



Springswork

This spring we got in the field on May 5th which is about a week later than we normally get into the field. The ground was cold at first and there were a few rains that slowed us down but by the time the 12th rolled around the ground was warm and we had ample moisture in all of our fields to help with seeding.

With all the rains this spring/summer the pre-emerge chemicals have worked very well this year. If we started with a clean field it stayed very clean. We adjusted our chemicals and rates to combat the few weed related problems we had in our no-till fields, so we have those fields back in check. We are working very hard on keeping our fields clean so weeds don't go to seed and make the problem worse, and this helps prevent resistance to our chemicals. I make sure we spray our fields early when I see small weeds and that we use multiple modes of action. Almost all of our fields this year will have 5 MOA's with multiple ground residual products to help keep our fields clean and keep the weeds from getting resistant, this is especially important with very aggressive weeds such as Waterhemp and Common Ragweed.



(Above is dad applying a pre-plant chemical for corn)

We had to do something new this year, we had to kill the rye before we no-tilled straight into it on the home quarter. It was a lot more trash than we are used to, which gave us a few issues with seed corn maggots affecting our emergence. All in all it planted very well and I think it will produce well this year while increasing our soil health.

Summer

So far this summer Dad has been very busy every week with spraying. Zane and Mike got all of our corn side dressed before it canopied, which came fast this year we are about 230 growing degree units ahead of last year. So our corn is looking good and should be done until harvest if we don't find any corn borer or any disease move in.

We are finishing up with fungicide treatments to all of our edibles this year. We are doing two split rates of very good fungicides to get both plant health benefits and white mold control. With these two fungicides we also get three different groups of fungicides to protect against resistant strains of the disease.

Going forward I will be scouting for aphids in soybeans and corn borer in corn. Everything is looking very good, but now is the time we need to really pay attention to the pollination of the corn and make sure we are getting the full potential of the plants that are out there.



(Above: Finished sidedressing the last field of corn)

New techniques

We are investing in a Blu-Jet strip till machine so we can leave more organic matter out in the fields while still placing the needed nutrients for corn. We're also investing in a new 18 row planter to plant beans right away when I am planting corn with our 36 row planter. So that is what we will be busy doing in July once spraying slows down. We will be building both units and get them set up this summer.

Zane and I are attending a local soil health field day down in Enderlin, ND and I am attending a two day strip-till conference in Iowa City, Iowa to learn more from the experts in strip-till and to see where this industry is going. Both of us have signed up for TEPAP this January in Austin, this will be Zane's second time going to finish the second level of schooling and I will be going for my first time.

Looking Forward

Looking ahead to fall we face the problems of low prices, storage, nutrient placement, and execution during harvest. We are solving the storage and price problem by adding a drag chain across the top of our grain system to connect all of our corn bins so we don't need to waste time moving augers. We also will be utilizing all of our other bins and grain bags with our Loftness grain bagger. This will allow us to hold onto the grain and market it at better times.

Nutrient placement will be taken care of in 3 steps; we will incorporate our fertilizer in with the cover crop on the old edible ground. We will either strip till or deep band the P and K fertilizer, that is needed for next year's corn crop. These recommendations will come from soil samples taken in season before the soybean crop is even off.

The execution during harvest is very important. The more efficient we are the faster harvest goes and less things seem to go wrong. This is made possible by Zane's ability to plan ahead (which starts now) and his management abilities. It is also made possible by the great quality of employees we have.

Thank You

This year has gone very well so far due to our great employees and our family working very hard. We are thankful for all of them and all of the professionals that help Zane and I, on the farm; we wouldn't be able to do everything by ourselves. We also appreciate all of the insight we get from our grandmother, father, and landlords that have many years of farming under their belts. Everyone plays a big part in the farm and I am thankful that Buhr Erickson Farms has all of this help to succeed. With all of them on our side I have no doubt this harvest will be a great one.

Sincerely

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