

Producer questions on fertilizer:

When is liquid fertilizer better, And when is pellet better?

How long before a rain should liquid be put out?

What if no rain in sight will liquid still do its job when dry waiting for rain ?

My answer:

As for applying nitrogen, liquid versus dry is about the same except for pricing, just depends on cost of product used. Some say ammonium nitrate(dry) is better than UAN 32-0 and does the plant more good and I tend to agree, and I have seen that in some trials we did over the last few years on Coastal Bermudagrass. Usually 32-0 is cheaper and you can also apply your weed killer with liquid, so its one pass versus two. That is unless you use Grazon Next or Chaparral and impregnate the fertilizer granules with it and that works real good in our trials but it's a little higher in price. You would use a dry over liquid when soil test says you need phosphorus and/or potassium in addition to nitrogen, unless you have already taken care of those P & K requirements earlier in the year. You can use a dry blend to supply required nutrients needed from that soil test and it takes about 60-90 days for P to get in the ground so it does need to be put out much earlier than your nitrogen. If we get flooding rains you may lose a good bit of nitrogen from the dry blend but the P & K should stay put. Liquid does tend to volatilize more so you need to get a rain on it as soon as possible for best results, although it will go in the ground relatively fast if you have good soil moisture or a few heavy dews. And using liquid we get a burn on the grass that we normally don't see as bad using a dry blend, excluding weedkiller of course. I would not put out liquid or dry with no soil moisture or no rain in the forecast for the foreseeable future.

Hope this helps,

Marty Morgan, Wise County Ag Agent