



Noland Farms



Blue Mound, IL

2018 Volume 1

Greetings and Happy New Year from our family at Noland Farms!



Hudson, Elizabeth and Harrison waiting for a combine ride

We hope your New Year's resolutions remain intact, and all have weathered the recent arctic blast of winter that swept across much of the country. That weather provided an excellent opportunity to reflect on and evaluate our successes and failures engaged in 2017 production agriculture. Did we overcome the challenges that sur-

passed throughout the season? Did we accomplish the annual goals defined for ourselves and our business? Can we specifically identify the positive contributions made to our community, environment and industry? What an awesome year it was! We were blessed with another season to raise corn and soybeans across central Illinois.



Leonard filling a grain bag with corn

2017 Brazilian Group



Grant scouting soybeans



Blake reshaping a waterway for surface drainage

Spring Challenges/Season Recap

Carpe diem is a Latin aphorism, usually translated “seize the day,” taken from the Roman poet Horace’s work Odes. In Horace, the phrase is part of the longer carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero, which can be translated as “Seize the day, put very little trust in tomorrow (the future).” The ode says the future is unforeseen and one should not leave to chance future happenings, but rather should do all one can today to make one’s future better. In farming, the phrase can be translated as “Plant today, put very little trust in tomorrow’s weather.” As we’ve shared in past newsletters, the brief operational windows within spring planting seasons continue to challenge and reward those with a plan. Although today’s farm equipment is larger and faster, suitable field conditions are still a necessity for success. The 2017 crop year proved a continuation of this theme.

2017 planting

An annual goal of our business is for field operations to achieve peak efficiency within the shortest amount of time possible. Achieving this is smoother in some years than others. Corn and soybean

planting, pre-emerge chemical application, seedbed preparation and supporting roles “found their groove” within the first few days of 2017 field operations. Prior to the first weather delay in April, we had planted 40 percent of corn and 30 percent of soybean acres. The next window of opportunity allowed us to reach planting targets of 100 percent for corn and 70 percent for soybeans.

...We replanted roughly 10 percent of corn and 33 percent of soybean acreage[...] Unfortunately, both were records on our farm

Rain, a blessing and a challenge

As the rain began to fall the last week of April, we were pleased with our progress. However, as rain continued to fall, and accumulate, we began to realize that our planting progress was slowly deteriorating. Across the geographical area in which we farm, we received roughly 15-inches of rainfall in the month following planting corn and soybeans. April-May precipitation in the Corn Belt

has been tracked since 1895, and three of the top five years have occurred since 2011 (2017 ranking fifth). When the dust settled, we replanted roughly 10 percent of corn and 33 percent of soybean acreage throughout five central Illinois counties. Unfortunately, both were records on our farm. Even with our field tile drainage, the large back-to-back rains prevented the water from moving off or through the soil and hurt overall plant growth. In general, soybeans can handle this much better than corn. Additionally, soybeans are hurt far less by uneven growing as compared to corn. The widespread, rain events were absolutely challenging, but allowed us to test operational and management capabilities (lemonade from lemons). Despite the early challenges, the overall corn and soybean crops were planted within the historically optimum window and maintained yield potential as we entered the next stage of the 2017 crop plan. Soil sampling and field scouting led to side-dress applications of nitrogen fertilizer for corn in June, and plant health treatments of fungicide and insecticide for corn and soybeans in July. We expanded our on-farm research trials to

Farmland Investment

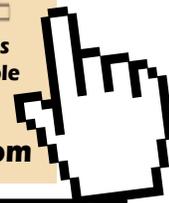
The current farmland market has provided exciting opportunities for those with current land holdings and individuals interested in purchasing a farm. We are excited to discuss investment opportunities!

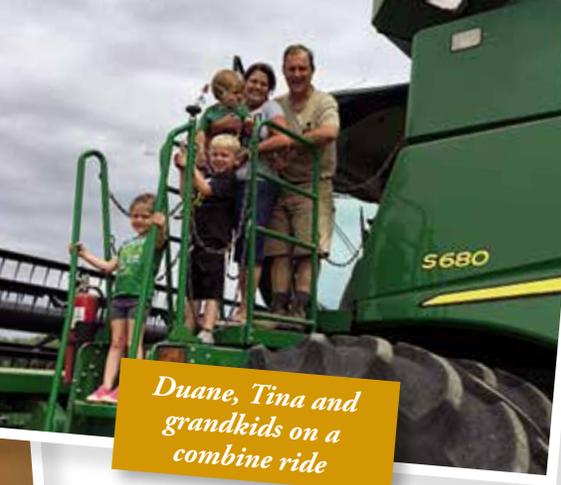
Duane 217.433.2979 duane@nolandfarms.com
Grant 217.433.8084 grant@nolandfarms.com



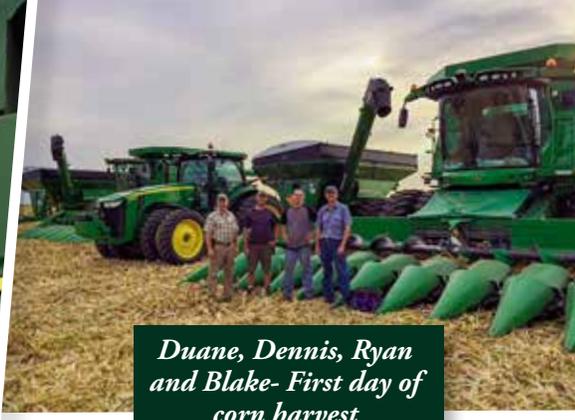
Current operational updates and new pictures are available on our website.

www.nolandfarms.com





Duane, Tina and grandkids on a combine ride



Duane, Dennis, Ryan and Blake- First day of corn harvest



Dennis sidedressing corn

include a complimentary, micro nutrient package for soybeans this season. This is our first year experimenting with aerial applied micro nutrients, which aim to feed the crop through its leaves to maintain plant health and add yield. Diminished rain and above average temperatures became a trend through the summer months, and visible plant stress was evident. That is not the preferred environment during a crucial developmental stage that generates high yields.

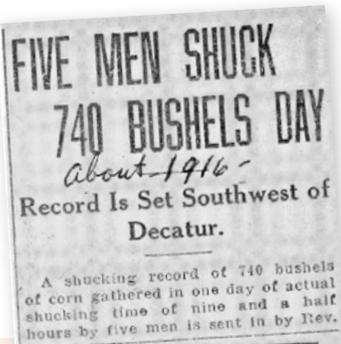
Time to harvest

Approaching harvest, we had resigned ourselves to expect less than average yields. It appeared to be a crop year with such promise that faded at the finish line. As

field data was generated on the combine monitors, we realized the early planted corn and soybeans were yielding higher than anticipated- a welcome surprise considering the changes of commodity values over the course of the growing season. The overall corn yield for our farm ranked third highest, and soybeans established the overall highest yield to date. The transition to winter has provided an opportunity to reflect on the 2017 crop year, and the factors in and out of our control that led to final yield. Weather patterns continue to be the primary driver for quality and quantity of crop production. The abundance of precipitation created challenges, but allowed moisture to remain in the highly productive soil of central Illinois.

The water holding capacity of the soil proved vital to mitigating the late-summer heat and dryness. Investment in field drainage (tile), managing fertility, early planting, hybrid selection and in-season applications of fertilizer and plant health products, proved again to be beneficial ingredients to achieving strong yields through the seasonal patterns.

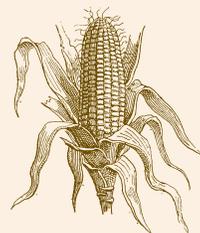
Although all these ingredients or events stand independently, maximizing yield is a process dependent on other events to happen first. Planning for the 2018 crop year is well under way, and we again look forward to the challenge of sustainably producing corn and soybeans in central Illinois.



Harvest has changed over the years

Today, one 12-row combine can harvest 2,500 per hour versus five men hand shucking 740 bushels a day.

FIVE MEN SHUCK 740 BUSHELS DAY Record Is Set Southwest of Decatur.



A shucking record of 740 bushels of corn gathering in one day of actual shucking time of nine and a half hours by five men is sent in by Rev. Edgar W. Smith. Mr. Smith is pastor of the Madison church and is a former Milikin athlete.

The names of the shucker and their day's work are as follows: Charles Noland, 156 bushels; Dan Noland, 172 bushels; Brown Noland, 150 bushels; Edgar W. Smith, 142 bushels; Vernon Minnie, 120 bushels. All except Vernon Minnie made three loads and as the field was a mile from the house they traveled six miles to and from the field. Each man raised his best previous record for corn shucking by this day's work.

The shucking took place 11 miles southwest of Decatur, near the Madison church, on Tuesday, Dec. 4.



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Introducing Lyla Grace Noland

Our family at Noland Farms welcomed a new member on July 22nd. Blake and Kristin Noland are the proud parents of Lyla Grace Noland, 7.2 lbs, 19.5 inches. Growing like a weed!



Blake, Kristin, and Lyla