



FARM DESCRIPTION: 1,500 acres of corn, soybeans and wheat.

GROWER:
Lowell Myerholtz
(right)

David Myerholtz
(middle)

LOCATION:
Gibsonburg, Ohio

RETAIL FACILITY:
The Andersons, Inc.

CROP ADVISOR:
John Fritz (left)

RETAILER LOCATION:
Fremont, Ohio

WHAT DAVID SAYS ABOUT THE 4Rs:

“Nutrient runoff has been known to be an issue in this area. A 4R protocol and statement help show that what we are doing makes good environmental sense. We’ve been doing things the right way for years, but we need to help raise the bar for everyone and make all farmers want to do more.”

WHAT JOHN SAYS ABOUT THE 4Rs:

“As one of the first ag retailers to be certified in the Western Lake Erie Basin 4R Certification Program, the Andersons works closely with its customers to encourage them to use best management practices in their farming operations.”

ADVOCATE PROFILE 2016

ECONOMIC MEASURE OF SAVINGS:

Input costs are reduced by using variable rate technology, which can generally offset the added cost of the technology needed to obtain environmentally sound crop production. The 4Rs program generates improved efficiency, higher yields and better environmental stewardship. We have achieved 20 percent savings in fuel costs by converting from conventional tillage to strip-till for corn production. Efficiency of precision-applied nutrients has been improved, reducing fertilizer use up to 10 percent by eliminating overlaps.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IMPLEMENTED ON THE FARM:

- Strip-till farming helps with conservation. This method is a modified no-till approach, specifically placing phosphorus and potassium nutrients in the soil in the fall, after harvest.
- Nitrogen is applied using side-dress in the spring
- The strip-till program helps keep track of exact dates and amounts of nutrients applied
- French drains help keep soil erosion down and prevent water runoff
- Filter strips are used at the edge of fields where there are ditches. These buffer strips help reduce compaction in the field while minimizing and filtering surface runoff.
- Variable rate fertilizer application is made based precisely on soil type and soil tests conducted regularly. Variable rates of lime are also made to meet the needs of the soil.
- Cover crops are used to reduce erosion and runoff and build soil health
- Using VERIS data through The Andersons, the growers take into account the soil tests and crop removal to create a plan for each management zone
- Conduct test plots and host field days to educate other farmers

NUTRIENT USE EFFICIENCY

By using filter strips and cover crops with the variable rate application of P and K via strip-till after harvest and side-dressing of N in the spring, the farm improves its nutrient use efficiency, prevents runoff and improves yields.