



Layman's Language

*"I believe in the future
of agriculture..."*

*...with a faith born not of words but of deeds -
achievements won by the present and past generations
of agriculturalists; in the promise of better days through
better ways, even as the better things we now enjoy have
come to us from the struggles of former years."*

This is the first paragraph of the FFA Creed - one of the very first things I learned on my path to a career in agriculture and, 40+ years later, those words still ring true. Production agriculture has had its fair share of struggles in previous years - we have been in a cost versus revenue squeeze for the last 5 or 6 years. The costs of inputs skyrocketed several years ago in response to the massive positive shift in market price, however as the market has trended downward, the cost of inputs has not responded.

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Holly Layman Cannode

Spring/Summer 2018

One Month. For perhaps the first year in a long time, every acre we farm was planted in the month of May. After a very long winter, and still measurable snows in April, we were able to hit the ground running as soon as the weather broke. The drawn-out winter prevented much of the preliminary work to be done in early spring like we prefer, so as soon as it was fit, we were at it working washouts, applying the last of fall fertilizer and ag lime, and spraying burndown ahead of spring planting.

2,690 acres of corn was completed on May 19, and 2,155 acres of soybeans finished just ahead of a rain on May 30. Also complete for this season: side dressing corn, spraying post-emergence weed control for soybeans, and the hauling of 2017's crop. The drainage team has switched gears and implements, completing a custom job as a result of damage done due to wind turbine installation machinery traffic. Next on the list is the installation of multiple waterways and additional field tile, as well as annual housekeeping items such as mowing waterways and field edges, and equipment and grain storage maintenance and repairs.



Growing corn back to corn for the 4th year in a row.



Corn planter tractor loaded with fertilizer, ready to plant.



Loading ag lime to be spread ahead of planting.



Spraying burndown ahead of planting soybeans.



This rig covered many miles hauling fertilizer & bulk seed.

...continued



The plow we use to install field drainage tile.



Action shot!



Corn growing through cereal rye planted as a cover crop.



Looking down the rows of corn coming through the rye.



No-till soybeans coming through the previous fodder.



Corn side-dress applicator pulling up to load more 28%.



Planting corn with the lights on is a rare scene.

I Believe... cont'd

Shifting weather patterns across the United States have not helped the situation, and in some locations, made it dire. We have seen “100 year” rains in our part of Ohio (in the spring/early summer of 2015) and the southern plains are experiencing worse drought conditions now than were met in the Dust Bowl days. May and June temps of this year were near record high, which is affecting growing conditions. Natural disasters such as severe late winter storms and grass fires have claimed entire herds of livestock, and lives of those trying to save them, causing some folks who have farmed for generations to throw in the towel.

Discussions taking place in Washington and beyond bounce from giving farmers some hope one day, to almost making a dire situation seem hopeless the next. The proposed trade negotiations with China: potentially opening the doors for international market trade and reversing the cost versus revenue squeeze which once seemed positive, have now gone in the opposite direction. Soybeans have dropped over \$2/bushel since May 25th. We are hoping for a quick resolution with China as 60% of our soybean exports go to China. Let's hope the powers that be can come to an agreement very soon.

Jan

Employee Spotlight

Chris “Clyde” Vermillion has been with Layman Farms since the fall of 1998, working part-time after school before he even had his drivers licence. Chris continued to put in part-time hours, banking comped hours plowing snow for ODOT to come help with planting and harvest, before joining us full-time in the spring of 2016. The nickname Clyde, given by Jan coming from the old movie “Every Which Way But Loose”, stuck because Chris is ready to jump in and tackle just about any project, as long as it doesn't involve heights or confined spaces. He planted every acre of corn this spring, and covered each corn acre a second time with the side dress applicator.

Chris and his wife, Trisha, have been married since 2007 and enjoy camping with their furry friend, Diesel. Chris serves as a Township Trustee and a “Blue Shirt” official at the National Tractor Pulling Championships in Bowling Green.

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