

ADVOCATE PROFILE

GROWER:

Chris Von Holten (*right*)

LOCATION:

Walnut, Illinois

RETAIL FACILITY:

Ag View FS

CROP ADVISOR:

Malcolm Stambaugh (*left*)

RETAILER LOCATION:

Walnut, Illinois



The farming operation currently consists of 1,025 acres in 75% corn and 25% soybeans.

CROPPING SYSTEM GOALS:

Strive to optimize nutrient application and improve soil health to increase yields by evaluating new products, technologies and practices and adopting those that benefit the farming operation.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IMPLEMENTED ON THE FARM:

- Conservation tillage on all acres by either utilizing no-till or strip-till practices
- Soil test on 2.5-acre grids
- Utilize yield goals, soil tests, maps and field nutrient credits to develop fertilizer recommendations
- Utilize variable rate seeding
- Utilize variable rate fertilizer applications
- Apply strips of nitrogen in the fall with a nitrogen stabilizer: NH₃/N-serve, ESN
- Sidedress remaining nitrogen in the spring
- Dry micronutrients, phosphorus, potash and urea are applied via a strip till applicator
- Utilize plot test to evaluate new practices, products and application rates
- Participate in Ag View's "Pursuit of Maximum Yield" program to evaluate products and practices to achieve highest potential soybean and corn yields
- Scout fields during the growing season
- Use seed treatments to protect seeds and promote early growth
- Currently trying radish and oat cover crop mix to absorb excess nutrients and reduce soil erosion
- Maintain 16 acres of waterways for erosion control
- Bale non-CRP waterways to provide local cow/calf producer feed for his livestock

FORMS OF NUTRIENTS APPLIED:

N-Serve with fall ammonia, ESN, Urea, Potash, MicroEssentials (MESZ), Foliar application
Wuxall Triple

NUTRIENT USE EFFICIENCY:

0.9 lbs N/bu corn with 0.7 lbs N/bu achieved on some corn ground

AVERAGE YIELD FOR EACH CROP:

- **Corn:** 160–240 bu/ac
- **Beans:** 42–68 bu/ac

ECONOMIC MEASURE OF SAVINGS:

The cost savings are one of the benefits of practicing a sustainable nutrient program. Setting realistic yield goals, using variable rate fertilizer applications, crop nutrient removal and grid soil testing all lead to a sustainable program.