

Starter Fertilizer

What's in a starter fertilizer? Preferences about starters can be almost as strong as preferences about tractor color. **Arlyn and Annette Valvick**, Swea City, are part of PFI's collaboration with the Iowa Farm Bureau. That program pairs producers with local agribusinesses for on-farm research. Arlyn and Byron Adams, of Crop Production Services Inc., agreed on a comparison of two starters, 10-34-0 and a 3-18-18 that Arlyn describes as food grade. Of course they included a check treatment that received no starter at all.

As [Table 3](#) shows the corn crop did respond to starter fertilizer. On the other hand, there was no difference in yield between the two formulations. On that basis, the cheaper product, 10-34-0, was the only one whose yield benefit exceeded its cost.