

AGGRAND® NEWS

Dealer Saves Big, Salvages Wheat Harvest With AGGRAND Fertilizers

Dealer Mark Reed of Julesburg, Colo. this season saved about \$26,000 using AGGRAND Natural Liquid Fertilizers.

Until this year, Reed used chemical fertilizers at a cost of about \$30,000 on 773 acres of hard, red winter wheat, commonly used for bread flours. He spent \$4,000 on AGGRAND fertilizers this year. "That's a cost of only \$5 an acre," Reed said. "It's a huge savings."

He started planting his wheat on September 15, finishing in late October or early November. The planted rows were side dressed, or banded, with AGGRAND 4-3-3 Natural Liquid Fertilizer and AGGRAND 0-12-0 Natural Liquid Bonemeal. Reed mixed 40 gallons of AGGRAND to 1,000 gallons of water and applied the mixture at five gallons per acre.

"In the beginning of the season the wheat looked just as good as everyone else's," Reed said. Then he noticed the plants were healthier and the root system was better. "The better the root system the better the



HEALTHY WHEAT HEADS — Colorado Dealer Mark Reed's wheat fields early in the 2009 season thrive with AGGRAND Natural Liquid Fertilizers.

uptake of water and nutrients out of the ground. The plants are more sustainable and thrive better," he said. Reed was getting 32 seeds per wheat head compared to 28 seeds per head on his neighbor's crops.

Reed is a third-generation farmer who knows Mother Nature has the last say about crop yields. Northeast Colorado got hit with more than 30 inches of rain this season, more than double the typical rainfall. "Eight major hail storms came through here this year," Reed said. "We took a 40 percent loss. Some farmers got nothing."

Despite the extensive damage from the weather, he harvested between 21 and 31 bushels of wheat per acre, which is about average.

"It would have been up to 45 to 50 bushels an acre before the hail," he said. Although he suffered a big loss, Reed credits AGGRAND with helping him to make it through a tough growing season.



FIELDS OF WHEAT — Dealer Mark Reed's 773 acres of winter wheat fertilized with AGGRAND fertilizers.

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Melons Thrive With AGGRAND In Hot, Dry Growing Season

Castroville, Texas had a dry summer, but Dealer Troy Klump grew the giant melons on this page using AGGRAND Natural Liquid Fertilizers.

“It was an awesome challenge to get them to grow with very little water,” Klump said. “It was more expensive to water than it was to buy the AGGRAND fertilizers.”

Klump grew the melons in a 20-foot by 20-foot garden. He watered the ground, then tilled it. He applied a mixture of one gallon of AGGRAND Natural Fertilizer, 4-3-3, one quart of AGGRAND Natural Kelp and Sulfate of Potash, 0-0-8, and one quart of AGGRAND Natural Liquid Bonemeal, 0-12-0, to 25 gallons of water.

“I tilled it in about five inches and planted the seeds five feet apart,” Klump said.

During the blooming period, Klump foliar fed an added mixture of one gallon of AGGRAND 4-3-3 and one quart of AGGRAND 0-0-8 in 25 gallons of water to the plants.

It took 124 days for the melons to mature. “I didn’t think any of them were going to get ripe, Klump said. “They were green forever. But, finally I got 36 cantaloupes, and only one of them wasn’t sweet. The watermelons were the sweetest, sweet as sugar.”

The cantaloupes averaged about 28 to 30 pounds. “One of the watermelons was 50 pounds, but the average was 35 to 40 pounds,” Klump said. “I could barely fit it into the refrigerator.”

Farmers often are slow to try something new, Klump said. “I didn’t sell one drop of AGGRAND until they saw what I was growing,” he said. “Seeing is believing every time.”



BUMPER MELON HARVEST — Dealer Troy Klump of Castroville, Texas has used AGGRAND Natural Fertilizers for the past seven years. He displays the huge, sweet watermelons and cantaloupes he grew this past summer even during an unusually dry growing season.



Colorado Farmer Improves Yield, Reduces Cost With AGGRAND Fertilizers

Last year's high fertilizer costs sent Tom Hicks of Montrose, Colo. to the Internet to find cheaper, yet effective, fertilizers.

Hicks manages K-M Ranch, located in the Colorado mountainside above Montrose. The ranch is at 7,500 feet average elevation and is owned by Dealers Kent and Misti Mazzia. Hicks is Misti's father.

Online research led Hicks to AGGRAND Natural Liquid Fertilizers for the ranch where they grow and sell "alfalfa and grass hay and 12,000 beautiful Colorado Blue Spruce trees," Hicks said. There are 200 acres of irrigated land, 860 total acres.

Last year's production for the first cutting of hay was 160 tons, Hicks said. This year's first cutting found the yield much improved. "With the AGGRAND 4-3-3 and AGGRAND Natural Kelp and Sulfate of Potash 0-0-8, we had an increase in our first cutting of hay production from 160 tons to 232 tons," Hicks said.

Last year, the field was fertilized with 28 percent liquid nitrogen at four gallons per acre at a cost of about \$39 an acre, Hicks said.

"This year, using AGGRAND 4-3-3 and 0-0-8, the cost was lowered to about \$33 per acre and lowered our cost by \$6 an acre over the time-released liquid nitrogen product used last year," Hicks said.

Hicks said the fields have been unfertilized for years before he took over management. "We've done quite a bit of experimenting," he said.

Soil analysis revealed a need for more sulfur, but they couldn't afford to put in the granular sulfur that needs time to work into the soil, Hicks said.

"AGGRAND got nutrients into the grasses right away," he said. "Within a few weeks I could see the differ-

ence. For our first try, it was pretty impressive. I'm really quite pleased with the AGGRAND."

He sprayed his mixture of AGGRAND fertilizer at a ratio of five gallons of solution to 100 gallons of water on part of one field and could see where the grass was four inches taller in the section sprayed with AGGRAND.

"The biggest increase we saw was in 70 acres of mixed alfalfa," he said. "The yield went from 70 tons last year to 142 tons this year."



SPECTACULAR COLORADO — The K-M Ranch high above Montrose, Colo., where ranch manager Tom Hicks is increasing yields and reducing costs using AGGRAND Natural Fertilizers.
Below: Bales of AGGRAND-fertilized hay await pick up.



AGGRAND Issues Online **Your Source for In-Depth Information**

There's more to farming, gardening or landscaping than simply putting seeds in the ground and letting them grow. Those plants need nutrition, the soil needs to be balanced and you need to know how much AGGRAND fertilizers work for all of these different applications.

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AGGRAND Helps Preserve Future for Farming

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“We can survive better with the better bottom line in costs for the fertilizers,” he said.

Reed, who also grows millet used for bird feed, started experimenting with AGGRAND fertilizers last fall.

“I sprayed the edge of one field with AGGRAND and it’s taller, thicker and really dark green,” he said. His straw fields are thicker and heavier than ever before, as well, he said. “I’m going to foliar feed in the spring.” Plants typically absorb up to 20 times more nutrients through foliar feeding of AGGRAND fertilizers.

Although price is one big reason Reed is sold on AGGRAND fertilizers, he also uses them because of their benefits to the environment. “I think it’s important to leave less of a carbon footprint,” he said. “I just think it’s the thing to do.”

He recalled his youth when water out of the hose tasted great and never left spots on things. Now, he doesn’t drink water from the tap. “It tastes nasty,” he said. “The ground water has become hard as a result of over fertilization with chemicals.”

He has a son coming up to start farming and he wants to be part of preserving a way of life. He is sold on AGGRAND fertilizers and has “recommended them to several others,” Reed said.

“I’m hoping everything will still be there in the future,” he said. “AGGRAND fertilizers are better for the environment and replenish the soil. It’s natural and the pH is better. And we get a better yield. I feel real good about contributing to that.”



LARGE WHEAT PLANTS — The ruler in the photo above shows the size of the wheat seed heads on Dealer Mark Reed’s winter wheat field earlier this year.

He will use AGGRAND fertilizers on all of his fields this fall. He’ll continue to plant 160 acres of millet, but the rest of his 2,100 acres will be planted with wheat.

Reed also has a small vegetable garden that did better this year than he expected. “The tomato plants are three-and-a-half feet tall and we have a bunch of tomatoes,” he said. “It’s our best year ever for tomatoes.”

The beans, peppers, zucchini and watermelons also did well. “I’m actually amazed the garden is doing as well as it is,” Reed said.

He planted nine rose plants this year, starting with soaking the hole for the rose bushes overnight in a solution of AGGRAND fertilizers. He also did a couple of foliar feedings during the season. “I haven’t lost a single rose plant,” Reed said. “Usually I have to replant them every year. And they’re planted in an area that was all gravel.”

Presentation Details How to Interpret Soil Analysis Report

AGGRAND natural fertilizer division has posted online an informative Voice-Over-PowerPoint presentation on the soil analysis program. It is an in-depth look at interpreting and using the Soil Analysis Report. To view the VOPP presentation, go to the Dealer Zone Online Education and Training Area.

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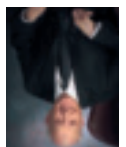


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