

Farm Description: 21,000-acre family corn and soybean operation covers nine counties

GROWER:

Bill Heintz (*left*)
Chris Heintz (*middle*)

LOCATION:

Lakeview, Ohio

RETAIL FACILITY:

Crop Protection Services

CROP ADVISOR:

Kevin Doseck (*right*)

RETAILER LOCATION:

Botkins, Ohio



WHAT CHRIS SAYS ABOUT THE 4Rs:

“We realize the importance of the need to maximize production, while minimizing environmental impact. The 4R program helps ensure that we follow sound management practices and helps us use nutrients as effectively as possible.”

WHAT KEVIN SAYS ABOUT THE 4Rs:

“By making sound agronomy recommendations, we become more of a partner with the Heintz family. The 4Rs also help me talk with those who know little about agriculture and tell them how my customers are improving the environment and doing what’s right for the ground.”

ECONOMIC MEASURE OF SAVINGS:

Nitrogen use has decreased while yields continue to increase.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IMPLEMENTED ON THE FARM:

- Grid soil sampling on 2.5-acre grids
- In-season tissue sampling, then apply foliar fertilizer based on results
- Chicken litter is applied in areas where phosphorous and organic matter are low
- Litter applied in early fall and incorporated into soil to reduce the risk of runoff
- Dry fertilizer is applied in the spring and worked into the soil within 48 hours
- Nitrogen stabilizer delays release of N for 60 to 90 days, based on soil temperature and moisture so it is available when crops need it most
- Black Label zinc applied on all acres, based on tissue sample analyses
- Phosphate and potash are treated with Titan PBA
- Foliar feeding conducted all season long

FORMS OF NUTRIENTS APPLIED:

MESZ, a blend of nitrogen, phosphorous sulfur, zinc, potash, urea, ammonium sulfate, ESN, chicken litter

NUTRIENT USE EFFICIENCY:

1 lb N per bu/corn, 0.32 lb phosphorous/ac, 0.23 lb potassium/ac

AVERAGE YIELD FOR EACH CROP:

- Yields have increased because of overall agronomic improvements and nitrogen deficiency has gone down.