

AUGUST--

- 6—Colorado State University Agronomy Center Field Day, Fort Collins.
 12-14—Colorado Cattle Feeders Association meeting, Marriots Mark Resort, Vail.
 29—Western Colorado Research Project, Fruita Research Center, Fruita.

mates. "I wouldn't apply it on sandy soils, however. And I'd want to be certain I had good weed control in the field from that point on—something you'd be much more assured of if you applied atrazine after the nitrogen."

Gary Colliver, chief agronomist at Farmland Industries, Kansas City, agrees that farmers have a great deal of flexibility when applying anhydrous ammonia.

"However, if you're going to

put down anhydrous right after wheat harvest or 14 to 15 months ahead of planting, I'd do so only in such climates as western Kansas and eastern Colorado. In more eastern areas with higher rainfall, you might have some leaching losses with the advance nitrogen application," Colliver says.

He also cautions farmers not to apply anhydrous if soil conditions after wheat harvest are hard and cloddy because of the chance of losing it due to poor

coverage and soil sealing.

The agronomist also notes that while buying anhydrous early might spare your budget from later price increases in the material, you've also got to take into consideration interest costs if you've borrowed money to buy the anhydrous.

Colliver also says if you're using the early anhydrous application as an alternative to a later liquid or dry nitrogen application, there will definitely be some cost savings. ■

Anhydrous after wheat harvest?

EASTERN Colorado wheat farmers looking for ways to stretch their nitrogen during dry weather might want to apply anhydrous ammonia immediately after cutting wheat—a full 14 to 15 months ahead of planting their next crop.

Dr. Darryl Snika, USDA agronomist, Akron, points out that the main advantage of an early application of anhydrous is that later fall and winter precipitation will gradually pull some of the nitrogen down into the soil profile.

"This is important because as the plant withdraws moisture from the soil, it'll also be withdrawing nitrogen—regardless from where in the profile the water is coming from. If, however, the nitrogen were applied in the last tillage operation prior to planting, the nitrogen might be concentrated in the top 6 inches of soil. Then when that dried out, the nitrogen would be unavailable to the crop," Snika says.

Snika says in studies in eastern Colorado, they've found that early post harvest anhydrous application always produced wheat yields as good as and sometimes better than applications at other times. "But it's never produced lower yields than when anhydrous was applied the next summer prior to planting," he says.

He notes, though, that he'd restrict the early anhydrous application to semi-arid cli-

Colo Rancher - Farmer
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