers work hand in hand with growers by field to choose the NK soybeans that meet their needs,” he said. “Then there’s the high performance seed treatments in Cruiser Maxx Beans applied with Vibrance and Avicta Complete Beans. Those are the products that we offer from Syngenta to help plants Start Strong.”

△

BETTY VALLE GEGG-NAEGER: Senior Staff Writer, MidAmerica Farmer Grower