



# CROP SOLUTIONS THAT WORK

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## A successful 2019 corn crop

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Looking forward to the 2019 corn crop, there are a few things we can do to help manage disease differently than we have in the past. Below are four ways to help you do this:

1. Starting this fall, we can choose our hybrids more carefully. **Hybrid selection** is very important. Consider choosing more than one hybrid per field and even more in larger fields. This creates less risk. The risk of ear rot infection happens ten to 21 days after silking, so in varying the hybrids you can likely decrease the chance of infection in the field. When sitting down with your crop sales specialist make sure to ask about different flowering dates and what they would suggest on a field by field basis.
2. In the spring we want to promote an **even stand**. Uneven emergence can happen if you work ground too wet which creates cloddy soils, try to avoid this. When planting make sure to get out of the tractor often and check seeding depth this will assist in a more uniform emergence. The later emerging plants typically have higher moisture, lower stalk strength as well as varying crop stages which makes it hard to time fungicide and insecticide application.
3. Scouting your fields in season is critical. With the increase in pest pressure including western bean cutworm and corn earworm, we need to be checking fields at critical timing to see if we need to control pest. There are **insecticides** available in order to manage these pests. New technology is becoming available next year that could be able to spot certain pests from an aerial imagery. This would help quantify the problem and allow for a better treatment recommendation.



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4. **Fungicides** are very important. Beyond helping with plant health there are fungicides available to help with reduction in both incidence and severity of ear rot infections. Application timing differs slightly, so make sure to ask your crop sales specialist when is the best time to apply. Preliminary data is showing that spraying a fungicide aimed at protecting the ear may decrease the DON levels by as much as half.

By adjusting a few of our management practices we can alleviate some of the issues we have had this fall. Next year brings new challenges, but by setting ourselves up with these small changes, we are ensuring a better chance of success.

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