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## *Fall/Winter 2012 Edition*

### **Fall Season Update**

What a fall! The fall of 2011 will be remembered as the warmest, driest, dustiest, and lowest crop moisture falls in many years. The insulated coveralls never came out this fall, it was t-shirts and sweatshirts clear into November! It was certainly an enjoyable fall to complete our harvest and tillage.

With 100+ degree temps in late July for 10-15 days, and no rain from August 1 into harvest, we were very concerned as to what yields were going to be. It was a very dry August and September. By early August the crop had virtually been made, from there the pod fill and kernel set are what determines final yield.

Harvest started on September 26th with CORN! Yes, CORN was first. We had a 102 day Dekalb variety on the Smeltzer #4 Learning Farm that was 17%. It was a great field that is close to home allowing us to get the combine set and calibrated. This was the only field of early corn that we had ready, so we then proceeded to soybeans the next day.

Soybeans this year were great. With our early frost in September, our earlier variety beans were about 10 bushels better than the 2.5 maturity beans or later. Our first field of soybeans were also on the Smeltzer #4 Learning Farm. The NE corner field went 67 bu./acre, ranking as the highest soybean yield this farm has ever seen. As we got further into soybean harvest and harvesting the later maturities, our farm average was about 59 bu./acre! The soybeans were very dry at harvest. Dusty conditions made for risk of field fires. Our harvest moisture averaged about 10%. Very Dry!!! A great soybean year despite the hot/dry weather.

Corn yields were great as well. We averaged about 205 bu./acre across the entire farm. It was exciting to watch the combine yield monitor consistently in the 210-220 range! With having no drowned out spots in our fields this year, it helped keep the overall field average higher. We started fully into corn in early October and were finished by the 22nd. The corn was also very dry this year. Average harvest moisture was about 13.3%. This is good since there are no drying costs however, it also reduces actual yield due to lighter kernels, smaller kernels, and header loss.

Strip tilling followed the combine throughout harvest. We completed strip tilling by early November. With dryer than normal soil conditions, it made for great soil conditions for fall tillage. You might have seen a Case IH disc ripper in our yard this year. This was used on the new farms that we rented this past fall. We will use conventional tillage on those acres for the first year then convert them into strip tillage next season.

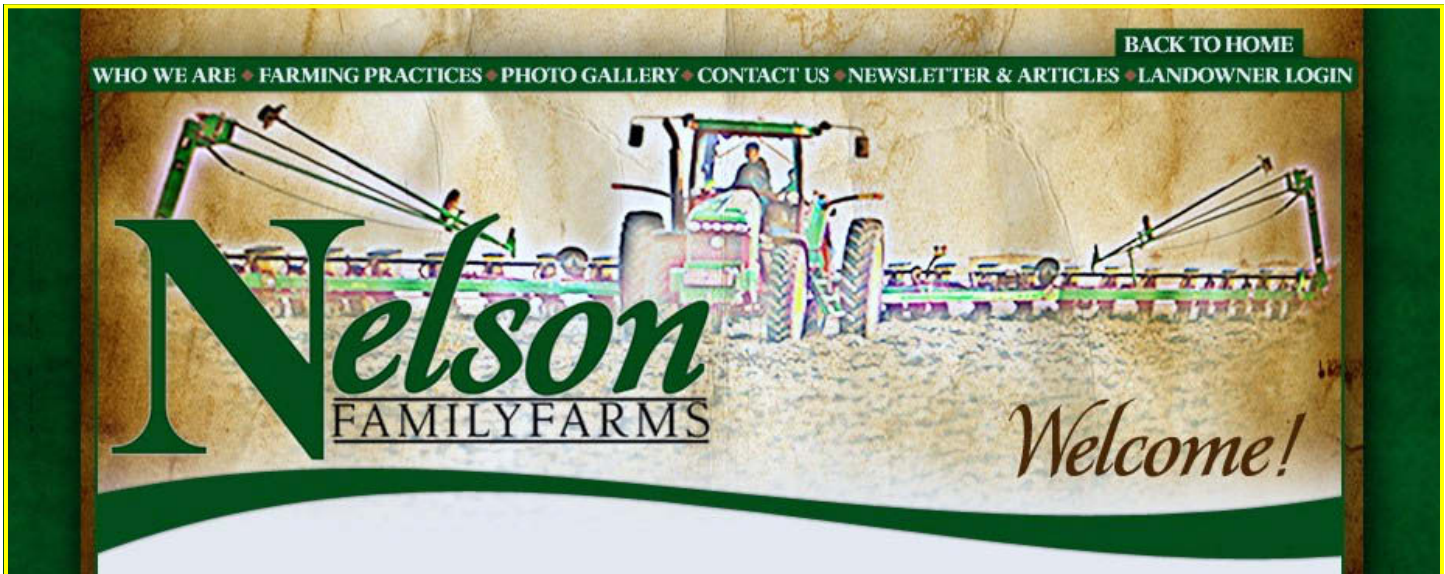
The extended nice temperature into the early winter also allowed us to get some major field tile projects done on 3 of our farms.



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## Our Website: A BIG HIT!!!!



We introduced to you in the summer newsletter our Nelson Family Farms website. ([www.nelsonff.com](http://www.nelsonff.com)) It has become a great tool and has become a big hit for our farming operation. Here are some of our website statistics from the past 12 months:

Total Different Visitors: 7,284

Average # of Daily Visitors: 48

Different Pages Viewed: 12,282

Total Hits on internet: 218,269

As you can see from the statistics, we have many visitors that are viewing our website multiple times during the week. An average of 48 different visitors each day! Wow! We are very excited to keep building our website and adding as much information to it as possible. It has been fun to receive emails from our website visitors asking to learn more about our operation or just wanting to see when the next newsletter will be coming out. We received an email this past summer from a professor in China doing research on precision agriculture in the United States. From our website and from visiting with him on the phone, we are now being used in his classroom teaching materials and a research paper that he is preparing.

## SO....WHATS NEXT???

**Landowner Login** is the next big thing to showcase on our website! This will be a place where our farm managers and landowners can LOG ON to our website through a password protected portal. They will then be able to view the farm information for their specific farm. No one else will be able to see their farm information, only them! We are currently working on this project and getting it ready for a late winter launch. Each landowner and farm manager will get their very own private USER ID and PASSWORD. Yield maps, planter maps, fertilizer maps, soil sampling results, Aerial photography, farm photos, and NDVI maps are a few things that landowners and farm managers will be able to view of their own fields.

We are very excited to keep building our website to communicate with our business partners. We would ask for any ideas or requests that you may have. If you want to see something on our website, please email us and let us know! We hope you enjoy seeing everyday pictures of what we are doing on our farm! (Send us your ideas: [dave.nelson@nelsonff.com](mailto:dave.nelson@nelsonff.com))

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## New Equipment on the Farm



This past September we purchased our first CAT tracked tractor. You might be thinking “where are the tires?” You are correct, this tractor does not have any tires. We made this switch to a tracked tractor in an effort to reduce compaction in our fields. The rubber tracks that this tractor are 18” wide x 10 feet long. The weight of the tractor is distributed evenly along that 4320 square inches of belting. This spreads out the weight and greatly reduces compaction in the field. Compaction in the field can greatly reduce crop yields due to poor seedling and plant heath when trying to grow in compacted soils. The other advantage of a track is the transfer of horse power directly to the ground. With that much surface area of the track in contact with the ground, we are no longer spinning the tires when pulling implements. It is almost a direct transfer of horsepower to the tracks and then to the ground.

The CAT (Kitty Cat as Tyson Calls it) pulled our 12 row strip till machine this past fall. It applied at Variable Rate our Anhydrous Ammonia (nitrogen), N-Serve (N stabilizer), MAP (phosphorus), and Potash (potassium). This spring you will see the CAT on our 24 row planter and then on the 24 row Nh3 side dress bar. With more horsepower (340 hp) and the fuel efficient 9 liter CAT engine, the CAT has been a great addition to our farm.

## Projects on the Farm



This summer we refurbished a 1989 Peterbilt 357 semi tractor. It was an old moving company semi with only 380,000 miles. We were needing to upgrade our fertilizer tender for strip tilling due to our now larger MONTAG 9 ton fertilizer cart. Dave stripped the truck down and painted it an eye catching fire engine red. After a little extra chrome was added, we then took it to our truck fabrication shop at Brokaw and stretched it to 18 foot long double rails and mounted our rebuilt Rayman 16 ton fertilizer tender box. This 15 year old tender box was traded for by Brokaw and completely re-built, sandblasted and painted.

The truck and tender combo look brand new even though they were built in the 90's.

This truck will serve our operation well in the years to come!





## Wallaces Farmer Magazine - November 2011 Edition

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY A GRANT FROM  
THE HOWARD G. BUFFETT FOUNDATION

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# ACHIEVING THE IDEAL SEEDBED WITH STRIP TILL

By Lynn Betts



FAMILY FARMERS: Karma and Gary Nelson (left) and their son Dave and wife Fonda are partners in Nelson Family Farms near Fort Dodge. Along for this walk in one of their strip-tilled soybean fields are Dave and Fonda's children, Morgan and Tyson.

After four years of strip till, Dave and Gary Nelson are convinced no other system makes a better seedbed. "We want a warm, dry, potting soil kind of seedbed, not chunks of soil. And in this part of Iowa, we need that narrow seedbed strip to be black," says Dave.

That's what they get with their strip-till machine, that builds an 8-inch-wide-by-3-inch-high berm for the seedbed and leaves the rest of the ground and crop residues untouched.

The Nelsons' farming operation centers around Fort Dodge. "I got a huge reminder of how well strip till works last spring on one of our newly rented farms," Dave says. "We had to field-cultivate it because we weren't able to run the strip-till machine the fall before. I noticed compaction and sidewall smearing — the bottom of the field cultivator sweep made a smear layer, and rainwater didn't go below that. Anywhere there was a tire track, we couldn't get a good seedbed," he says.

"It was corn on corn. The differences between field cultivating and till planting were very obvious to me," Dave says. "I had to set the planter deeper, with more down pressure. And I didn't get as good of a stand of corn."

Each time the Nelsons work with a new landlord, they compare tillage systems on that farm. They also run side-by-side comparisons of strip till, conventional tillage (disk ripper and field cultivating) and no-till in cooperation with the Iowa Learning Farms.

"It kind of hurts to pull that conventional equipment through the field now for our trials," Dave says. "Five years ago, the opposite was true."

The trials have shown comparable yields. "What stands out most from the trials is our soil health, soil conservation, and the reduced fuel, labor and machinery savings we get with strip till," says Dave. "We also get good seed-to-soil contact, minimal sidewall compaction and no smearing — all that affects net income."

### CUT EQUIPMENT, LABOR IN HALF

"We're farming well over 2,000 acres with one primary tractor, with front-wheel assist," Dave says. "My autosteer is in that tractor to pull the 12-row strip-till machine in the fall and the 24-row planter in the spring. We don't need half the equipment or horsepower with strip till like we would if we were doing conventional tillage."



## Wallaces Farmer Magazine - November 2011 Edition

### DEALERSHIP HELPS FARM, VICE VERSA

BOTH GARY and Dave Nelson saw a good business opportunity when they and their wives bought Brokaw Supply Co. in Fort Dodge. The dealership specializes in the niche market of fertilizer and nutrient application equipment, and is also a sprayer center. The company offers parts, service and precision agriculture equipment to Midwest farmers.

The two are known for testing equipment on their land before selling it. Being active farmers is a huge advantage to the business, Dave believes. "We know how to make the equipment work because many times we've helped develop it. It then allows us to talk farmer to farmer with our customers," he says.

"We sell what we use on our farm," Gary adds. "We don't need to read it out of a book."

The farm benefits, too. "The business gives us access to cutting-edge technology," Dave says. "We can test new equipment on the farm, and help

perfect the machinery, like we did recently for a prototype machine. We can show our landlords we're using the most efficient machinery."

Both businesses have gone well. In three and a half years, the Nelsons have expanded from farming 800 acres to well over 2,000 acres, and Brokaw has grown from six employees to 26 full-time employees, plus eight part-timers.

Dave is president of Brokaw Supply, wife Fonda is the bookkeeper, and Gary is in charge of sprayer sales. The three and Gary's wife, Karma, own Brokaw together.

"With the success of both businesses, the toughest part is deciding where to spend our time," Dave says. "Our heart is in farming. Being able to help our customers – whether they are farmers or fertilizer retailers – and helping make them more profitable in their operation has been our goal since day one."

Fuel use with strip till for corn on corn is 1 gallon per acre in the fall – for making one trip with the strip-till machine to build the seedbed and apply variable-rate potassium, phosphorus and anhydrous. In the spring, a half-gallon per acre is used with one pass of the same strip-till machine, with a vertical-tillage attachment to freshen the strips, along with a trip for planting and a trip for sidedressing.

"The total 2 gallons per acre of fuel in strip till compares to 4 gallons needed for most conventional systems of anhydrous application, a disk ripper, field cultivation, planting and sidedressing," Dave says. "I figure we get by for half the fuel and half the equipment."

Dave says they get into the field as early or earlier than any of their neighbors. "It's like planting into a garden," he says. "Come spring, our strips are like potting soil."

Dave says if you make it a priority to get the strip-till machine over the ground in the fall, you'll make it happen. "Dad; my mom, Karma; and wife, Fonda; keep the combine going, and I get after the strip till as soon as I can put anhydrous on," he says. "Our typical fall nitrogen program consists of 100 pounds of nitrogen on every corn acre to ensure the plants have enough N for early seedling growth. Then we sidedress a variable rate of up to 80 pounds of N about June 15. We are firm believers in split applications of N; it's paid for the second application time after time."

### SPRING TILL OPTION

For soybeans into cornstalks, the Nelsons run their strip-tiller in either the spring or fall, and then plant. For corn on beans and corn on corn, they

strip-till in the fall. But now they're excited about using their new vertical-tillage attachment on their strip-till bar to allow them the flexibility for both fall and spring strip till.

The Nelsons also own Brokaw Supply Co. in Fort Dodge. Being a specialty farm equipment company focused on fertilizer and spray equipment has allowed them to test new and next-generation equipment on their farm. They've even worked with strip-till manufacturers to perfect prototypes before they go to market.

The Nelsons' landlords also appreciate the new technologies they've adopted in their operations, Dave says. They use RTK autosteering and variable-rate applications for planting, and fertilizer and herbicide applications. "To us, precision ag does not mean autosteering or a combine yield monitor. Precision ag to us is the agronomic system of prescriptive farming on each and every acre we farm," says Dave.

The Nelsons also use soil grid sampling, soil electrical conductivity mapping, yield mapping with variety tracking, stalk nitrate and plant tissue sampling, and satellite crop imagery. They've hosted several field days on land they farm, and installed a bioreactor last year on one of their farms to reduce the amount of nitrate nitrogen leaving their land by underground tile and reaching surface waters.

They also aerial-seeded cover crops on 70 acres over the Labor Day weekend ahead of last winter. "We're trying to see if we can build organic matter and reduce nitrogen needs. We seeded into standing soybeans early last fall, then strip-tilled into 4- to 5-inch-tall ryegrass after harvest," Dave says.

The Nelsons are continually performing tests on their land, trying two to three new technologies or production methods each year. "If you're not changing with the times and new technology, you are going backwards," Dave says.

*Betts writes from Johnston.*



**FARMERS AND SUPPLIERS:** Dave and Gary Nelson's farming operation complements their niche farm supply business. Both have experienced significant growth in the past three and a half years.

### GETTING A START IN FARMING

"WE DIDN'T have enough land for Dave to farm with us when he graduated from high school or college, and we recommended Dave get experience off the farm," says Dave's father, Gary Nelson. "I thought I'd retire before he'd be back farming, but it happened sooner than that."

That's because Dave was aggressive in finding land to rent 10 years after graduation, and after leaving a promising sales career that took him through Monsanto and Ziegler Cat.

"Dave borrowed money as a high school junior to buy a big round baler, and that taught him responsibility," Gary says. "All our kids are level-headed. When Dave wanted to start farming, I was supportive, but he had to work to find his own land to farm. He and Fonda came up with a detailed business plan and a brochure explaining their business experience and their passion for farming. They talked to more than 15 land managers and many more landowners. Their hard work made an impression; many of those people are now their landlords."

Dave also worked to differentiate himself from other renters, pointing out that landowners could get 5% more cash rent in state tax exemptions by renting to a first-time farmer.

Today, Dave and Gary share labor and machinery in a 50-50 partnership involving them and their wives in Nelson Family Farms LLC, a fifth-generation Century Farm. Dave is in charge of the inputs, planting and strip-till operations, and Gary handles spraying and combine operations. They share the sidedressing work.

The two have weekly business meetings. "I'm quite a ways away from retiring," Gary says, "but Dave could take over at any time if something happened to me."

"I'm farming and doing business with my best friend – my dad," Dave says. "That's every farm kid's dream. I hope someday my son, Tyson, will want to do the same thing."

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## **STRIP TILL Corn on Corn: *START TO FINISH..***

As we shared with you in our Spring/Summer 2011 newsletter we are on a quest to perfect CORN on CORN in our strip till operation. Here are the results from our 2012 Corn on Corn acres:

**Corn following Soybeans:** 205 bu./acre farm average

**Corn following Corn:** 198 bu./acre farm average

As you can see from our yields, corn on corn was in our minds a success! With the way the commodity markets favor corn over soybeans, we wanted to make sure our farm was positioned to grow corn in either environment with our strip till program. This next year we will have approximately 400 acres of corn on corn in strip till. Stay tuned to see how our continued research in strip till corn on corn improves with time. See below our Corn on Corn in strip till field operations:

**Step #1**



**Above:** The stalks are rolled to crush and mat down all the fluff from the previous corn crop.

**Step #2**



**Above:** Fall Strip Till of 150 units of N, and Variable rate P & K. This pass is 15" over from last years corn rows.

**Step #3**



**Above:** Spring "Freshen up" with a Vertical Tillage coulters machine over the fall strip. This removes trash and warms the strip.

**Step #4**



**Above:** Corn is planted into the fresh strip. Starter Fertilizer on the planter gives the corn seedling an extra boost.

**Step #5**



**Above:** The corn plant has a pure black, warm, and mellow seed zone to grow in. No competition with buried residue.

**Step #6**



**Above:** The even emergence of corn is very important. No trash covering the strip.

**Step #7**



**Above:** The balance of the N is side-dressed into the growing crop. Spoon feeding to reduce nitrogen loss.

**Step #8**



**Above:** The old crop residue remains under the crop canopy and is breaking down on the soil surface.

**Step #9**



**Above:** By the next fall, the old residue is pretty much rotten and non-existent.



## Iowa Hall of Pride

This past Fall our family was honored to be host to the Iowa Hall of Pride film crew. It was a foggy morning in mid October during corn combining. Jack Lashier with the Iowa Hall of Pride and his film crew visited our farm to film a documentary on an Iowa Farm Family. The Iowa Hall Of Pride, located across the street from Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines is home to a museum for Iowa's high school sports and its famous athletes. It is a "Hall of Fame" in the sense that it portrays and recognizes the many sports played by Iowa's athletes. Recently John Deere and Monsanto made a large donation to create a venue in the museum recognizing Iowa's great farm families. Our family was chosen to be featured as that IOWA FARM FAMILY!!! It was a great morning on the farm for the filming. A heavy dew and the sounds of harvest in the back ground. As the fog burned off that morning we headed to the field with the combine and equipment. They were filming us as we harvested and our family interaction. Video camera's were in the cab, strapped on the rear of the combine, on the side of the combine, on the grain cart, in the semi, at the elevator, and in the field. It was a lot of fun!



## Agriculture Investment Summit - USA

This past October Dave was asked to present at the Agriculture Investment Summit—USA in Miami, Florida. The Agriculture Investment Summit Americas is a three-day senior-level conference for US, Canadian, and Latin American investors to access global agribusiness and farmland opportunities. Leading global executives attend to learn and evaluate investment vehicles across public and private markets in Agriculture.

Dave presented to the group of 80+ attendees on the topic of "AN OILWELL THAT NEVER RUNS DRY". It was focused on the importance of Soil Conservation and a look into the Precision Agriculture Technology being used on the farm. Using pictures and examples from our farming operation, I was able to paint a picture of how important it is that they consider the soil conservation practices that are being used on the investment farmland that they own. The oil well CAN run dry if you do not manage the asset!!!

The agenda was 3 days of information filled seminars with other presenters at the conference such as Mr. David Everitt, President of John Deere Global Tractor division and Mr. David Oppedahl, Business Economist of the Chicago Federal Reserve Land Bank. This conference has given us a personal network into the global side of investment agriculture. The contacts made at this conference will serve very well for our farm in the years to come.



## Excitement on the Farm

### Grain Storage Facility Wall Collapses:

On the morning of October 4th Dave was sitting in the semi over the pit at the elevator dumping soybeans. The end wall of the quonset collapsed and gave way to the stored soybeans. It engulfed the semi with the soybean dust from the violent collapse. "I sat there in the semi and watched as the wall fell towards the truck and wondered what was actually happening." "Being engulfed in dust, I was not sure if there was more coming so I hunched over with my hands above my head." Thankfully it was not as bad as it could have been.

This quonset was scheduled to be used one more year and then be turned into a equipment storage building. The quonset must have had other plans!

Our local grain elevator has very high safety standards. We are thankful for that! The Lord was watching over many people that day!



**NH3 TANK HOSE BREAKS:** It was a fall that we can now look back and thank the Lord for his hand of safety over our farming operation. Later in November when Dave was strip tilling and going down through a water way, the Nh3 tank came forward and hit the rear of the Montag fertilizer cart. When the tank came forward, it caused the hose on the tank to bind against the cart and break at the hose valve assembly on the nurse tank. Luckily it happened in the most perfect position as possible. Dave was turning up wind as it happened. I shifted into neutral and jumped out before the tractor was even stopped. I knew I had to get upwind before it got to the tractor cab. Luckily with a small breeze, it never reached the cab.

This all happened just as Karma (mom) was pulling another tank down the gravel road. "It was a very scary sight to see!" "Where was David was all I could think", because I could not see him standing up wind and away from the tractor.

Anhydrous ammonia is a compressed gas/liquid. It must be kept under pressure in a tank until injected into the ground. Tank pressures vary from 30 psi on a cold day up to 90 psi on a warm sunny day. The warmer the air, the more pressure created inside the tank. When Anhydrous ammonia comes into contact with oxygen it vaporizes into a gas. As you see here in the picture when the valve broke, it released the anhydrous into the air. Anhydrous is considered the most toxic chemical in agriculture. It will burn your skin, lungs, eyes, and cause severe to deadly results very quickly.

Only 2 days earlier a local farmer was killed by anhydrous from a different accident. Our prayers go out to his family! It is a very scary reminder as to how fast something can happen! We thank the Lord everyday for His blessing and His hands of safety over us as we put in long hours!





## New Shop

This past summer Gary and Karma built a new 60 foot by 60 foot shop on their farm. Construction started during summer with the cement slab being poured by a contractor. The entire rest of the building was built by our family, with most of the work being done by Gary and Karma. A fully equipped shop is very important to provide a complete maintenance program for our line of equipment. Equipment that is maintained in the off season provides for less down time while in the field. Please stop by and visit our new shop!



## The Power of Precision Agriculture

**Precision Agriculture....** It has been around for 10-15 years, but what does it mean? A yield monitor or an auto steer tractor is what many people define as Precision Ag. Just like the computer industry, precision ag is advancing by leaps and bounds each and every day.

Precision Agriculture to our farming operation has taken on a different role than just making our tractor drive straight. It is more than a basic yield map from the combine. To our farming operation: PRECISION AGRICULTURE is a complete systems approach to micro-managing every single acre to its fullest potential. Using the most advanced technology to push our fertilizer rates higher, planting more seeds per acre, evaluating plant stands, using satellite imagery to find problem spots in the field, spoon feeding nitrogen throughout the season, and tracking all crop inputs to the acre are just a few examples of how we are micro-managing each acre with current precision ag technology.

On just about every one of our fields you will find us doing some sort of comparison or side by side research. We go by the motto of: "To stand still and be status quo is to actually go backwards"! We are always looking to find the next couple of bushels that can be produced by implementing the latest technology or seed traits. On the page to the right, you will see a years worth of data from the field around Gary's house. These 4 maps shown are a just a few files that we compile every year on each of our fields.

**PLANTER POPULATION MAP:** This map shows the variable rate seeding prescription for corn on this field. As you can see, we have 3 different MANAGEMENT ZONES: Blue, Pink, and Yellow. These management zones are created based on soil types, previous yield maps, elevation, and soil fertility results. When we push the yellow area to 37,000 seeds per acre we are also pushing the applied fertilizer rates to higher levels. Those yellow zones are recognized as normally a higher yielding area of the field. And in comparison, the pink is a lower producing area of the field. See the Red square in the top part of the field. This is a 1 acre test block to see how this field and variety produces at 39,000 seeds per acre. As a comparison, the average corn seeding population for our area is approximately 32,500. So our average seeding rate on this field of 34,000 is pushing the envelope for the higher yields.

**CORN VARIETY MAP:** This map from spring 2011 shows where we planted each variety. It is a road map for us to go back and evaluate each variety and then compare it back to what population it was planted at. Each fall when we look at ordering corn for the next year, we use this type of data to help make our selection. It is also useful to have in the combine during harvest. As the corn is coming into the head we can evaluate stalk strength, stand ability, ear set, and many other things specific to each variety.

**NDVI IMAGERY MAP:** This map was created using satellite imagery. Natural Differential Vegetative Index is a new technology to the agriculture sector. The satellite takes an image of that specific field and compares the "vegetation" within that field boundary. The darker the green color on the map the more lush and vegetative growth in that area. The more red area represents the other spectrum of the field as far as lesser vegetative cover. This NDVI maps is telling us many different things. An NDVI map can many times be used to estimate yield. It also identifies our different management zones. NDVI imagery is a tool that we will continue to use on each of our fields to further define our management zones and further micro-manage our acres.

**CORN YIELD MAP:** Yield maps have been around for many years. They can be very colorful and paint a cool picture of the field and its very specific demographics. If you look back over the previous maps you can see many things. Compare the different population management zones and how they are now identified in the yielding potential of each zone. You can definitely see what variety was the race horse of the 4 in the field. Now, to throw you a curve ball.... Look at all the blue (high yielding) area south of Dad's house. See the definite line where the yield lowers back to the 200-210 range as you go north across the field? There was not a variety change at that line? There was not a population change at that line? This is the power of Precision Ag! In the south area where it is blue, we tried something new that we've never tried before. It was a side by side comparing 2 different technologies on our farm. Guess which one we are going to be doing a lot more of in the future???!!!

All in all, the field still averaged 201.3 bu/acre across the entire 109.8 acres. We consider that a great success! Precision Ag is like "I-PAD App" to our farm. It is giving us new technology to better our NET INCOME on each acre!

**To be standing still and status quo is to actually be going backwards!!!!**

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## Gary's Home Farm—2011

### Planter Population Map



Grower : Gary-Dave Nelson  
Farm : Farm  
Field : ELK13N5E Home 80  
Year : 2011  
Operation : Planting Prescription  
Crop / Product : CORN  
Previous Years Crop(s) : Soybeans  
Op. Instance : Instance - 1  
Area : 148.3 ac  
Total Amount : 5034.3 kds  
Avg. Rate : 34.0 kds/ac  
Min. Rate : 32.0 kds/ac  
Max. Rate : 39.0 kds/ac  
Count : 1895

**Target Rate(Count)  
(kds/ac)**

39.0( 0.7 ac)
37.0(37.7 ac)
34.5(90.3 ac)
32.0(16.0 ac)



### Corn Variety Map



Grower : Gary-Dave Nelson  
Farm : Farm  
Field : ELK13N5E Home 80  
Year : 2011  
Operation : Site Verification  
Crop Type : Corn  
Area : 148.0 ac  
Start Date : 5/2/2011 1:52:03 PM  
End Date : 5/2/2011 8:55:27 PM  
Working Time : 9.8 hr  
Avg. Productivity : 15.1 ac/hr

**Product - Name**

DKC55-08	(33.9 ac)
DKC58-83	(20.0 ac)
DKC59-35	(74.7 ac)
N63R-3000GT	(20.0 ac)

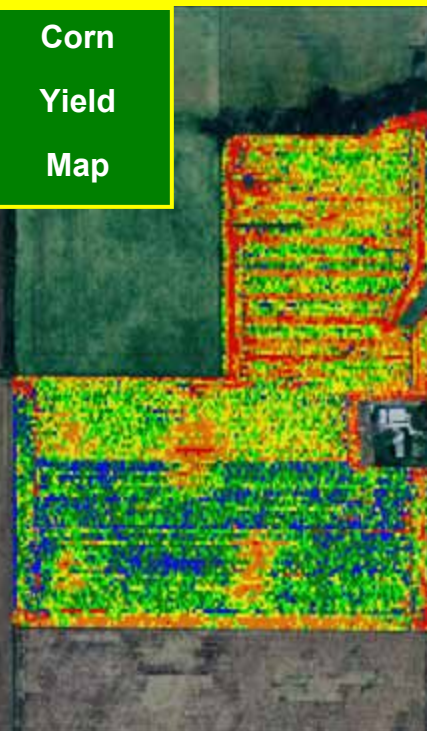


### NDVI Imagery Map

Taken  
August 10th



### Corn Yield Map



Farm : Home  
Field : Home 80  
Year : 2011  
Operation : Grain Harvest  
Crop : Corn  
Area : 109.8 ac  
Avg. Yield : 201.3 bu/ac  
Avg. Moisture : 14.0 %  
Start Date : 10/14/2011  
Finish Date : 10/15/2011  
Total Dry Bu. : 22099.8 bu

**Estimated Volume (Dry)  
(bu/ac)**

223.07 - 373.57	(10.3 ac)
217.28 - 223.07	(11.3 ac)
212.93 - 217.28	(11.4 ac)
209.05 - 212.93	(11.5 ac)
205.15 - 209.05	(11.6 ac)
201.05 - 205.15	(11.6 ac)
195.49 - 201.05	(11.5 ac)
187.35 - 195.49	(11.3 ac)
171.26 - 187.35	(11.1 ac)
0.00 - 171.26	( 8.3 ac)





## Photo Journal



**Above:** Dave and Fonda visited one of our landowners in Chicago. Also toured the Board of Trade.



**Above:** Gary and Grant pose for a photo opportunity!



**Above:** Our Strip Tillage field day at our Iowa Learning Farm.. 70+ farmers attended!



**Above:** Our mowing crew. Gary in the tractor and Karma on the lawn mower.



**Above:** Morgan and Tyson helping on the shed.



**Above:** Mowing ditches on the Hogan farm. Ditches get mowed 2-3 times each summer.



**Above:** Peterbilt tender truck: sanded down, primer applied, now waiting for the shiny red paint.



**Above:** Karma cutting boards for the new shop. Her and Gary did most of the work themselves.



**Above:** The 4960 being delivered to its new owner. Sad to see it go, but excited for the new CAT track tractor.



**Above:** Getting the semi's shined up for harvest.



## Photo Journal



**Above:** Being dad's helper is hard work.



**Above:** Tyson taking corn in to check the moisture.



**Above:** Gary and Karma driving the CAT.



**Above:** Fonda and Angi having fun in the grain cart.



**Above:** A VERY dusty soybean harvest



**Above:** Gary servicing the combine prior to harvest.



**Below:** The 35' bean head cutting soybeans



**Above:** Tyson's favorite part of harvest. Playing in the semi.



**Above:** Gary blowing the dust out of the combine to prevent a fire from starting. A dirty job.

**Above:** Grandpa and Morgan trucking corn.



**Below:** Grandpa and Tyson eat lunch in the combine





## Photo Journal



**Above:** Harvesting as the sun comes up. A refreshing time of the day!



**Above:** Grandpa Tom watching Fonda unload corn in to the semi.



**Above:** Tyson is the National Tiny 2011 Tot Bull Riding Points Champion



**Above:** Karma and Fonda unloading on the go.



**Above:** Fonda loading the semi with corn to go to the elevator.



**Above:** Grandpa Tom has a quick truck driving lesson with Gary. Wonder what Gary did that he needed more driving lessons?



**Above:** A view of our cab in the CAT on the Strip Till Machine. It looks busy, but we are implementing the latest in Precision Ag.



**Above:** A view of the ryegrass cover crop growing in the standing corn.



**Above:** A view of our strip till rig folded up and ready to go down the road. 100% of our tillage and fertilizer is done in the fall!



**Above:** Clayton (far) our Technology Manager and Phil (near) our Precision Sales Manager calibrating our Combine monitors.



## Photo Journal

**Below:** A view from the tractor seat of the strip till machine running in bean stubble with cover crop growing.



**Below:** Installing tile on the Haire Farm. A great fall for tiling and extra field improvements



**Above:** Intalling tile on the Smeltzer #1 farm just north of the Nh3 plant.

**Below:** Dave and Gary calibrate the Montag fertilizer cart.



**Above:** Our strip till machine stopped on the endrows of the Hogan farm.



**Above:** Our good friend Marc Dangerfield with Monsanto comes out to see how the fall harvest is going.

## OUR FAMILY DOING BUSINESS WITH YOUR FAMILY!

With your involvement, our Family Farming Operation continues to grow! As the spring of 2012 approaches, we would like to thank all of our farming & business partners. Without your help and assistance 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



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

*Jim Rohn*

*Fall/Winter 2012*



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