

# Matt Olson

- Centrol Ag Consulting
- 12 yrs agronomic consultant
- Cass, Barnes, Ransom, Richland, LaMoure counties
- Crops: Soybeans, Corn, Wheat, Sunflowers, Dry beans

# Agronomic Info

- Rotations
  - Corn-Soybean
  - Continuous Corn
  - SF-Corn-Soybean-Wheat
  - Wheat-Corn-Soybeans
- Row Spacing
  - Corn: 20", 22", 30"
  - Soybeans: 15", 18", 20", 22", 30"
  - Sunflower & Dry beans: 30"
- Acres Strip-till 2008
  - Corn 12,000
  - Soybeans 3,000
  - Sunflowers 2,000

# Acres Strip-Tilled

- Strip-till by Year
  - 2005 1,000
  - 2006 3,000
  - 2007 8,000
  - 2008 15,000
  - 2009 3,000 (wet fall)

# Units of Fertilizer

- Fertilizer Management
  - Conventional Corn (digging)
    - *120-150 N, 100 P, 50K, 10S*
  - Strip-Till Corn
    - *120-150 N, 65 P, 35 K, 5S*
  - Conventional Soybeans (digging)
    - *25-50 P, 20 K*
  - Strip-Till Soybeans
    - *35P, 20 K*

# How corn is fertilized

- Fertilizer Management Corn
  - 50% broadcast
  - 40% Strip-Till
  - 10% Side-Dressed
- Fertilizer Timing Corn
  - 70% Fall
  - 30% Spring

# How soybeans are fertilized

- Fertilizer Management Soybeans
  - 30% Broadcast
  - 30% Deep Banded
  - 10% Strip-Tilled
  - 20% With Drills
  - 10% None
- Fertilizer Timing Soybeans
  - 70% Fall
  - 20% Spring (closer to 50% in 2009)

# Strip-till machines used

- DAWN (coulters)
- Case-IH (DMI)
- Blue-Jet
- Red Ball
- John Deere
- MAKE SURE TO BUY THE RIGHT ONE FOR YOUR FIELD CONDITIONS

# Challenges of Strip-till

- Wet fields (doesn't want to seal up)
- Having the time in the fall to get it done
- Equipment not large enough (60-90' machines)
- Some machines built better than others
- Investment of RTK (need to stay on the row)
- Have good trash whippers on planter
- Doesn't work well in spring

# Benefits of Strip-Till

- Less Trips across field (1 vs. 2)
- Less erosion
- Less fuel consumption
- Plant nutrients placed below row

# Economics

- 5 fields
  - Strip-till vs. Broadcast
  - Strip-till always better (8-12 bu increase)
  - Better stalk quality
  - Less trips across field
- Need to stay on strips
  - Multiple times where off row 20 bu less

# Advice for Strip-Till

- Buy the right machine for your fields
- Use RTK
- Stay on the rows at planting time
- Try to match strip-till and planter widths
- Avoid spring strip-till if possible