

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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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.