

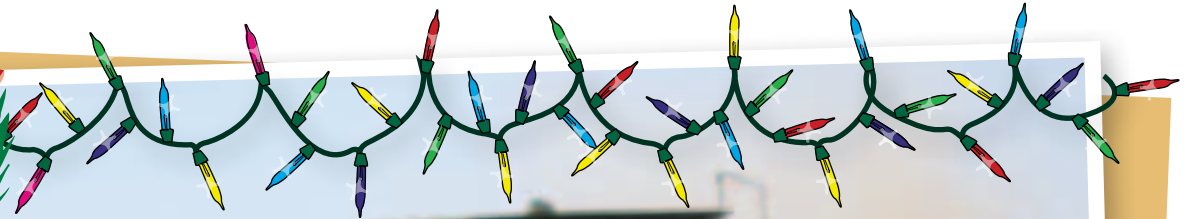


# Noland Farms, Inc.

Blue Mound, IL

Fall 2010 Newsletter

## Holiday Greetings from our family at Noland Farms!



**T**emperatures and leaves have fallen, days are shorter and pools are closed. The lawn mower has NOW entered hibernation! Time to dust off the snow shovel, locate winter gloves and educate the kids on “the fine art of shoveling the sidewalk.”

At Noland Farms, this time of year provides an opportunity to evaluate the growing season’s results and begin the implementation of this knowledge into decisions for 2011. Through compiled harvest data and

the combine monitor’s yield maps, a “2010 report card” emerges for the corn and soybeans planted in spring. This information is also analyzed to determine which corn and soybean hybrids produced high yields and should remain in the “line-up” of seed to be planted in 2011. Assessing the results derived from the corn root growth promoter, starter fertilizer and the corn hybrid side-by-side comparison research plots assists in determining future product selection and

application practices.

Current farm activities include purchasing seed and chemical inputs, analyzing avenues for upward integration into the input supply chain, preparing for the delivery of grain to market and establishing means to improve the self-sufficiency of each operational unit.

# Harvest Recap



According to a recent news report by Tom Skilling, a WGN meteorologist, Illinoisans experienced “the warmest, driest fall in 50 years.” Our family completed harvesting corn on October 6th, which was roughly two months before last year’s conclusion! The primary components to this reduction were decreased rainfall throughout the planting and harvesting periods, substantially lower corn kernel moisture content, and an estimated 20% corn yield reduction throughout much of central Illinois.

In reviewing our Fall 2009 Newsletter, I found an excellent example portraying the seasonal differences of the two periods...

“Wet soil conditions often kept us out of the fields for extended periods of time, and long lines of trucks with high moisture corn led many grain elevators to hold limited hours, some open just four hours each day.”

Rain postponed the 2010 harvest for just one day, and elevators held extended hours

and did not experience the annual logistical logjam that coincides with fall grain deliveries. In 2010 corn kernel moisture averaged 7-10 points lower than the exorbitantly high corn kernel moisture content of last year. How about 180 degrees? Although long lines at commercial facilities were not a limiting factor to harvest efficiencies, we proactively addressed this concern through increased on-farm grain storage, more efficient grain handling equipment and improved corn-drying capabilities. We excitedly anticipate further reducing dependency on commercial elevators through additional on-farm storage for 2011.

Ideal post-harvest weather allowed us to lay the foundation for a few of the 2011 research plots. With an agronomic

and economic focus, we have strived to pinpoint the timing of fertilizer application for the corn plant. Through fall versus spring-applied anhydrous ammonia plots, we hope to generate valuable data in both corn-following-soybeans and corn-following-corn scenarios. Within the same field the timing of anhydrous application should directly correlate to yield, as the same corn variety and spring fertilizer program will be applied to the research plots.

# Land Improvement Projects



**W**ith a historically early completion of the 2010 harvest, we had time for many land improvement projects that had been delayed over the past few years. Unfortunately, many projects on the docket incurred additional erosion damage due to the uncharacteristically large volumes of recent rainfall. We repaired waterways, constructed surface drainage avenues and built retention structures on many farms to route water through and off the land to

outlets. Clearing brush growing in drainage ditches, creeks and fencerows in addition to removing detrimental beaver dams will also improve drainage. Time dedicated to repairing broken sections within the network of tile that carries sub-soil moisture should allow earlier access for spring field operations due to drier conditions. Maintaining a commitment to engage in practices promoting stewardship of the land continues to be a focus of our family.

## Farmland Investment

The current farmland market has provided exciting opportunities for those with current land holdings and individuals interested in purchasing a farm. We are excited to discuss investment opportunities with you. Give us a call.

Dennis – 217.433.8947  
[dennis@nolandfarms.com](mailto:dennis@nolandfarms.com)

Duane – 217.433.2979  
[duane@nolandfarms.com](mailto:duane@nolandfarms.com)

Grant – 217.433.8084  
[grant@nolandfarms.com](mailto:grant@nolandfarms.com)

[www.nolandfarms.com](http://www.nolandfarms.com)

Current operational updates and new pictures are available on our website.

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## Noland Farms, Inc

7954 S. Meridian Ave  
Blue Mound, Il 62513-7067  
217-433-8084  
www.nolandfarms.com

## Now and Then

Through many of the conversations shared with my grandfather, I've learned the only constant in his lifetime has been change. The agriculture industry has experienced vast technological advancements in just the past five years. The spectrum of innovative equipment, new practices and technology introduced has truly been phenomenal. Seated at the helm of the combine this fall, my grandfather praised the brilliance of the individual responsible for designing the modern combine cab. With light rain collecting on the windshield, I attempted to imagine how he operated the combine pictured, circa 1950... goggles and a bandana to filter dust... cotton balls to dampen the noise... Eskimo attire when the harvest pushed late into the season? Upon asking for an accurate description of what it used to be like, he shared that "during that period of time you didn't know any different, so you just went ahead with the work." He vividly remembers the days of pulling a corn picker and wagon behind a tractor through the dust, and using the "layered clothing approach" to harvest the last 20 acres of soybeans around my parents' house in minus 10 degree weather.

*Neil harvesting in 1950*



Although difficult to visualize as he engaged the auto-steer, then reviewed the data on the yield monitor and relayed the results across the two-way radio... he reassured me that modern day harvesting is certainly "simpler." I wonder what the next five years of change will bring?