The 2015 – 2016 winter was extremely mild, interspersed with a few periods of average to slightly above average snowfall. Early snowfall was greater in Michigan, northern tier of Ohio and Indiana, although overall less than previous years. This set up the 2016 spring to be on the dry side.

Extremely dry and cool spring in the Western and Eastern Corn Belt allowed timely planting. Nebraska as well as portions of Iowa and southern Minnesota led the way in planting progress in 2016. The relative lack of winter snow, sleet and rain set up for excellent planting conditions in Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. During the 2016 spring, a fall herbicide application of Authority® MTZ DF herbicide or Authority® XL herbicide tank mixed with dicamba or dicamba + 2,4-D pre-mix controlled not only fall-germinated marestail but provided residual control of marestail, fall-winter germinated annuals including chickweed. In many cases fall herbicide applications were clean through planting allowing growers to employ an overlapping residual, early postemergence application of Anthem® MAXX herbicide.

Above average temperatures in the Midwest spanned the 2016 summer into the fall. The relatively dry winter in the Southern Plains favored earlier southerly winds into the Midwest, This contributed to earlier planting. Pre-emergence weed control suffered where rainfall was inadequate to activate pre-emergence herbicides. Wheat stripe rust was seen in Indiana and Michigan, not seen in prior years. Protecting the flag leaf with Preemptor™ SC fungicide was extremely effective at protecting wheat yields. Earlier planted corn yields suffered in Ohio and southern Indiana due to heat during pollination. Soybean spider mite treatments were more frequent and spread out in 2016. Again, Hero® insecticide treatments were the best, effective treatments.
IMPLICATIONS OF A MILD 2016 – 2017 WINTER

FORECAST

WINTER – Winter temperatures are expected to be warmer. Normal snow and ice are expected north of the Indiana Turnpike, down through Akron – Canton, Ohio. Heavier snowfall expected in eastern Ohio.

SPRING – Spring will be cooler and drier than normal out to June North of US 30. Heavier rainfall and more hot days expected in southern Indiana. Temperatures and rainfall will be slightly below normal in southern Ohio.

SUMMER – Summer will be cool but rainfall will increase as one goes north from Southern Indiana and Ohio into Michigan slightly below average in northern Indiana, northern Ohio and Southern Michigan.

WEEDS

Expect a repeat of overall good control seen in 2016 if pre-emergence herbicide rates are maintained, rainfall is adequate for activation, and multiple effective modes of action are used. There is no substitute for use of the proven, full use rate of a corn or soybean pre-emergence herbicide(s) having effective modes of action to control herbicide resistant weeds. Authority® herbicide brands are top choices for soybean pre-emergence control of such herbicide-resistant weeds as marestail, waterhemp, Palmer pigweed and ragweeds. Otherwise, a planned postemergence program will be required. Anthem® MAXX herbicide can be used in corn or soybeans with the flexible application timings of pre-plant, at-plant, pre-emergence into early postemergence in corn and soybeans for overlapping residual weed control.

Cadet® herbicide was included in postemergence herbicide programs to improve control of lambsquarters, velvetleaf, morning glories and other labeled broadleaf weeds. Widespread adoption of Liberty Link® soybeans for controlling herbicide-resistant weeds with Liberty® herbicide tank mixes of Anthem MAXX® herbicide, Cadet® herbicide, Marvel® herbicide are effective at protecting this valuable herbicide technology. A dead, dried down weed cannot carry on photosynthesis to fuel resistance mechanisms and Aim® herbicide aids in controlling herbicide resistant weeds, preventing resistance development in spring burndown under adverse conditions.

INSECTS

2016 was the year that FMC launched three new liquid LFR® brand insecticide pre-mixes: Ethos® XB insecticide/fungicide; Temitry® LFR® insecticide/fungicide and Capture LFR® insecticide/fungicide + VGR™ Soil Amendment. Each new LFR® brand addresses not just insect control, but seedling disease and stand vigor enhancement. Flea beetles build up during mild winters. Flea beetles are easily controlled by Mustang® Maxx insecticide or Hero® insecticide; can be tank mixed with Anthem® MAXX herbicides and Anthem® ATZ herbicide in early postemergence applications. In no-till corn and soybeans rotated from wheat, grassy corn and/or soybean field or no-till crop, it will pay to use Capture® LFR® insecticide or one of the new FMC soil insecticides in-furrow with a liquid fertilizer to combat seedling pests such as white grubs and wireworms.

DISEASE

Preemptor™ fungicide made its debut in 2016 showing excellent utility in wheat, applied at flag leaf protecting against various foliar disease with positive yield response in several university trials. Preemptor™ fungicide VS-6 corn applications provided excellent disease control with positive yield response in several university trials. Cadet® herbicide once again provided excellent weed control and white mold suppression in soybeans resulting in yield increases. Preemptor™ fungicide soybean trials showed excellent disease control and yield response.