



## **AEA Core Concept #10**

Full nutrition can unleash full plant genetic potential.

Under contemporary agricultural practice, we are only harvesting a fraction of our crops' total yield potential. Plant breeders, researchers, and geneticists I have spoken with have all told me that corn has the genetic capacity to produce 1100-1500 bushels per acre. We know that most healthy corn plants can have up to 7-9 ears per plant. That is their genetic potential per plant. But we are harvesting only a fraction of that. The same holds true for other crops, as well. Soybeans have the genetic capability to produce 600 bushels per acre; cherries, 50,000 pounds per acre; tomatoes, 120,000 pounds per acre.

The key to unleashing a crop's genetic potential is managing stress impacts, via proper nutrition, from the moment of planting until harvest.

