

## Crops Bulletin

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**Questions on Urea application.** The potential for loss of the N from urea to the air causes concern each spring. It will volatilize (change to a gas) if it is not incorporated with tillage or moved into the soil with rainfall. The following are some scenarios that describe N loss from urea. *Liquid N solutions are half urea.*

Conditions that *favor* volatilization losses of N from surface applied urea

- soil surface damp or wet
- warm (70 F) sunny conditions
- high pH soils
- high amounts of crop residue

Conditions that *lessen* the chance of urea volatilization

- dry soil surface
- cool air temperature
- neutral or slightly acid soil pH
- low amounts of crop residue

There will be minimal volatilization losses of urea if incorporation or a half-inch of rainfall occurs within two to three days. Nitrogen loss from volatilization can be 30% in a worst case scenario (15% from liquid N solutions).

**Crop blog.** Iowa Farmer Today and the ISU Corn and Soybean Initiative have teamed up to offer the CropWatch Blog. Industry Agronomists and ISU agronomists will post comments on a regular basis to the blog. View the CropWatch Blog at <http://www.iowafarmertoday.com/blog/>

**Pesticide applicator testing.** Pesticide applicator certification testing is available in northwest Iowa at locations in Primghar and Garner during the spring and summer months. Testing is also available at some community college locations – on an appointment basis. See ‘testing schedule’ at <http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/pesticides.asp> or call your local extension office.

Check stored grain. Field work takes priority this time of year, but be sure to check corn in storage. Operate aeration fans during cool nights to maintain grain quality.