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*International Ag Labs
presents*

Farming's Next Frontier

FOLIAR PLANT NUTRITION



June 29-30, 2010
Branson, Missouri



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Day 1: 8 am – 5 pm

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1984 State Highway 165
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International Ag Labs

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James Lovelady

International Ag Labs is pleased to have **James LoveLady** speak on how to interpret plant tissue analysis and how to use this information to improve crop quality and yield. James is a master at this and consults on a wide array of crops (anything from strawberries to pecans) in California's San Joaquin valley.



Dr. Dan Skow

Dan Skow will be sharing on the practical aspects of foliar spraying. If you have questions about foliar spraying and are looking for answers come and throw the book at him—we will all learn in the process. Dan will also cover the following major objection to foliar spraying: **"Foliar spraying takes too much time."**



Wendell Owens

Wendell Owens, a longtime consultant and farmer will be sharing a number of true stories showing foliar successes and failures. He will then interpret these stories to give you the key principles of success and the red flags to avoid failure. This could save you a lot of agony—don't miss his long years of experience. Wendell will cover the following major objection to foliar spraying: **"Foliar spraying costs too much thus it doesn't really pay."**



Jon Frank

Jon Frank will be taking a birds-eye view and then a close up view of plant leaves. The goal is how to make leaves super efficient. Jon will also cover the major objection to foliar spraying: **"Foliar spraying is not needed if you just have a good soil program."**

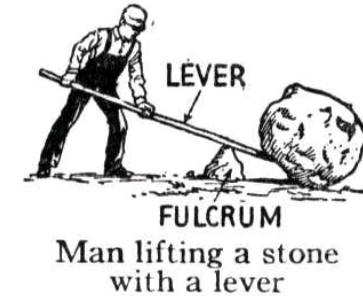
The Neglected Step Child of Crop Nutrition

With the possible exception of soil microbes beneath our feet no other sphere of crop production lies so wide open and unexplored as feeding plants through their leaves.

Most universities and large agri-business corporations are just waking up to the idea that foliar plant nutrition might be of some advantage. Meanwhile, back in the private sector, foliar feeding has been in practice among knowledgeable consultants and farmers for over 50 years.

It has often been said "Don't feed the plant—rather feed the soil and the soil will feed the plant automatically." **While this statement seems intuitively correct it is not.** Ideally we must feed the biology in the soil, feed the plant at the root level, and feed the plant directly through the leaves. For too long feeding plants through the leaves has been the neglected step child of crop nutrition—an after thought if the farmer had some extra time.

So what is foliar plant nutrition? In essence foliar feeding is a fulcrum point allowing the farmer to apply tremendous leverage toward crop production and quality. In plain English this means that with only minimal inputs great results can be achieved **when properly applied**. There is a catch of course. Just like in the analogy of a large boulder and a crowbar the fulcrum point must be used and it must be positioned properly. If the fulcrum point is at the wrong end of the crowbar nothing moves.



Similarly, the leverage of foliar spraying must be applied properly in order to obtain the desired results. What kind of results are we talking about?

- An increase in 6 bushels of soybeans from only 1 foliar application less than a month before harvest.
- A reduction in bitter pit in honey crisp apples from 30% down to 1% by following a regular foliar program.
- A 8-fold increase in dry matter compared to a control plot harvested from a New Zealand forage paddock in the midst of a severe drought with only 8 foliar applications.

The question that begs to be answered is: how can foliar feeding provide this much leverage? The answer lies in truly understanding how leaves function and how to increase their **efficiency** of capturing solar energy. It is also keenly important to know when, how, and what to spray on plants. A misunderstanding here could cost you big time.