



# Noland Farms, Inc.

Blue Mound, IL

2012 Volume 1



## Greetings

**G**reetings from our family at Noland Farms! We hope our newsletter finds you in good health and enjoying sun, sand and cool ocean breezes! For those who happen to be residing in good 'ol central Illinois with us, a slight consolation is that we endured one of the mildest winters in recent memory, spring has provided unseasonably warm and pleasant temperatures and summer is soon to be emerging on the horizon. Although we anxiously await the seasonal transition, writing our newsletter has provided a terrific opportunity to reflect on

many exciting developments and blessings since our last quarterly update:

- The entire family traveled to Pasadena for Blake and Kristin's December wedding... Neil and Erma celebrated their 62th wedding anniversary in Florida.
- Dennis turned the BIG 5-0.
- The 28% liquid nitrogen fertilizer complex was completed and successfully filled with product in the fall.
- Grant was featured on the cover of Prairie Farmer Magazine's February issue.

- Ground has been broken on our bulk diesel fuel site and dry fertilizer storage shed.
- We were presented with the opportunity to plant corn in mid-March.
- And 2012 presented new partnerships with landowners in Christian, Macon, Montgomery, Moultrie and Shelby counties.

The growth and experiences that developed through the colder months have provided the foundation for our optimistic outlook for the coming year!

# Projects-

We previously shared that our family's commitment to improvement has led to our recent investment in fuel and liquid fertilizer storage. Our initial investment involved revamping our fuel system to provide additional storage and allow us to operate within EPA guidelines. This initial phase also included building a liquid fertilizer complex for 28% nitrogen fertilizer. This new storage allows us to capture a reduced cost for the product and realize increased efficiency during the spring due to access at a centralized location.

Phase two was initiated this winter, and we are excited to announce additional improvements! Our fertilizer complex's capacity will grow 33% with the addition of another 30,000 gal tank (the average swimming pool takes 18,000-20,000 gallons of water to fill). This tank will store starter fertilizer ... a product we apply in-furrow to provide an early food source for the corn plant. Starter fertilizer's affect on corn could be compared to one's first sip of morning coffee ... a little kick-start to the day! Delivery of the starter fertilizer will mirror that of the 28% nitrogen solution ... filling the tank in October and storing until application with corn planting.

Our revamped fuel system will also

experience growth in 2012. The impact of fuel prices on our bottom line is ever-growing in our business, and we believe implementing measures to hedge our risk are key. The addition of a 10,000 gallon diesel tank (the fuel tank in a combine holds 200 gallons) will allow us to take delivery of diesel by a semi tanker, which should effectively lower our future fuel cost by 5%.

Change clearly continues to be the only constant in our business, and the future opportunities for growth within our industry appear endless for those willing to commit to and invest in improvement. Expanding our on-farm storage of some of our primary inputs improves our risk management. We are excited about the changes we've made to our farm business model. The process has included hiccups, potholes, growing pains, efficiencies and successes ... all providing valuable learning experiences.

As we continue to gain data and feedback regarding the ventures of 2011, prospective projects are filling the docket for 2012. The pace in which industry participants are adopting new technologies and practices is astonishing ... a challenging, yet thrilling time for those in production agriculture!



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

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



## -Farmland Investment-

The current farmland market has provided exciting opportunities for those with current land holdings and individuals interested in purchasing farmland. We are excited about the farmland investment opportunities we are seeing! Contact us now to discuss current investment opportunities.

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)



## -Community Involvement-

Earlier this year, Logan and Grant had the opportunity to participate in a “restock the local food pantry” event at one of the Kroger grocery stores in Decatur. Coordinated by the Big Brothers and Big Sisters organization, volunteers at three locations collected over 1,870 food items and around \$220 in monetary donations. Kristin (Blake’s wife) is a case manager for the organization, and we look forward to participating on Team Kristin in the upcoming bowl-a-thon, which is the largest fundraising event of the year.

In February, Dennis was “recruited” by his great-nephew to assist in building a championship car for the Boy Scout’s annual derby. Although not the fastest, the lime green car did not fall apart on the track and claimed “Best Paint Job,” which was voted on by fellow participants ... a great day for all!



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

# Land Improvement

Wet weather patterns have proven challenging in recent years. This past fall we were fortunate to work with contractors installing tile systems for landowners in Christian and Montgomery counties. Completion of the projects in the fall will allow for the mounded soil covering the plastic tile to settle through the winter. Prior to planting the seed, the mounded soil was leveled off with a finishing tool to provide a uniform surface. Throughout the upcoming growing season, we anticipate the improved soil drainage paying dividends, and we greatly appreciate the financial investment made by our partners. Unseasonably warm and dry weather allowed for great opportunities to repair tile holes and rebuild waterways that had been damaged from excessive rainfall. We have always felt that maintaining these drainage avenues is an important aspect of being a good steward of the land.

