



# *Acid soils & Postponed* **LIME APPLICATIONS**

## ***Calcium Plus vs. Lime Substitutes***

**Lime Substitutes:** There are products in the Ag market that are identified as liquid lime, slurry-lime, dry-soluble calcium and others. These materials make claims of quickly increasing soil pH or improving soil pH but at much reduced application rates. In our testing and research, we have not seen these type materials increase pH quickly or get the same increase of normal liming but at 1/4th the rate. Some claim to be more efficient due to added ingredients that improve soil reaction creating quick response and improved soil pH. While all of these sound great and in some instances, crop response is positive, the reality is that, for the most part, they do not actually increase soil pH. In other words, while we do believe there are ways to improve crop health, vigor and development in an acid soil, we do not believe there is any such thing as a substitute for lime applications that will improve soil pH.

There are times when the grower knows that lime is needed but for one reason or another, the lime has been omitted, delayed or applied too close to planting to aid the current crop. At **DeltAg**, in these situations, we take the approach of working to temporarily impact the soil-water solution pH in the seed germination zone, while also working to insure normal plant development. This can create a healthier plant with genetic potential for normal development. The plant will then have much more tolerance to the acid soil condition and will perform better. So our focus is not to improve soil pH but to create a healthier start for this crop in acid soil. These are the situations when **DeltAg**, will employ our **Calcium Plus** to help get a healthier crop start.

We work with the grower and his dealer to find a method for getting the **Calcium Plus** as close to the developing roots system as possible. We will also utilize **PercPlus** along with the **Calcium Plus**. All of this is an effort to impact the soil-water solution immediately adjacent to the seed and newly sprouted roots. We will first work to make an in-furrow application of these materials, but if that is not an option, we recommend a 2 X 2 or even a “Stream-Bar” application behind the planter and over the covered seed bed. We then follow up with one or two foliar applications. Experience has shown that it is critical with these soil conditions to impact the germinating seedling as quickly as possible for favorable seedling root and shoot development. We have had very favorable results with this approach.

Even though we explain this approach in detail, we still, from time to time, have folks call in asking about our liquid lime product. We do not have one!