AEA Nutritional Program Results: Cherry Orchard

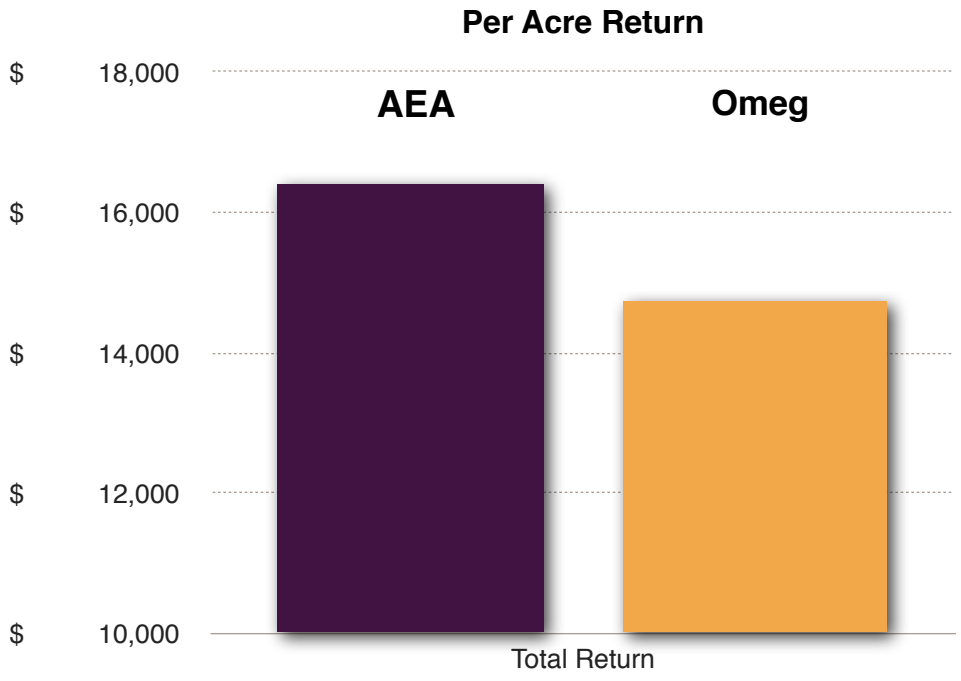
Mike Omeg The Dalles, Oregon

Mike Omeg operates 350 acres of cherry orchard in central Oregon. He is the third generation doing so on this land, and is committed to the superior quality of his fruit being a family hallmark. Respected as one of the best managers in the region he only pursues that which is of value. Seeing incredible responses in his orchards since working with Advancing Eco Agriculture has opened up new possibilities for him in fruit quality and tree health

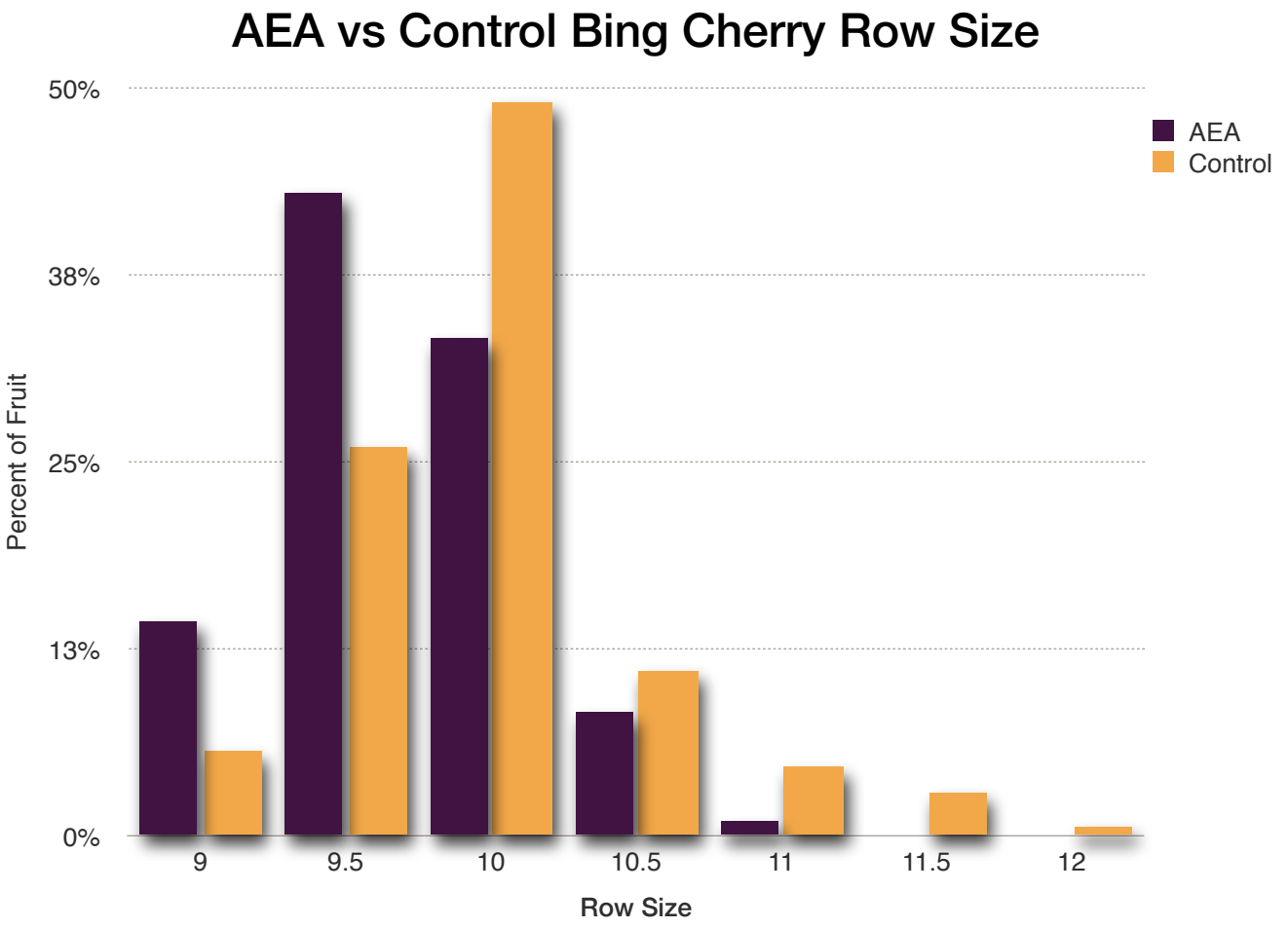
This is the 2014 summary of results for the applications of AEA nutritional programs at Omeg Family Orchard in one "problem" and two typical cherry blocks. Both average performing blocks (Bing and Skeena varieties) saw an increase in revenue and the problem block (Regina) saw a complete turn around in plant and soil health. Mike Omeg will continue to use AEA plant and soil nutritional programs and will increase the number of acres being treated with AEA products in the upcoming year.

Bing Cherry Return on Investment of Average Block After AEA Nutrition Product Costs

Mike Omeg chose 2 varieties (Bing and Skeena) from the same block that had an average cherry production (app. 10,000 lb/ac) and applied AEA products by foliar to assess if these varieties could perform better. An increase in size of fruit was measured which resulted in the substantial increase of return per acre in both varieties.



*Per Acre Return: calculated by assuming average yield (10,000 lb/ac) and measuring increase in row size only. A yield increase with AEA was also observed but not quantified. Increased cherry size (row size) = increased revenue.



Fruit chosen at random (normal sample: 50 pieces of fruit) row size measured, fruit separated and quantified by how many fruit in each row size.

**Row Size Revenue Calculation in Determining Per Acre Return. Each row size price is determined independently due to differences in pricing per row size.

(percent of fruit) x (average yield 10,000lb/ac) = amount of fruit per row size x row price

Example: AEA Row Size 9
(14%) x (10,000)= 1,400 lb of row size 9 x (row size 9 price) = Row Size 9 Revenue per acre.

AEA Nutritional Program

for Bing and Skeena Varieties

Bud Break & Blossoming Foliar (2 applications)	Rate per Acre	Supplement
	2 qt	PhotoMag
	2 qt	PHT-Phosphorus
	2 qt	MicroPak
	4 qt	Sea Shield
	1 qt	Sea Crop
	1 qt	SeaStim
	1 acre	Micro 5000
	3 qt	PHT-Calcium

Weekly Fruit-Fill Foliar (9 applications)	Rate per Acre	Supplement
	1 qt	HyperCaP
	1 qt	PHT-Phosphorus
	0.5 qt	MicroPak
	1 qt	PhotoMag
	8 qt	Sea Shield
	0.5 qt	Sea Crop
	0.5 qt	SeaStim
	3 qt	PHT-Calcium
	1 qt	PHT-Potassium
	1 pt	*Agri-Gro

Post Harvest Foliar (7 applications)	Rate per Acre	Supplement
	2 qt	HyperCaP
	2 qt	PhotoMag
	2 gal	Sea Shield
	1 pt	Sea Crop
	1 pt	SeaStim
	1 qt	PHT-Potassium
	2 qt	PHT-Calcium

Problem Trees: Regina Variety

Regina in Mikes "Stinson block" had been problematic for years. With 5-12 year old trees being continually weak. Mike decided to try AEA's full plant and soil nutritional program as a last effort to turn the trees' health around. Either that, or pull them all out, which would be his usual practice in such a situation. These trees were fair after planting, but their health deteriorated quickly. A strong herbicide had been sprayed on the trees which may have attributed to the decline in tree health. Though herbicide damage wasn't proven, the marked decrease in tree health now needed to be addressed regardless of cause.

Regina had numerous flowers but most fell off making this variety an extremely low fruit producer. The tree was generally weak and had low vigor. Sun-burning of fruit was also an issue due to the thin leaf canopy caused by stunted leaf production. As part of the diagnostics on the block, consultant Jason Hobson had a hunch about poor roots being the cause. Roots from a row of problem trees were dug up and assessed. There was no new growth underground, very few fine white root hairs and many of the roots were slimy and yellow. Applications of bio stimulants and plant nutritional programs from AEA turned the trees in this block around in one season, from the roots up. Increased fruit set and leaf canopy produced reasonable yields on this block for the first time in years. Even more encouraging, vigorous new shoot growth means the trees are prepared for even better next season.

Regina after AEA's plant and soil nutritional programs. A much healthier plant, leaf canopy is turning around and new shoots are growing. But not yet at the peak of health.

Untreated row of Regina in another block. Poor leaf canopy, leaves are curled and dull, not a vibrant green, small branch caliper and over all not very healthy. This demonstrates the condition of above trees prior to treatment.

AEA Nutritional Program For Regina Variety

Soil Primer	Rate per Acre	Supplement
	4 gal	Rejuvenate
	2 gal	Sea Shield
	50 g/ acre	Spectrum Extra
	2 qt	PHT-Calcium

Bud Break & Blossoming Foliar (2 applications)	Rate per Acre	Supplement
	2 qt	PhotoMag
	2 qt	PHT-Phosphorus
	2 qt	MicroPak
	4 qt	Sea Shield
	1 qt	Sea Crop
	1 qt	SeaStim
	1 acre	Micro 5000
	3 qt	PHT-Calcium
Weekly Fruit-Fill Foliar (9 applications)	**Rate per Acre**	**Supplement**
	1 qt	HyperCaP
	1 qt	PHT-Phosphorus
	0.5 qt	MicroPak
	1 qt	PhotoMag
	8 qt	Sea Shield
	0.5 qt	Sea Crop
	0.5 qt	SeaStim
	3 qt	PHT-Calcium
	1 qt	PHT-Potassium
	1 pt	Agri-Gro
Weekly Fertigation (9 applications)	**Rate per Acre**	**Supplement**
	1 qt	Rejuvenate
	8 qt	Sea Shield
	2 qt	PHT-Calcium
	2 qt	PHT-Phosphorus

Post Harvest Foliar (7 applications)	Rate per Acre	Supplement
	2 qt	HyperCaP
	2 qt	PhotoMag
	2 gal	Sea Shield
	1 pt	Sea Crop
	1 pt	SeaStim
	1 qt	PHT-Potassium
	2 qt	PHT-Calcium
Monthly Root Drench	**Rate per Acre**	**Supplement**
	1 gal	Sea Crop
	1 gal	Rejuvenate
	10 gal	Sea Shield
	1 pt	*Agri-Gro
	* Buffer for herbicide and pesticide	

The Stinson block got a very aggressive nutritional treatment. The trees were uneconomical and about to be removed and replacement costs would have been substantial. This program from AEA, while more than Mike typically spends per acre, was vastly more affordable. And it provided the opportunity to harvest fruit on mature, established trees. Mike is extremely pleased that he took the risk and has rebounded the trees. The experience has put another tool in the box.

Mike Omeg doesn't look at how much he can skimp to cut costs. He looks at the return on investment for producing more and better. So far he has not found an upper limit to ROI and orchard health benefit for Sea Shield, which he used at up to 60 gallons/ acre as a soil drench on some blocks. With $16k returns per acre, and strikingly increased tree and soil health, Mike will continue on his quest and will have Advancing Eco Agriculture as an indispensable part of his team.