

## WHAT WE ARE SEEING

Seven of the 9 Pence Group plots have been planted and are off to the races for growing season 2023! Other than early soybean treatment trial entries, all of the other plots went in during ideal planting conditions. In fact, we were able to get the majority of the plots in the ground prior to a gentle amount of rain (about 1"). This should set the research plots up for a great start.

For the first time, Pence Group used our own equipment for our non-grower plots. We expect that we will learn as the year progresses, constantly finding new ways to tweak our equipment and improve our planting, just as any other farm operation would. We already know we'd like to swap to a new closing wheel system, for example.

## SOYBEAN TREATMENT TRIALS

Our early planted soybean treatment trial entries at headquarters emerged Saturday, 5/6/2023, exactly three weeks after the planting date. The treated entries emerged first. We noticed consistent emergence among all three treated entries. The untreated beans emerged later on Tuesday, 5/9/23. It will be very interesting to monitor these beans throughout the season to see if those three days of delayed emergence contribute to a yield drag when compared to the other entries!

One other interesting note: there is a visible difference between the treated and untreated entries as far as stand consistency. The treated entries look very similar and uniform, but the untreated entry has some variability throughout.

## PLANTING INTO RYE RESIDUE

Sometimes, we hear grumblings cover crops can create a hassle when planting time rolls around. A common misconception is that cover crop residue creates adverse field conditions that lead to uneven stands and plugged up planters. We've got two different examples of fields that have been planted into cover crop residue at different stages and both look amazing! These fields were chemically terminated, but stay tuned for examples of planting into crimped and mulched cover crop residue!



Oxford, IN – Soybeans planted into rye. When this photo was taken, the rye had been sprayed a few days earlier. It was still green at planting and 12"-18" tall. Planting went smoothly. Now, just over a week later, the beans look great and are nearly emerged. Kamie described this soil like "walking on clouds"! There is a drastic difference in walking fields with standing cover crop vs. fields that sat bare all winter.



Lafayette, IN – Soybeans planted into dead rye residue that had been sprayed a few weeks earlier and was completely brown at the time of planting.

Winter-hardy cover crops can create an extra step of management in the spring to terminate. However, if you plan to do a spring burndown, you'd simply need to adjust your timing to prevent growth beyond what you desire. **Pence Group believes this little bit of extra work is worth it if it means you can access the benefits a cover crop mix can give to your acres.**