



Noland Farms, Inc.

Blue Mound, IL

2011 Volume 2



Greetings

Greetings from our family at Noland Farms! For our family, the spring of 2011 presented challenging weather patterns and a re-affirmed appreciation for one of mankind's most prolific inventors.

With roughly 1,100 patents in the United States alone, Thomas Edison's electric light bulb has improved the quality of life for the past 130 years. In reviewing our spring field operations, roughly 20% of the corn

planting was done at night... without Edison's invention and its introduction into agriculture, the planting process would be greatly extended, but we would have been home early for dinner!

Spring Activities



Preparation for spring activities officially began March 1st...a date that much of our equipment emerges from a deep winter "hibernation." Although our primary operation is the planting of corn and soybeans, the support system for this operation involves many individuals and moving parts. As Dennis focused his attention on the "planter checklist," Craig and I assembled the nurse system for the starter liquid fertilizer (consists of a 1,600 gal tank, pump and hose), installed control monitors in tractors for planting and spraying, mounted the saddlebag liquid tanks on the planting tractor and cleaned/examined the spray tips for pre and post-plant spraying. Duane, Craig and I also prepared our anhydrous applicator for spring corn sidedressing.

As I shared in our previous newsletter, last fall provided an excellent opportunity to complete land improvement projects on many farms. We broadcast grass seed to establish an early stand in repaired ditches and waterways...I guess this means 2011 spring planting began on April 4th! Although the weather conditions have been challenging for corn and soybean planting, at least the current

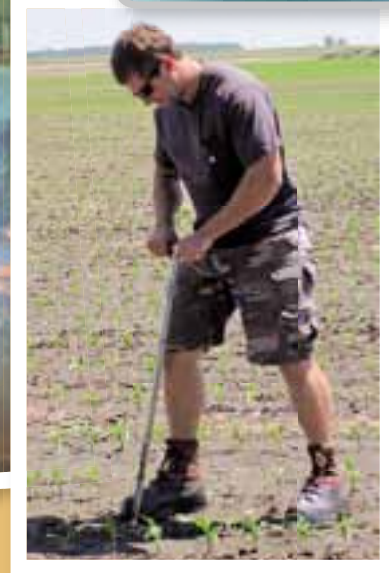
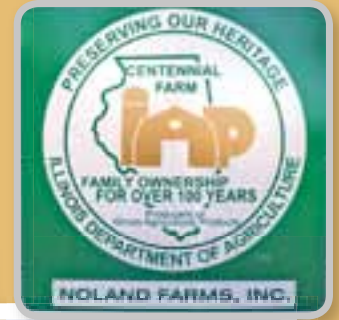
grass stand is lush and in need of mowing!

Prior to the fields being planted, each was sprayed with a mixture of liquid nitrogen fertilizer and herbicide. Our family's 2011 corn planting began on April 8th and concluded May 20th. Although this period lasted 42 days, only 10 were actually needed to plant the corn crop. During the intermittent rainouts, we finished delivering the remaining 10% of farm-stored grain, mowed shed and bin sites, conducted preventative maintenance on equipment and prepared our 1-row planter. In a union spanning decades, we paired a 2010 utility tractor with a 1955 1-row planter. This combination produced a surprisingly efficient solution to re-plant corn without destroying the established crop during the process. The ability to operate within a field with such a small "footprint" provides flexibility that our primary, 24-row planter lacks due to size. For those hungry for sweet corn, Neil planted roughly 1/3 acre along the runway on May 17th...we anticipate harvesting more than our family, friends and raccoons can eat, so please contact us for free, home-grown sweet corn!

www.nolandfarms.com

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

Commitment to Improvement



Following last year's spring applications, we pledged to identify areas of potential improvement within each field operation. Duane felt that at the height of spring field operations (when we could be planting corn, drilling soybeans, spraying and working ground) the sprayer's dependency on a "nurseman" to provide liquid products was too great. We addressed the shortfall with an additional 1,400 gallon tank...after fabricating and attaching a mounting bracket to the trailer, the 4,200 gallon capacity paid great dividends this spring.

Through yield results garnered from on-farm test plots, our investment in liquid starter fertilizer has been re-affirmed. With the financial investment in the fertilizer, the correct application is of utmost importance. Dennis recommended adding visual flow indicators for each row of the planter. Starter aims to give the corn an early growth boost during less than ideal weather environments...such as the cool, wet weather experienced thus far. Our agronomist preaches that

"you never want your corn to have a bad day."

A key topic of discussion this spring has been the protection of our investment (the growing corn crop). To manage risk, our systems approach to fertilizer involves four different forms in separate applications... Mother Nature has the tendency to not adhere to one's best-laid plans! Our concern is that the abundance of rainfall received since early April has pushed the vital nutrients deeper and potentially out of the roots' initial reach... this was one factor in the lower corn yields of 2010. I would relate this scenario to driving a car with a broken fuel gauge...Enough fuel could be in the tank, but do you really want to run out on the home stretch???? Through sidedressing with anhydrous ammonia, we have the opportunity to replace these lost nutrients. Determining the current soil nutrients available involves using a probe to pull two foot soil samples, which are then mailed to a lab for analysis. Pending the results, we can increase the application rates.

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.

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*Erma Moma, front row right
Neil Noland, Miss Moma's escort, back row center*

1950 Rural Youth Queen Erma Moma (now Erma Noland) &
2011 UIS College Graduate Vicky Leslie (Duane & Tina's daughter)

Now and Then...