Soil texture and organic matter can also affect the size of the anhydrous band, and coarse-textured soils will likely have a larger band. In most cases, the band is around three to four inches in radius from the point of injection, and the ammonia is more concentrated in the center of the band. The band size is why the depth of application in the spring is so important, especially as application timing nears planting. Farmers who are applying anhydrous close to their planting date should place their application deeper, at 8 in. if possible, in order to keep the anhydrous band away from the immediate vicinity of germinating seeds and the seminal root system.

From a timing perspective, applying anhydrous more than three days prior to planting is ideal, but that is not always possible, and there is no hard and fast rule regarding the timing of application prior to planting. In those cases where you are applying anhydrous shortly before the planting pass, depth of application and soil moisture become bigger factors than timing. Always shoot to apply anhydrous at a depth in which soil moisture is available.