

# CROP PHYSIOLOGY FIELD DAY

## “STAIRWAY TO YIELD 🎵”

DATE: THURSDAY, AUGUST 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2026

LOCATION: 4202 S. FIRST ST., SAVOY, IL 61874

CEUS OFFERED: 1.5 NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT, 1.5 CROP MANAGEMENT, 1.5 SOIL AND WATER

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (FULL TALK DESCRIPTIONS ON BACK)

**8:00 AM ON-SITE REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST**

**8:30 AM WELCOME**

**8:40 AM *Greatest Hits for High Corn Yield* – FRED BELOW**

**9:20 AM *Highway to Yield: A New Look at Nutrient Needs for Corn* – WYATT WESSEL**

**9:40 AM *Pour Some Sulfur On Me: Considerations for Corn and Soybean* – DEREK SLIFER**

**10:00 AM COFFEE BREAK, SNACKS, and SPONSOR VISITS**

**10:40 AM *Corn Roots & Fertilizer Placement, The Two Tickets to Yield Paradise* – JARED FENDER**

**11:00 AM *Boron to Be Wild: Latest Crop Physiology Hits With Boron Fertilizers* – ERIC MORSINK**

**11:20 AM *Free Fallin’? Not This Wheat, Reducing Lodging with PGRs* – AVA ISAACS**

**11:40 AM *Don’t Stop Believin’ in Soybean: The Journey to High Soy Yields* – CONNOR SIBLE**

**12:30 PM LUNCH (University catering will provide lunch for all attendees)**

**1:15 PM *Who’ll Stop (or Predict) the Rain? Improving Ag-Weather Forecasts* – TRENT FORD**

# CROP PHYSIOLOGY DAY – STAIRWAY TO YIELD 🎵

## 8:40 AM - Dr. Fred Below - **Greatest Hits for High Corn Yield**

He is often referred to as the rock star of ag because of the captivating and entertaining way that he can present research findings in a farmer-focused fashion, and today Dr. Below combines the most impactful research findings of his 40+ year career into a greatest hits album of management factors that can positively impact corn yield. Don't miss this greatest hit performance of factors that farmers can use to buy a stairway to higher corn yield.

## 9:20 AM - Wyatt Wessel - **Highway to Yield: A New Look at Nutrient Needs for Corn**

Fertility is one of the biggest factors impacting corn yield, and fertilizer needs can be categorized as the Nutrient Requirement or the Nutrient Removal. Published coefficients of each (in lbs. of nutrient per bushel) are used to predict the total amount of a nutrient needed (requirement) or the amount that ends up in the grain (removal). With the high cost of fertilizers, this talk will provide the highway map to ensure you can find those high yields.

## 9:40 AM - Derek Slifer - **Pour Some Sulfur on Me: Sulfur Considerations for Corn and Soybean**

Sulfur has been around throughout the decades but is still considered to be the new kid on the block when it comes to fertilizer inputs. Does sulfur have what it takes to be the next greatest hit? This talk will review the things you should know about sulfur fertilizer management before buying your ticket for sulfur's greatest hits tour.

## 10:40 AM - Jared Fender - **Corn Roots & Fertility Placement, The Two Tickets to Yield Paradise**

When taking a trip to high yields there are a lot of ways to get there, and pairing the right hybrid root architecture with the right fertilizer placement is one of the best routes to take, and while roots remain out of site, they should certainly not be out of mind. Be sure to listen to this one to learn how you can get the best deal out of your corn hybrid fertilizer management.

## 11:00 AM - Eric Morsink - **Boron to Be Wild: Latest Crop Physiology Hits with Boron Fertilizers**

Before you get your motor runnin' with these boron applications there are some important things to know. This discussion will first remind you the value of boron and then review the different forms of boron among fertilizer options, how this impacts their plant availability and uptake, and finally how being "boron to be wild can make our yields climb so high 🎵."

## 11:20 AM - Ava Isaacs - **Free Fallin'? Not This Wheat, Reducing Lodging with PGRs**

As wheat production makes its Illinois comeback, growers are facing stronger winds, more variable weather, and a greater risk of lodging. When wheat starts "free fallin'", yield, quality, and harvest efficiency can all take a hit. PGRs are an avenue that can help keep stands upright and protect yield potential. We will explore how and where PGRs can be the headliner in your wheat management strategy.

## 11:40 AM - Dr. Connor Sible - **Don't Stop Believin' in Soybean: The Journey to High Soy Yields**

Wrapping up this year's Crop Physiology Lab Tour is a focus on "the other crop," soybean! However, with just a few management adjustments this rotational crop can turn into a farm asset, you just need to "believe in" their potential and map the "journey" to yield. The near-end of the set, this talk will review the latest Crop Physiology Lab insights to high yielding soybean.

## 1:15 PM - Dr. Trent Ford - **Who'll Stop (or Predict) the Rain? Improving Ag-Weather Forecasting**

In this year's encore, a focus on weather hits the right notes as we continue to experience more volatile patterns that impact our crop season. In this session members of Atmospheric Sciences will engage in discussion on current forecast platforms and better assess the weather forecasting needs of today's farmers.

