Nelson FAMILYFARMS

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Fall/Winter 2013 Edition

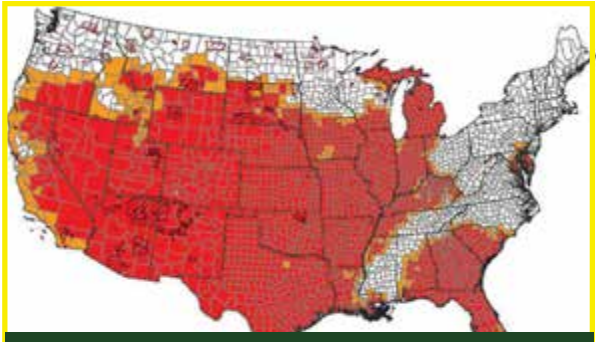
Fall of 2012 Review

The drought of 2012 made headlines all over the world. It has been ranked among the drought of 1988 and also compared to the devastating Dust Bowl of the 1930's. This was not a weather pattern just in the Midwest, it was a major drought that effected over 30 states in the Continental United States. (See 2012 Drought Designation Map below)

Despite the drought, our family was blessed with decent yields, considering the limited amount of rainfall and subsoil moisture that we had. We averaged 176 bushels per acre on corn and 48 bushels per acre on soybeans. It was not too many miles away from here that you heard of farm corn averages less than 100 bushels per acre. Our corn acre yields ranged from 206 bushels, down to a field of only 142 bushels per acre. It was all dependent on catching that one little extra rain shower throughout the summer growing season.

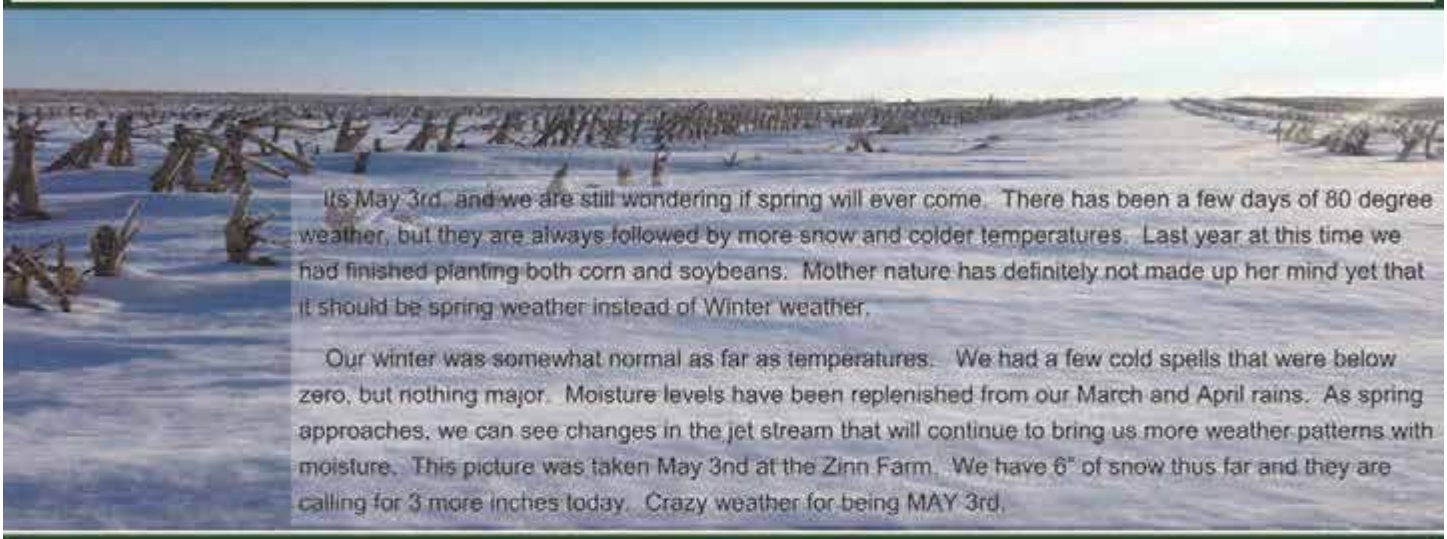
Normally, we start harvesting soybeans between the 15th and 20th of September. Due to extremely dry growing conditions, we did not begin combining corn until September 10th on our west farms. Very unusual to start on corn, but it had dried down so fast that it was ready to harvest about one month earlier than normal. We harvested about 500 acres of corn and then switched to soybeans on September 19th. Due to a few late August rain showers, the soybeans actually yielded pretty good. There was much more pessimisms going into harvest this year than ever before, so averaging 48 bushels per acre across our soybean fields was a big lift to our spirits.

After soybeans were harvested, we returned to the corn. The wettest corn we harvested was 20% moisture and was from the September 10th harvested field. We averaged a harvest moisture of 15.9% across all of our acres. Our corn acres had many mother nature related issues this past year. *1. Rootless corn in April 2. Cold/Wet rains in April 3. Wind damage in July 4. Severe Drought.* It's crazy to think that we could fight so many weather issues in one year, but that is the story of crop production. You can do everything right, have the right number of seeds, apply the correct rates of fertilizer, and have the most advanced equipment, but mother nature has the final say in our yields. Corn yields were reflective of two factors this year. First, the earliest planted fields were the lower yields. Secondly, farms in the Duncombe and Vincent areas received more rain, thus yielding more. We cannot complain about a farm average of 176 bushel per acre corn yields this past year. It was not too many miles away from us where yields were at 50 to 60 bushels per acre. .



2012 USDA Drought Designation Map

Winter of 2013 Review



It's May 3rd, and we are still wondering if spring will ever come. There has been a few days of 80 degree weather, but they are always followed by more snow and colder temperatures. Last year at this time we had finished planting both corn and soybeans. Mother nature has definitely not made up her mind yet that it should be spring weather instead of Winter weather.

Our winter was somewhat normal as far as temperatures. We had a few cold spells that were below zero, but nothing major. Moisture levels have been replenished from our March and April rains. As spring approaches, we can see changes in the jet stream that will continue to bring us more weather patterns with moisture. This picture was taken May 3nd at the Zinn Farm. We have 6" of snow thus far and they are calling for 3 more inches today. Crazy weather for being MAY 3rd.

Projects on the Farm

Our project this past winter was painting our John Deere 7800 tractor. Even though the tractor was not in bad shape, a fresh coat of paint and some new rear tires will make it look brand new!

We bought this tractor one year ago for jobs like mowing ditches, loader tractor, and odd ball jobs on the farm. We also used this tractor on our Kinze 20" row corn planter. As you can see below, it was a great project for Dave and Tyson to work on together. Tyson is thinking this painting work is pretty fun! He loves working in the shop with Dad and Grandpa.

Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago ADVISORY COUNCIL

In March, Dave was selected to serve on the Federal Reserve bank of Chicago's Advisory Council. As a member of the advisory council, Dave will serve a two-year term and meet twice a year in Chicago to provide his views on current business conditions to Chicago Fed President Charles Evans and other senior officials of the Bank. Input from council members on regional economic conditions helps contribute to the Federal Reserve System's formulation of national monetary policy. The council consists of 20 members who bring a diverse wealth of knowledge and understanding from the Small Business, Labor and Agriculture Industries.

Our first meeting was held on April 19th at the Federal Reserve Bank in Chicago. The Advisory council was joined by senior members of the Chicago Federal Reserve Board. A good majority of the meeting was spent on the current economic conditions in the Labor and Small Business sectors. With the prosperous times that we have experienced recently in agriculture, it was not as high of a priority for many reasons. Unemployment was a major topic. Interest rates being at record lows will remain there until the unemployment rate gets closer to that 6.5% range. Currently we are at a level around 7.6%. The lack of skilled labor was another area of great concern. Technology is almost outpacing the ability of which we can train our current employees and the students coming out of school. Welders, plumbers, and electricians are in high demand.

This opportunity to serve with the Federal Reserve System will provide our farming operation a great insight into the workings of our governments monetary policy.

Interesting Farm Facts

- Iowa ranks #1 in the nation in Corn, Soybean, Pork, and Egg Production.
- The average age of the Iowa Farmer is 57.
- Of the 35.7 million acres in Iowa, 30.1 of those acres are devoted to farming. (roughly 85%, the most of any state.)
- There are 93,000 operational farms in Iowa.
- Roughly 21% of Iowa's farmland is owned by someone living out of state.
- Iowa has at least 450 different soil types that make up some of the richest most productive soils in the world.
- Iowa produces 25% of the country's supply of ethanol, twice as much as any other state.
- The average American farmer feeds about 155 people worldwide. In 1960 that number was 25.6
- Iowa produces the second most wind energy in the nation.
- Iowa pork producers raise 28% of all US pork.
- When Iowa was first plowed, the settlers found 14-16 inches of top soil. By 2000 the average has deteriorated to 6-8". If nothing is done from current practices, it is estimated that the remaining topsoil could be completely gone in the next 100-150 years.

Nelson Family Farms
Fall/Winter 2013 Edition
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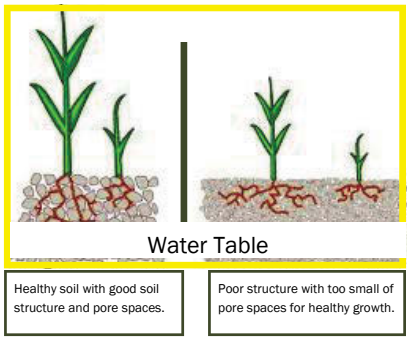
Increasing our Soil's HEALTH...

When we hear the term production agriculture in Iowa, corn and soybeans are usually first to come to mind. Livestock, such as beef, swine and poultry, are often thought of as well. For this article, I want to discuss production agriculture a little deeper. Lets talk about our soil. The soil that serves as host to our corn and soybean plants plays a major role in the final yield of our precious commodities. Too often, however, our soils do not get the attention they deserve. We are blessed with very fertile and high organic matter soils in North Central Iowa, but if we do not take care of them properly, we are slowly reducing the our ability to increase yields. A great quote that we live by on our farm is: "*We cannot expect a plants productivity to be greater than the foundation and health of the soil!*"

What is a healthy soil? How do you gauge the health of a soil? A healthy soil is one that has proper ratios of oxygen and water. A soil with approximately 60% moisture (water) and 40% oxygen has adequate macro pores to create optimal conditions for plant roots and microorganisms. However, it's not just about adding water to make sure you have proper moisture levels, it has more to do with soil structure that allows for your soil to hold an adequate amount of water. Think of the soil structure in your front yard. When you pull up a piece of sod, along with it comes a cluster of roots and soil. This demonstrates the health of the soil and its ability to keep this cluster intact. A healthy soil with good structure has stable pore spaces that allow water penetration, root growth, earthworm movement and air storage. It is important that the soil particles are large enough to allow for adequate pore spaces within the soil. Without proper pore spaces in our soils, roots will not be able to develop properly, thus inhibiting water and nutrient uptake. The picture to the right illustrates how proper structure of a healthy soil promotes optimal root growth. The plant on the left has healthy roots growing down through the pore spaces and taking up adequate amounts of nutrients and water. Conversely, the plant on the right is growing in a poor soil structure and is limited to where it can put down roots. The plant must express large amounts of energy to penetrate soil particles and try to find nutrients and water. This energy used by the plant to reach the needed nutrients and water, is energy that would be much better spent growing a healthy plant structure. Take a dry year when our soil is depleted of moisture and the roots must go deeper to find water. With a compacted and poor soil structure, the plants will not be able to get to moisture. It is struggling to penetrate the soil to go deeper, while the plant in the healthy soil structure is putting down roots and intersecting water at deeper levels.



How do you create a healthy soil? In the mid 1800's, when the European settlers moved their way into Iowa, they came about our landscape of natural prairie grass. It was seven to eight foot tall prairie grass growing on our fertile soils. The roots were massive and fibrous with a soil structure below it that was healthy and full of water, oxygen and nutrients.

As the settlers learned about the fertility of our soils, and the level of productivity it was capable of producing, it was then that the first plow was developed. A man-made tillage tool that was pulled by oxen would now manipulate the soil, turn it over and mix it together. It was the beginning of soil structure degradation. Tillage is an important part of our Iowa crop production, but when used in excess or incorrectly, it can be detrimental to the health of our soils. When you slice the soil, you create a smear layer that destroys soil structure. When you roll the soil over (plow), you bury the natural living soil microorganisms that become crop nutrients when plant mass is broken down into organic matter. When you bury this plant mass, or residue, it will be starved of oxygen and will not break down as fast, thus reducing the available nutrients from that dead and decaying plant mass that was once on the soil's surface. The microorganisms are killed and the living microbial activity is haltered from its normal life cycle. Soil structure is altered when tillage is used, however, it is an essential part of our crop production practice to improve the productivity of our Iowa soils. Due to our northern climate and the need to plant corn in April, we must expose some of the black dirt to allow for prompt drying and early warming of the soil. If our soils remained covered with a mat of decaying plant mass, the soil beneath would not warm up or dry out very quickly. This creates the need for tillage in order for us to properly prepare our soils for spring planting. Tillage can also be used as an artificial way to

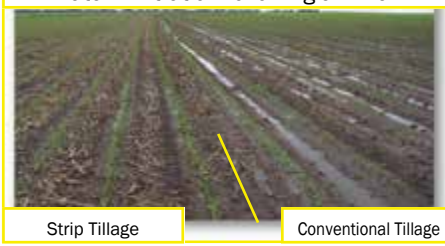
help with compaction. Large combines and equipment on our soils cause a lot of compaction to the soil particles. Correct tillage can help break apart some of that compaction to assist with rebuilding the soil's structure. Although we may not be able to get away from tillage all together in our NC Iowa soils, we should pay close attention to the amount and intensity of the tillage that is being done on our soils. Any time that tillage is practiced, we are causing negative effects on the soil's structure and disrupting the natural living habitant of our soil's biological system. To be good stewards of our soils, while still producing corn and soybeans, we must consider in what ways can we increase the health of our soils in order to achieve our overall yields.

Building a healthier soil on our farm is something that we take seriously. Currently on our farm, we utilize three different tillage programs based on what is best for each particular field, as well as landowner preferences. Strip tillage is utilized on the majority of our acres, followed by conventional tillage, and a few fields of no-till. By reducing the amount of tillage on our fields, we have seen a noticeable increase in water infiltration after a rain storm. These healthier soils have proper pore spaces and allow the water to be filtrated faster and begin to utilize the water for growing the crop. Ponding of water in the top profile of the soil can happen when it has been through intensive tillage and cannot filtrate waters as fast. This can cause a drowning effect to the roots and severely stresses the plant.

The other advantage to strip tillage, or reduced conservation tillage, is the building of organic matter in our soils. Organic matter is the decaying plant mass from previous crops that is broken down and digested by the microorganisms that live in our soils. Dead plant mass consists of large amounts of nutrients that are unusable until broken down. A healthy soil that has an active microbial factory at work in our soils gives us those nutrients back from the dead plant mass, but this thriving microbial community lives on the soil surface. When tillage is used to bury or mix in the residue, it is actually killing off microorganisms and reducing the breakdown by the lack of oxygen. Utilizing tillage practices such as strip till or no-till, and leaving the organic matter on the soil surface, we are promoting a healthier life for the microbial activity and allowing faster break down of organic matter.

We are blessed to have such rich soils in our region, but to continue increasing our corn and soybean production, we must closely monitor and care for our soils. By operating in a way that creates a healthier soil and builds our organic matter levels, we are helping our soils to be as productive as possible, while maintaining that productivity for future generations.

Water infiltration following a 2" rain



Tell us what you think!

We would like to get your input. We very much enjoy sharing our stories and events with you via this newsletter and our website. We feel it is very valuable to reach out and communicate with our landowners and business partners. However, what we think is important, might be different than what you want to learn about. Please take a moment and email us your thoughts and input. We strive to make our communication with you as detailed as possible without wasting your time. Tell us what matters to you?!?!

Email us your thoughts, ideas, and what you would like to learn more about:

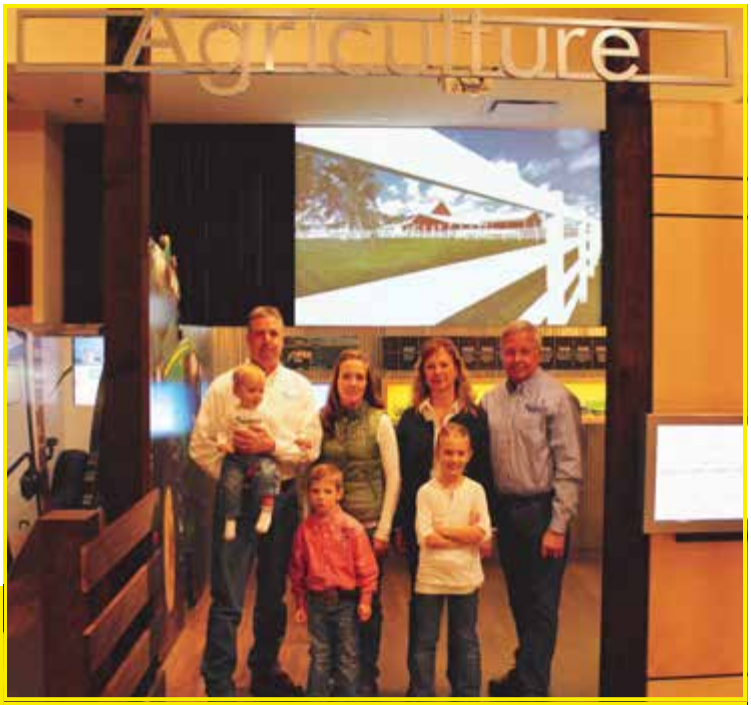
Email us at: dave.nelson@nelsonff.

NELSON FAMILY FARMS featured in the Iowa Hall Of Pride

The Iowa Hall of Pride showcases the achievement of all Iowans, from student athletes to Iowa's sports legends, movie stars to scientists. Interactive, hands on exhibits tell the stories of Iowa heroes while teaching about the state and its history.

In December the Iowa Hall of Pride unveiled its new Interactive IOWA AGRICULTURE exhibit. With 5 interactive monitors and learning stations that focus on different aspects of the farm, OUR FAMILY got to help share the story of Iowa Agriculture.

One day this past fall and a day last spring, a media crew came to our farm and filmed the different operations of a typical Iowa grain farm. As you can see, the exhibit is a learning center that tries to bring the farm to the viewer. Monitors showing the field operations of a growing corn crop, tractor cab simulators, and a growing corn plant exhibit are just a few of the learning stations. ***www.iowahallofpride.com***



Visit the Iowa Hall of Pride on your next trip to Des Moines!

330 Park Street
Des Moines, Iowa. 50309

IOWA HALL of PRIDE
A High-Tech, Interactive Museum

Nelson FAMILY FARMS

Dave Nelson named as TOP PRODUCER OF THE YEAR Finalist

Top Producer Magazine hosts, each year in Chicago, Illinois, the TOP PRODUCER SEMINAR. Hosting over 800 attendees from across North America, this three day seminar focuses on the current issues that are facing today's farmers and agricultural economy. Also part of the Top Producer Seminar is the awards banquet for the TOP PRODUCER OF THE YEAR (TPOY). This award identifies agricultural producers from whom the TOP PRODUCER MAGAZINE's readers can learn business concepts, ranging from value added ventures, to succession plans, to overcoming adversity. Nominations are taken throughout the year ,and three finalists are recognized at the awards ceremony. Nominees are judged on the following areas:

1. *Entrepreneurial Originality (50%)*
2. *Financial and Business Progress (30%)*
3. *Industry and/or Community Leadership (20%)*

In October, I learned that I had been nominated for the TPOY Award, and then in January I was notified of having been selected as one of the three finalists. It was very humbling to know that I had been nominated for such a prestigious award. The award was given to Luke Brubaker of Brubaker Farms from Mount Joy, Pennsylvania. Even though I did not win the award, just being named to the top three was a tremendous honor to say the least.

Being involved in this award and going through the application process has helped me reflect back on my journey and how so many things in life have prepared me for where I am today. I truly believe that in life, everything happens for a reason.

- Being blessed with parents that showed me what hard work is and what it means to work hard for your goals in life.
- The people that have been placed in my life and have helped me achieve my goals.
- The individuals that have taken time out of their lives and helped me grow in my career path.
- The individuals that have believed in me and given me a chance
- The doors of opportunity that have been opened at the right time

The exciting thing about being involved in this award is the network of people and the doors of new opportunities. The ability to share my story and encourage other young producers to reach for their dreams and never give up is my focus with being a finalist for this award. Anyone can reach their goals if they put their heart into it and never give up. I always dreamed of returning home to farm after college, but that was not the plan for my life. The opportunity to work in a different part of the ag industry, and being able to bring all those experiences back to my own operation, has been a blessing. I am excited for the future and where life will take us. Thank you to everyone that has played a role in my life and helped me along the way. Your Support and Encouragement is what has allowed me to be recognized as a 2013 TOP PRODUCER OF THE YEAR Finalist!!!

Above: Log on to our website to view the video biography that Top Producer made for Dave being selected as a TPOY Finalist.

We Were Featured as the Cover Story on Progressive Farmer

YOUR
FARM

Get A Good Start

Fertilizers placed near the seed can accelerate plant growth and turbocharge yield potential.

BY JOHN POCOCK

Ready, set, grow ... with starter fertilizer. That's the strategy Dave Nelson, of Fort Dodge, Iowa, takes at planting. Like a sprinter coming out of the starting blocks, Nelson wants his corn seedlings poised and ready for growth right from the seed chute.

"We're trying to give every seed the opportunity to have the most productive growing environment possible," says Nelson, who farms with his father, Gary, about an hour's drive northwest of Des Moines. "We'd never done much with starter applications until last spring, because we have fairly rich soils and didn't think we needed it. However, newer technology and application products are showing a better payoff, especially in corn following corn."

Historically, starter fertilizer use has been more common among farmers in more northern corn-growing regions. However, Fabian Fernandez, University of Illinois Extension soil fertility specialist, has seen the popularity of starter and "pop-up" fertilizer growing across a broader landscape.

"Any soils that tend to hold water, or clay-type soils that stay cooler in the spring, would also likely benefit from a starter fertilizer application," Fernandez says. Starter fertilizers generally involve at-planting placement of a small supply of nutrients near the seed in a 2 x 2

New technology advancements led Dave Nelson to transition to more efficient planter-applied fertilizer applications. PHOTOS: BOB ELBERT

band (2 inches deep and 2 inches to the side of the seedbed). "Pop-up" types of starters get placed in the seed furrow so seedling roots can rapidly reach the nutrient source. These fertilizers are not intended to supply all nutrients needed by the crop. Their primary purpose is to provide an accessible nutrient source for root and plant growth when adverse conditions occur soon after planting.

VARIABLE RATE. The Nelsons use a Precision Planting 20/20 SeedSense monitor with RowFlow to control starter dispersal. "It not only controls variable-rate seeding but also variable-rate applications of liquid fertilizer," Dave Nelson says. Strip-till helps protect soil from erosion, conserve soil moisture and apply nutrients where most needed.

"The controller shuts off liquid fertilizer applications two rows at a time to prevent overlap," he says. "With this technology, we know the savings are there for us instantly."

Attachments from Totally Tubular allow application of starter in-furrow at or behind the closing wheels on each side of the seed zone with the mere turn of two valves. "The planter-applied starter fertilizer is a liquid 6-24-6 product that goes on with a disc blade in the furrow at about a 6-gallon-per-acre rate," Nelson says. "The Totally Tubular tubes behind the closing wheels allow me to dribble liquid N [nitrogen] beside the seed trench."

After success with starter fertilizer last spring, the father-son duo decided to trade in their 24-row planter for a 32-row John Deere DB80 center-fill planter. "The new planter gives us 600 more gallons of liquid fertilizer capacity on the planter in addition to the two 400-gallon CAT side tanks that we have," Nelson says. "The extra capacity will help so that we don't have to stop for refills as much."

Nelson's goal is to continually stay ahead of the curve and proactively champion best-management plant-nutrient practices. "At some point, the EPA may decide to regulate how and when farmers can apply crop nutrients. We feel our new application system is much less vulnerable to nutrient loss, especially on the nitrogen side, than simply applying everything in the fall," he says. "We're trying to variably apply the appropriate N rate based on each field's fertility level."

CORN-ON-CORN CONSIDERATIONS. Nelson wants to continue transitioning the farm to fewer fall anhydrous ammonia applications toward more efficient planter-applied and sidedress N applications. In the meantime, the farm still relies on a half-rate fall anhydrous application for corn following corn.

"Corn planted into bean stubble is less sensitive to the need for fall N," Nelson observes. "So, when planting corn into bean stubble, we skip the fall anhydrous application, apply the starter fertilizer and supplement the balance with sidedress N."

In addition to using their Totally Tubular equipment to disperse starter fertilizer, the Nelsons also use the in-furrow attachment to apply a liquid insecticide at planting in corn following corn. "This lets us get N into the seed zone for early plant growth, and it also allows us to put on Capture insecticide for rootworm control," Nelson says.

Recently, farms in the Fort Dodge area have been experiencing more pressure from insects like corn rootworms than in the past, predominately where corn follows corn, says Larry Eekhoff, agronomist with New Cooperative, Inc., in Duncombe, Iowa. University entomologists generally prefer crop or trait rotation rather than layering strategies, but the economics have favored corn.

"This part of Iowa has a lot of acres in continuous corn, and resistant traits alone are not fully controlling rootworms," he says. "Currently, there is a big push for starter fertilizer use here due to the ability to put down a liquid insecticide with it. We're seeing some big yield increases by doing so."

ADDED BENEFITS. In addition to the payoff from traditional starter fertilizers, farmers in the area are also seeing a response to starter fertilizers that include zinc, says Eekhoff, who works with Nelson on both insect- and nutrient-management practices. "With the increased price per bushel of corn, there's an increased push to get the most yield per acre, and it's important to get the crop ▶

PHOTO: BOB ELBERT

growing well right from the start," Eekhoff says. "You never want to have a bad day in crop growth, and early seedling growth is highly responsive to zinc in deficient soils."

Nelson plans to continue side-by-side comparisons for various starter products that look promising for future use. "In our business, if you're not moving ahead, you're falling behind," he says. "Our goal is to have no status quo in our operation."

Still, a return on investment needs to be factored in when considering adding more products into the mix, Nelson explains. "It already costs about $30 per acre to apply 6-24-6 with Capture insecticide," he says. "We have to evaluate each dollar spent to see if it is paying us back. If we add a micronutrient and a growth promoter, it would boost our input costs up to $40 to 45 per acre."

BEST-CASE STARTER SCENARIOS. Farmers need to be cautious because, in some circumstances, starter fertilizers only provide an aesthetic benefit—the crop looks better but doesn't necessarily yield better, Fernandez points out. "In a nutshell, University of Illinois studies from the recent past show starter fertilizer provides the most benefit in a low-fertility situation when spring starts wet and cool," he says. "Fields with dense crop residue or fields planted to corn following corn could also respond better to a starter fertilizer application, because those are more challenging environments for establishing a good stand."

Dave Franzen, North Dakota State University Extension soil specialist, confirms the use of starter is generally profitable in northern growing regions most years. "In North Dakota, research shows significant improvements to corn yields from using starter fertilizer," Franzen says. "The biggest yield increase that I've seen in North Dakota research is a 30-bushel-per-acre increase. The lowest is zero. Normally, it's about a 5- to 10-bushel yield boost."

He encourages farmers to use soil tests to select the right starter. "The most common starter fertilizer for corn in North Dakota is ammonium polyphosphate [APP, 10-34-0], except where potassium [K] levels are low," he says. "In that case, corn growers typically use a starter with K, such as a 6-18-6 or 7-21-7."

Starter fertilizer improves yields by stimulating early growth, Franzen adds. "Most years, using any starter is better than using no starter in North Dakota. Using a 2 x 2 band works best because it won't cause seed damage; but not everyone is set up with the machinery to do that."

However, if Mother Nature provides an ideal growing season with a warm spring, then there's less benefit from using a starter. Franzen adds the only other nutrient that is generally applied with N, P (phosphorus) and K as a starter fertilizer in North Dakota is zinc. "North Dakota has a lot of acres that are deficient in zinc," he says. "Our soils are just naturally low in zinc, so we recommend its application in four crops, including corn."

Iron deficiency chlorosis (IDC) in soybeans is also a common problem in wetter soils in eastern North Dakota. "It's more likely to develop where pH is 7 or above due to iron uptake being decreased by bicarbonate ions," he says. "In these soils, a seed-placed, ortho-ortho EDDHA [iron Chelate] fertilizer like Soygreen can be helpful along with an IDC-tolerant soybean variety."

Fernandez says N and P are the two ingredients in starter fertilizer most likely to make a yield difference. "Potassium only has an effect if the soil is low for it," he says. "In Illinois, soils that tend to tie up phosphorus are less common than in other states. It's also pretty rare that farmers in Illinois will see deficiencies in micronutrients except in very sandy soils."

For information on micronutrient use and the relative value of higher-priced starter fertilizers, Franzen advises farmers to look at the Iowa State University nonconventional compendium of soil amendments and additives at: **www.agronext.iastate.edu/soilfertility/nutrienttopics/addbyproducts.html.**

BENEFITS OUTWEIGH NEGATIVES. "The downside to starter fertilizer use is that it's more labor and work intensive, and it's sticky, corrosive material to work with," says Bill Briggs, of Canby, Minn. "Still, the benefits outweigh the downside by quite a bit," he adds. "We've tracked big improvements in what we've seen through the yield monitor all the way to our stand counts after using starter."

Briggs owns a planter together with a neighbor, Wayne Pederson. About six years ago, they built a cart with two 750-gallon tanks to pull behind their planter when planting corn. "We use 10-34-0 in-furrow with the seed using a stainless-steel drop tube and dribble 28% N on top of the soil 2 inches to the side of the seed," Briggs says. "A Honda 25-hp motor runs the hydraulic pump."

The liquid N application helps hold the crop until Briggs sidedresses anhydrous ammonia. "We're at a constant 7-gallon-per-acre rate on our 28% N application," he says. "That's been a pretty good standard for ▶

Photo Journal

Above: Dave and Fonda spend time with their family in the summers traveling the rodeo circuit! It has become their family hobby and time away from the farm.

Above: Tyson was the Bull Rider Points Champion of the Pee Wee division this past year with the Tuff N Nuff Miniature Rodeo.

Above Right: The entire Nelson Family home for Christmas. 12 Grandkids!!!

Left: Morgan (center) was Reserved Champion for Year end points in barrel racing with the Tuff N Nuff Miniature Rodeo Association.

Above: We mow all the ditches one last time during harvest.

Below: Filling the CAT with Diesel fuel while running all night during strip till.

Left: Gary combining beans next to the fence on the Home farm. Beans yields were surprisingly good this past year.

Right: Morgan and Tyson love to ride in the combine after school. This day they got to ride with their dad.

Below: Our trucks in line to dump corn at Clare elevator. This corn was from the Stark Stormor Farm.

Above: A look from behind the combine.

Photo Journal

Left: Dumping corn at the outside pit at the Otho elevator.

Right: Mason is Grandpa's new little helper. If Grandpa is around, he is on his lap.

Below: Tyson helping Dad and Grandpa service the combine.

Above: Combining corn on the Andrews Quarter. We started corn on September 10th this year.

Below: Grandpa Tom is our #1 corn hauler in the fall. YOU DO NOT LEAVE HIS WINDOWS DOWN OR HE WILL BE HAVE A TALK WITH YOU...

Below: We try to stop and eat as a family each evening. Fonda brought out supper this night while we were combining on the Webb Farm.

Center: Dave scooping up the spilled beans from the bottom trap door of the trailer not getting shut.

Bottom Center: Fonda checking email while waiting for a semi to return to the field.

Below: Fueling and servicing the combine and semi's in Dave's yard.

Below: This year we had about 450 acres of severely wind damaged corn. We had to install a corn reel and drive VERY slow to get it all combined.

Photo Journal

Above: A view from the sky of the Haire #3 farm after it was completely pattern tiled this fall.

Center Morgan and Tyson love playing in the semi any chance they get.

Below: Morgan spending time with Grandma in the grain cart tractor.

Above: Strip tilling into corn stalks for next years corn on corn. This was on the Andrews Quarter.

Above: Strip tilling into the cover crops on Smeltzer #4.

Left: The CAT went in for some repair work this past winter at Ziegler CAT in Fort Dodge.

Below: Bringing home our new planter that we purchased from the JD dealer in Estherville, Iowa.

Left: Gary and Karma were able to get away for a winter vacation with their 5th wheel camper.

Right: Each winter the tractors are sent into the dealership for a full inspection and service work.

Photo Journal

Left: Standing corn stalks in our strip till catching the winter snow.

Right: Dave spoke to a group of Ukraine farmers about strip tillage at John Deere Corporate in Ankeny.

Center: A county main tile was installed on the Zinn Farm. It was dug in through the frost.

Left: Taking the markers of the planter. With GPS, we no longer use the markers.

Right: The planter in the shop getting out-fitted with Precision Planting components.

OUR FAMILY DOING BUSINESS WITH YOUR FAMILY!

With your involvement, our Family Farming Operation continues to grow! As the winter of 2013 comes to a close, we would like to thank all of our farming & business partners. Without your help we would not be where we are today!

If you or anyone you know is looking for a long term tenant, we would be excited to share more details about our family operation. We pride ourselves in the relationship and open communication with everyone that we do business with. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please feel free to contact us! - The Nelson's

Our Century Farm Since 1889

Nelson FAMILY FARMS

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Visit us online at: www.nelsonff.com

"Leadership is the Challenge to be Something More than Average..."

Jim Rohn

Fall / Winter 2013

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