

A close-up photograph of a cornfield with vibrant green leaves, serving as the background for the main title.

THE TOTAL SPECTRUM

A Weekly Blog Covering All Things Spectrum Non-GMO



ONE MAN'S PATH TO HARVEST

This week's story comes to us from Spectrum CEO Josh Richey.

I have a few days coming up that I refer to as my off season. I say that with a smile on my face because anyone that farms knows the real truth: there is no off season. With that said, I have a few days this week of Labor Day that slow down and give me a chance to start really thinking about harvest. I've got an entire list I run through in my head. Have the trucks and trailers been serviced? Are the drivers lined up and ready? What about the combine? Is it ready to roll.

I thought I'd share my own process for making sure the combine is ready. If you're like me, you might start harvest season off with the best of intentions and a rock solid plan in place. In my experience, thought, plans tend to fly right out the window just about the time I roll the combine into the first field. Hopefully, your plans work better than mine. I truly believe that when it comes to harvest, you need to just expect the unexpected.

With that in mind, I thought I'd cover a few important things I feel guys should focus on as they make their way toward harvest. *(Continued on PG 2)*

FROM THE FIELD REPORT

Thanks for all of the phone calls this past week! We have been getting a lot of great feedback from our Non-GMO growers. Sounds like everyone is gearing up for harvest. A few folks in the southern portion of Illinois believe they'll start rolling around the 14h of September. Hard to believe that Harvest '20 is just around the corner!

Here are a few updates we've collected this week:

Northern Indiana: Wow! That's the best way to describe the soybean health we are seeing in the northern most portion of Indiana. The soybeans are tall and podding up nicely. Our agronomist noticed that Spectrum's beans were taller than the Becks and Pioneer varieties in the same field.

Northern Indiana: 4642 is looking impressive for lack of a better description. 12' tall with 16 kernel rows and great ear length. See the Breeder Spotlight for more on this hybrid!

Northern Iowa: Hearing good things about the health of 5285--102-day hybrid.



From Co-Alliance Rolling Prairie

COVER STORY CONTINUED

Harvest is, at least for me, a balance between harvesting timely and harvesting correctly. I just spent a significant amount of time managing this crop and now it is time to harvest before that next "curve ball" is thrown. Think forceful winds, 5" of rain followed by 6" snow, you get my point.

Who has time to get out of the machine and continually check for grain loss, analyze how well the machine is strip-ping grain from the cob, or pod. "We have to get it done!" And then we get a gentle reminder each spring in the form of volunteer corn. That "speed wins" philosophy we utilized in the fall might not have been our best option.

Header loss in corn can cost you 4 bu/a or if you are more of a dollars person, close to \$15 per acre. That's only 2% loss in 200 bu corn. Since many of my recent conversations have begun with "grain price," I'm sure I don't have to remind anyone that every bushel counts.

[I printed off an article from Marion Calmer a few years ago.](#)

I actually keep it in my combines as a reminder that there are a few settings that can make a world of difference when it comes to harvest efficiency. There are similar sources of information for proper setup and adjustment. Pick your favorite, but have a plan in mind for adjustments while running and then follow the plan and check often.

After initial set up, I run a strip and get out of the machine to check to see if I need to make any adjustments. I try to make single adjustments to keep the machine dialed in but occasionally changing field conditions means another stop to check and adjust.

I have my semi drivers walk harvested areas to spot potential issues. They'll count kernels in a 1.5' by header width (about 1/1000th of an acre on a 12-row corn head). It gives them a chance to get on the radio and tell me how I'm doing it wrong! But, this info gives me kernel loss per acre. I don't expect to get everything but I do try to keep loss at a minimum.

I am sure many of you follow a similar logic, but with harvest beginning, I felt it warranted a quick reminder that after working so hard towards growing a crop, lets do our best to harvest it right.

BREEDER SPOTLIGHT

This week Scott Johnson, Spectrum Non-GMO's breeder, is sharing thoughts on a hybrid he feels deserves a few minutes in the spotlight.

"I thought I'd focus on an early season hybrid this week. Our 4642 is unique. It's a 96-day product that you can position as a drought tolerant hybrid. Growers really like this product because it can offer upper end yield. I really like to see growers use an average to above average population with this hybrid. One more note as you start crop planning for 2021: 4642 will respond really well to fungicide--so if you're planning on a fungicide application for certain acres, make sure 4642 is there!"



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

The corn moon.

Taken in Hamilton County, Indiana, by our own Tiffany Frash.
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