

IOWA SOYBEAN *review*

October 2013

*Success is the
Only Option*

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Iowa Soybean Association, 1255 SW Prairie Trail Parkway, Ankeny, Iowa 50023



DAVE & GARY NELSON

Fort Dodge, farming 40 years.



1. What practices do you implement that improve water quality?

Strip till is the biggest one that we've implemented and covers 75 percent of our acres. We're indexing our dry fertilizer by putting it in the strip. By strip tilling we're putting 100 percent P&K in the strip to get a 100 percent incorporation. We use fall anhydrous and about a half rate with N-serve, then the rest of our nitrogen is side dressed in crop. So we are splitting up our nitrogen applications and reducing the potentials for the leaching of the nitrates. We are transitioning to more spring-applied anhydrous.

2. How many years have you been implementing these practices?

This is our sixth year of using strip till coming from conventional tillage farm.

3. What have you learned in working with the Iowa Soybean Association?

The big thing that we've learned is

that ISA is keen on nitrogen rates. So we've worked with our local agronomist to pay attention to the rates of nitrogen that we need to be looking at, as well as the Iowa State Nutrient removal matrix of your yield goal and implementing it back into your nitrogen rates.

4. Why is conservation and water quality important to you?

It goes back to the longevity of our farming practices. It's about net income as a farmer that's our living so we want to grow our net income as much as possible but how can we do that in the most efficient, conservation-friendly way as possible.

5. What's the one thing farmers should know about implementing this technology/practice/technique on their farm?

Don't be afraid to change. If your son wants to propose some changes listen to him. We've got the tools now to make it work where 20 years ago it wasn't possible.

WAYNE FREDERICKS

Osage, farming 38 years.



1. What practices do you implement that improve water quality?

We've been soil testing for 38 years trying to recognize what nutrients are available and only put on what we need. We've been involved in waterways for 30 some years. However, a lot of our nutrient reduction plans revolve around no-till and strip till.

2. How many years have you been implementing these practices?

I've been involved in various environmental practices for over 38 years. The adaptation of GPS technology has allowed us to do variable rate automated sprayer control and planter control so we are minimizing excess application and minimizing the environmental impact.

3. What have you learned in working with the Iowa Soybean Association?

The biggest thing I've learned is how to do trials. We have nine trials going on this year. We've learned the methodology on how to do trials so we are constantly studying to find out what is best for our farm. It has to make sense economically and nutrient reduction is a big part of that. I think it keeps us on the cutting edge of this nutrient

management as we move forward and I think the ISA will be on the forefront of that discussion.

4. Why is conservation and water quality important to you?

I personally ask myself what am I doing that I could do better? What am I not doing that I could do? What are my customers' expectations? What are societies expectations? I think if you ask those questions, you have to be involved. It's a part of being a member of society and doing what's best. We've been involved with these measures for many years and I'm still not satisfied that we are doing the best that we can do. There are ways that we can still improve and technology has been able to help us do things now that we couldn't do 20 or 30 years ago.

5. What's the one thing farmers should know about implementing this technology/practice/technique on their farm?

For me, cover crops are new. I'm in the process of understanding that practice and trying to learn how to adapt to it. But you could see with the amount of water we had wherever we had a cover crop soil stayed in place and we were accomplishing what it was meant to do.