

Frontier Family FARMES



Twin row - 30 inch winter wheat acting as a cover crop - picture taken April 8th



First planted corn germination, planted April 17th - picture taken May 3rd



Emerged corn planted with no till into terminated cereal rye cover crop (May 16th)

Another Year, More Learning

As many of you know, we like to keep trying new things and pushing the limits of what is possible—this year cover crops.

Last fall we seeded cereal rye after manure application to cover the ground and scavenge the nutrients from the manure. This spring we planted corn directly into the cereal rye and can't wait to see the results this fall.

Benefits of cover crops include improving:

1

Soil Quality

It increases soil tilth, organic matter and water holding capacity.

2

Water Quality

Less nutrients getting into water, taking up nutrients during off peak times.

3

Reducing Erosion

Roots and residue slows rainfall impact, and root hold soil in place.

Spring 2017 Update

Crop production is going through challenging times right now with water lawsuits, low commodity prices, buffer laws, etc. We are now faced with adapting at a faster pace than ever before. Two years ago we started using Y-Drops for in season nitrogen applications for improving nitrogen use efficiency. We use Unmanned Aerial Vehicle's (UAV) for crop imaging, and nitrogen modeling to determine the correct rates for the Y-drops. We also began using cover crops for the numerous benefits they offer on some acres to learn how to manage them. Last fall we began an experiment with winter wheat using a row configuration which was previously thought not to be suited for wheat. Then we planted soybeans in between the rows of wheat which is called relay cropping. One crop overlaps with the next, benefiting soil quality with cover crop like benefits and hopefully increasing revenue during low commodity prices. We strive to be a leader in the community with all of these aspects. We also strive to be involved in the community with other activities such as spearheading the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day, Healthy Kids Running Series, and serving on many boards.



“We do not inherit the earth from our parents - we only borrow it from our children”



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Spring Tile Work

We are always looking for ways to improve the land we farm, and in a lot of cases that involves drainage work. We have done numerous tile repairs last fall and this spring, and after covering all the acres with planting equipment we found more to keep us busy. It is still amazing for us to see how far and how thick tree roots will travel and plug tile lines. If you have interest in a land improvement project, please let us know.

