DeltAg Product Brief February 27, 2012

Winter Wheat...

...Cold Nights & Heavy Rains ...you need *PercPlus*

In many areas of Ag-Country, the past several weeks of constant rains and cold nights have left wheat fields with an orange looking chlorosis, poor response to nitrogen applications and slowed growth. In many cases, this is the result of earlier unseasonably warm weather followed by active growth and then getting slammed with cold-wet weather. Fast growing wheat later slammed with cold-wet weather will suffer through the loss of older foliage, delayed tillering and possibly even delayed joint initiation. The greatest issue in this type situation is that the root system gets hammered just like the top portion that we can see, so the crop has to basically just sit there and suffer for a period of time, waiting on improved weather conditions. When the weather pattern returns to favorable conditions for several days, the crop will begin to recover. The bottom line is loss of time in crop development. Also, if nitrogen had been applied previous to this weather change, a major portion of that nitrogen could have been lost before the crop ever had a chance to respond.

Maintain Crop Health, Nitrogen Response and Spring Tillering: If you are looking at fall planted wheat that is discolored and has not tillered properly, and in some cases has not responded properly to nitrogen applications, you really need to consider a foliar application of *PercPlus* at 24 to 32 ounces to help get this wheat back on track. This application may be made with foliar herbicides or with liquid nitrogen. This has been a long standing practice in wheat. The key to this entire situation is a healthy and active plant.

Avoid Foliar Burn When Possible: While the wheat crop is still discolored with sluggish growth, the last thing we need is to create more stress by utilizing liquid nitrogen that could cause even more leaf burn and additional stress. *DeltAg Sulfur Plus* at 32 to 48 ounces/acre added to liquid nitrogen has been observed by many growers to help reduce and sometimes eliminate this burn. It is best to apply straight nitrogen with only *Sulfur Plus* added and no other sulfur material in the mix. *Sulfur Plus* is not formulated to deliver pounds of sulfur, but to take advantage of organic residual sulfur as discussed in a previous <u>DeltAg Product Brief</u>. The only exception to this practice of using *Sulfur Plus* as your only sulfur would be when your soils are very coarse textured sand that is low in organic mater (below 0.5%). In this situation we recommend a conventional sulfur source and for wheat our preference is almost always granular ammonium sulfate.

<u>Early Boot or Flag Leaf</u>: When its time to make a fungicide application, consider adding *CropKarb* at 32 ounces per acre to increase final yield and quality. While we always recommend a jar test, we have had no reports of mixing problems when applying *CropKarb* with fungicides and the crop results have been very positive.