

# Seeds for Success

## Agronomy Update

VOLUME 11 • ISSUE 1 • JANUARY 2016

### Agronomy Update

is a monthly publication provided to producers free of charge. AgVenture, Inc. and its independently owned and operated Regional Seed Companies are dedicated to providing producers exceptional seed products – genetics and technologies, professional service, and local knowledge of agronomic conditions impacting producer profitability.

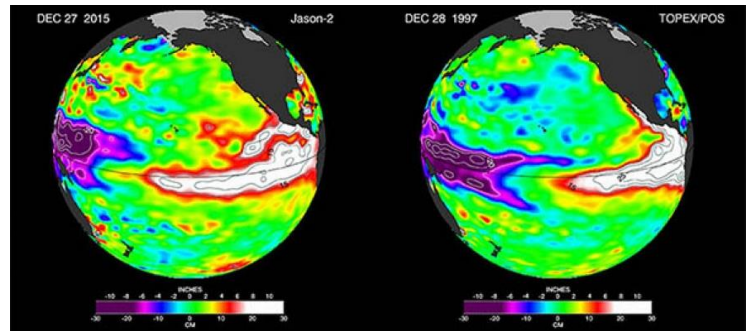
**Grow with Confidence!**



### Active El Niño

Meteorologists are evaluating comparisons between the current strong El Niño and that from 18 years ago. In December 1997, sea surface height was more intense and peaked in November. According to Alan Buis, of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, this year, the area of high sea levels is less intense, but much broader. This year's current strong El Niño shows no signs of weakening, and experts expect the weather chaos to continue the next few months.

NOAA expects many of El Niño's biggest impacts early in 2016. Conditions favor an El Niño-induced shift in weather patterns starting now and continuing for several months of relatively cool and wet conditions across the southern United States, and relatively warm and dry conditions over the northern United States. In 1997-98, the El Niño caused the January 1998 New England ice storm, mild weather and little snowfall across the northern U.S., and storms across the south. NOAA reports that early in 2015, atmospheric conditions changed, and El Niño steadily expanded in the central and eastern Pacific. Although the sea surface height signal in 1997 was more intense and peaked in November of that year, in 2015, the area of high sea levels is larger. This could mean we have not yet seen the peak of this El Niño (sources: NASA, NOAA, and Alan Buis).



### UAS/Drone Registration

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced last month that all UAS/drone owners will have to register their drones to fly them in the U.S. Until January 20, 2016, it is free to register your drones. After that date, owners will have to pay a \$5 fee.

Registration is required for anyone flying a drone that weighs over 0.55 pounds and less than 55 pounds. Larger drones need to be registered through the mail. Any drone, whether it's tethered or not, even if it's only flown on private property, will need to be registered. And drone owners will need to have their certificate of registration on them when they're flying, unless they're flying inside.

The FAA said that anyone who currently owns a drone has until Feb. 19, 2016, to register their drone. The penalties for failing to register are quite steep. Failure to register an aircraft may result in regulatory and criminal sanctions. The FAA may assess civil penalties up to \$27,500. Criminal penalties include fines of up to \$250,000 and/or imprisonment for up to three years. For more information, see <https://www.faa.gov/uas/registration> (Photo: Purdue University).



## AgVenture, Inc.

is the nation's largest network of independently owned regional seed companies. Based in Kentland, Indiana, AgVenture provides a growing network of independently owned and managed regional seed companies with seed products meeting exacting standards for quality, together with leading-edge genetics and technology.

Since 1983, this unique marketing approach has allowed each individual company to match the hybrids it sells to the specific needs of the geographical area it serves. Combined with professional seed representation at a local level, AgVenture strives to help every grower realize more profit from every field.

**Grow with Confidence!**

**Possibility of Greater Pest Pressure this Spring** Mild winter conditions favor populations many spring pests. Growers should consider taking extra time to scout for a host of early spring pests that threaten establishment of ideal crop stands. Particularly problematic are corn flea beetles which target corn through the spread of bacterium which can cause Stewart's bacterial wilt and leaf blight. Mild winter conditions also favor advanced populations of black cutworms, slugs, bean leaf beetles, rootworms and cereal leaf beetles. Talk with your AgVenture Yield Specialist about our Security™ Seed Treatment options to help mitigate risks and advance your yields and profitability (sources: AgVenture and Ohio State University).

**Managing Soil Viability** Soil health is the capacity of a soil to function as a vital, living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals and humans. Last crop year and during this late fall and early winter, many growers have seen continued wet conditions and saturated soils.

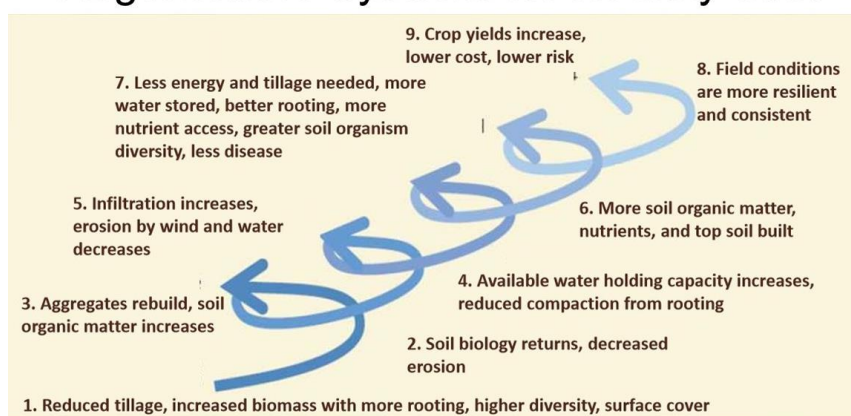
AgVenture reminds growers that achieving healthy soils is a continuing process, a journey – not just a destination that you shoot for and stop. Soil health key indicators include continually increasing:

- Organic matter
- Aggregate stability
- Water infiltration
- Water-holding capacity
- *And* Improving nutrient cycling and enhancing and diversifying soil biology

Soil is composed of three basic properties: chemical properties, physical properties and biological properties. A good rule of thumb to achieving healthy, productive soils is to provide continuous living roots, minimize disturbance, maximize biodiversity, and maximize soil cover

Further improvement in production and water quality may occur with conservation cropping systems that continually build soil health. That strategy allows growers to capture more potential and maximize profitability (Source: USDA NRCS, AgVenture).

## Regenerative Systems for Healthy Soils



Connect with us on: Facebook Twitter LinkedIn YouTube  
[www.agventure.com](http://www.agventure.com)